

Mass / Boston

Incentive Tax League

Massachusetts Chapter

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FOR RELEASE

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PRESS ADVISORY

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THE TAX REFORM IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

What do a large number of bi-partisan legislators (15 and still growing) have in common?

On Wednesday, December 2, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 234, State House, Boston discover why these legislators are co-sponsoring a bill for submission to the General Court that would enable cities and towns in the Commonwealth, if they choose, to adopt a variant of the property tax known as the graded tax.

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A graded tax places a higher rate on land than on buildings and thereby limits urban sprawl and spurs economic development, discourages land speculation, and promotes equity between homeowners and businesses. The graded tax has been utilized with excellent results in Pittsburgh and other Pennsylvania cities as well as in Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and other countries throughout the world.

The newly formed Massachusetts Chapter of the Incentive Tax League was organized to repeat locally the Pennsylvania Incentive Tax League's success in turning around the property tax in that state. In Pittsburgh for the second time in less than two years the tax rate on land has been increased without raising the rate on buildings at all. The land to buildings ratio now stands at five to one. The building boom, lower housing costs, and general upturn in the Pittsburgh economy resulting from this tax reform are being referred to as Renaissance II.

If the Incentive Tax League and its supporters in the Commonwealth are successful, Massachusetts will be next.