

REPLACE DON'T ERASE

Bills Would Strip Hundreds of Millions of Dollars in Local Revenues from Local Communities, Schools *Results: Higher Local Property Taxes, More Local Service Cuts*

- WHO:** Mayors and county commissioners, library, public safety and public school officials from across Michigan including Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero; Michigan Municipal League CEO and Executive Director Dan Gilmartin; Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski (Michigan Municipal League President), Kent County Intermediate School District Superintendent Kevin Konarska, Jon Campbell, an Allegan County Commissioner and board member of the Michigan Association of Counties; Ann Arbor District Library Director Josie Parker; Lansing and East Lansing Fire Chief Randy Talifarro; George Basar, Howell Police Chief and Legislative Chairman and Past President of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police; and Mitch Bean, former Director of the state House Fiscal Agency.
- WHAT:** Replace Don't Erase coalition news conference to urge the Legislature and Gov. Snyder to fully replace all revenues to be lost by local communities and public schools if the business personal property tax (PPT) is cut or eliminated. The coalition will present a constitutional amendment that scraps the PPT and fully replaces all revenues in a way that assures they continue to go to local communities and schools and can't be raided by this and future legislatures.
- WHEN:** **10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 18, 2012**
- WHERE:** Lansing Fire Station #1, 120 East Shiawassee (at Shiawassee and Grand), downtown Lansing
- DETAILS:** Bills introduced in the Michigan Senate today would significantly cut the PPT, a tax paid to local communities and local public schools only by Michigan businesses and not by individual taxpayers and homeowners. The PPT provides \$1.3 billion a year to local communities and schools for classrooms, police and fire protection, parks, libraries, public health services, roads and bridges, to pay off local bonds, and more. PPT revenues go directly to local communities and schools and not to the legislature and governor. Under the Senate bills, none of the PPT revenues will be replaced unless future legislatures and governors say so. In other words, under the bills, the revenues will no longer go directly to local communities and schools. Instead, the Legislature would give itself and the Governor total control of the revenues and the power to decide if any of it is ever returned to local communities. Without a constitutional guarantee that the funds are fully replaced and continue to go to local communities and schools, local services will be cut and local property taxes will increase to make up the lost funds.
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