

GOP: Rohrer's actions contradict his words on property tax reform.

Text of May 7 press release.

Rohrer Skips Opportunity to Vote on Two Key Property Tax Bills

HARRISBURG -- Republican Party of Pennsylvania Chairman Rob Gleason released the following statement after learning that Sam Rohrer skipped out on his duties as a State Representative, missing committee votes this week on two critical pieces of legislation designed to give property tax relief to Pennsylvania taxpayers. On the campaign trail Sam Rohrer has referred to property tax reform as a top priority which has only been "given lip service," and called the property tax "the single most regressive tax known to anybody in America." Rohrer had previously referred to the property tax as a "crisis" with "increasingly devastating results," and promised "no more empty promises, no more turning a deaf ear."

"Campaign trail promises are just words, real reform requires a commitment to act. Tuesday, Sam Rohrer had an opportunity to show the people of Pennsylvania his commitment to property tax relief, instead he left early and missed the votes that would enable true tax relief," said Gleason. "Representative Rohrer has personally declared elimination of property taxes the 'single greatest economic stimulus action we could create here in this Commonwealth,' so where was he when it was time to act?"

The property tax votes missed by Rohrer were held in the House Finance Committee, of which Rohrer is the Republican Chairman.

HB 2483, voted on during the May 4th Finance Committee meeting missed by Rohrer, would change the PA Constitution so the legislature could prevent home improvements from increasing the assessed value – and therefore the property tax bill – of a home, as long as a person owns that home. The bill would help ensure that homeowners can make improvements to their houses without fear of a property tax hike.

HB 2484, also voted on during the Finance Committee meeting that day would change the PA Constitution so the legislature could allow local taxing authorities to exempt the total value of a home from property tax assessments. Currently, those exemptions are limited by the Constitution. This bill would have removed a constitutional obstacle to providing homeowners with more property tax relief.

Also missed during Rohrer's half day was a vote on the House bill that would impose a 3-year moratorium on leasing state lands for natural gas development. The bill could be a major obstacle to realizing royalty revenue for Pennsylvania.

"Representative Rohrer is asking the people of Pennsylvania to put our future in his hands as Governor, but his actions show he missed a critical opportunity to deliver much needed property tax relief," concluded Gleason.

The voters in Pennsylvania and Rohrer's constituents in Berks County deserve an answer. Where was Representative Sam Rohrer during this critical voting period? One would hope not campaigning for the job he wants, when he could have made a true impact in the job he has.

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