

In my opinion, Ohio seems to be doing everything it can to make this state tax unfriendly, especially to its seniors.

In one thoughtless action, it dramatically raised property taxes for all property owners statewide. In one action, they inflicted pain throughout the entire state.

We are seniors in our 80's and the tax increase impact is \$1200 annually.

I lived in the high tax states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York prior to moving here. I wonder if Ohio wants to be known as the New Jersey of the Midwest.

I understand that the state has the right to reappraise property values. Maybe they should ask themselves this question. Legally I can but what is the right thing to do? It proceeded with no regard to the impact. It's all about the money.

They failed to understand that this high tax increase is additive to cost of living increases everywhere. Electric energy costs in Ohio are soaring this year. Much can be said about that too. Many families are struggling to meet expenses. Ohio doesn't seem to care.

The Ohio Tax Commissioner failed to listen to county auditors who are closer to property values in their regions. Auditors offered an alternative solution. A three year average instead of one year would have been more reasonable. But the state had its mind made up. It wanted all of the money and not some of it.

I call upon all elected officials to get involved in this issue now. What has been done can be undone if there is the will to do it. The House, Senate and its committees should agree on the appropriate bill to get this decision reversed. Let's make it an across the board reversal and not just low income earners.

And please, let's do something quickly.

This is an opportunity for bi partisan agreement to help those whom you represent. Let the local auditors do the job they were elected to do.

On a related matter, how about finding ways to make cost of living easier for residents 65 and above? If the long term plan is to eliminate the state income tax by 2030, please do it for seniors now. Be creative.

Show us that you care Ohio.

Show us that you listen to voices of reason.

Robert E. Baillie