

Senate Local Government Committee



Senator Scott Martin
Acting Chairman

Erin Marsicano, Executive Director
emarsicano@pasen.gov • (717) 787-1018



183 Main Capitol, Senate Box 203013, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3013 • (717) 787-6535 • www.senatorscottmartinpa.com

PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, June 19, 2018
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | 8E-A

Topic: Senate Bill 1099

**SUBMITTED
TESTIMONY**

Please make this letter part of the official record of this hearing.

Manor Twp. Tax Collector
201 Huston Road
Ford City, PA 16226

June 15, 2018

Honorable Scott Martin
Interim Chair

Honorable John Blake
Minority Chair

Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Martin and Blake:

Subject: SB 1099

I understand that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee for Tuesday June 19th in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099 and request that you please accept this letter as my testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.

As municipalities, we strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and we disagree with the apparent premise of the bill that the system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system. By doing so you are systematically eliminating local government as well as doing a disservice to the people in the community. We are not talking about the collection of wage taxes and an easy method to centralize but, the collection of a property tax that deals with your constituents HOME! Many of these people are elderly, by keeping it local you have a better handle on the collection. To have this collected by the County Treasurer you are creating an environment of kayos in an office that is already performing multiple duties for county business. If this is not collected at the local level it is my understanding this duty can be collected by an outside collection agency. WHY would you be promoting removing local monies to outside banks? Local tax collectors bank LOCAL! I am not in favor of removing local government.

Local government works best and its taxing authority should not be eliminated or eroded as stated in the PSATS 2017-18 policy statement on page 8.

As municipalities, we seek the highest level of efficiency at the local level and we believe Senate Bill 1099 works against this goal. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing our concerns and the proposal.

Sincerely,

Valerie K. Huston

From: Val Huston [mailto:val_h16226@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 2:52 PM
To: Marsicano, Erin <emarsicano@pasen.gov>
Subject: Re: Senate Bill 1099

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Erin,

Thank you for asking for clarification. When I say municipalities I am speaking of the concerns my local tax payers have asked to me when there was talk of tax collector elimination in the past. Our area has a high ratio of senior citizens who do not want to have to worry about mailing there taxes to a collection agency somewhere on the eastern part of the state let alone trying to pay on line. Many seniors don't have computers and if they do they don't trust using a credit card on line or giving access to their bank account. When it comes to property taxes the majority of people want that stamped paid receipt in hand when they leave so they have it for their tax rebate. Our seniors greatly depend on that rebate to help offset the school taxes they have to pay in the fall of the year. The real estate taxes are a huge concern to our seniors and when you are talking about a bill if not paid could mean the loss of their home is a great worry. I have many seniors who forget if they have paid or loss their receipts. I am a phone call away and a day or two for a second receipt at NO cost!

As I stated in my first letter most all collectors bank locally. By turning this over to a collection agency you will be removing millions of local tax dollars form each county. I would also like to mention what happened with the Central Tax Bureau. I believe when they went out of business they had over 40 Million in stale checks that the townships and boroughs lost in wage taxes. I would hate to see that happen with real estate taxes, we are talking about peoples homes.

Lastly, I am sure if the tax collectors had a few more days to produce letters from our taxpayers and township supervisors you would be inundated with mail in support of keeping the local collectors. Real estate taxes are NOT on the same playing field as wage taxes. Just ask a few senior citizens.

Thank you again.

Val Huston

On Friday, June 15, 2018 9:06 AM, "Marsicano, Erin" <emarsicano@pasen.gov> wrote:

Val,

Thank you for submitting written testimony for next Tuesday's Senate Local Government Committee hearing on Senate Bill 1099. Please be assured it will be part of the official record for the hearing.

Could you please clarify, though, who all you speak for when you reference "As municipalities, we..." and "our concerns"? I am only seeing your name and title on the letter, and I want to make sure members of the Committee have a full understanding as to who is expressing the views stated in the submitted testimony.

Thank you again.

Erin K. Marsicano

Executive Director | Local Government Committee
Senator Scott Martin, Acting Chairman
Direct: 717-787-1018

Please make this letter part of the official record of this hearing

Thank You

Sally J. Breski

Tax Collector

West Franklin Township

Armstrong Co., PA

SB 1099 MUNICIPALITY LETTER

smartin@psenate.gov jblake@psenate.com

CC: emericano@psenate.gov lmiron@psenate.com

Honorable Scott Martin Honorable John Blake
Interim Chair Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Martin and Blake:

It is our understanding that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee for Tuesday June 19 in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099. Please accept this letter as our testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.

As municipalities, we strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and we disagree with the apparent premise of the bill that the present system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system centralizing more power at a higher level of government.

As municipalities, we strongly support a local system of tax collection. While SB 1099 suggests that there is choice involved, we disagree. To us, the legislation looks like it stacks the odds against municipalities continuing to work with a system that has served taxpayers for many years. A provision in Senate Bill 1099 (section 3.1) says that a county may unilaterally take over collection of real estate taxes if it so chooses. It does not appear to allow for continued collection of real estate taxes by a municipality but rather says that the county can do what it chooses. There are situations where townships have collected real estate taxes. Should their administration of tax collection be usurped by a different level of government? We municipalities say no.

There appears to be a similar bias towards a higher level of government where municipalities would eliminate the elected Office of the Tax Collector. If you believe as we townships do as echoed in PSATS 2017-18 Policy Statement Page 8, that local government works best and its taxing authority should not be eliminated or eroded, you would not want to eliminate this elected office.

Frankly, we do not understand why this legislation is being considered at all. Is the perceived problem specific to a particular county situation? If so, might it be better addressed at the local level? As municipalities, we seek the highest level of efficiency at the local level and we believe Senate Bill 1099 works against this goal. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing our concerns with the proposal.

Sincerely,

ETC *Sally Breski, Tax Collector*
Armstrong County
West Franklin Twp.

June 15, 2018

340 Mopar Drive
Kittanning, PA 16201

Honorable Scott Martin Honorable John Blake
smartin@pasen.gov Minority Chair
Interim Chair jblake@pasenate.gov
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Martin and Blake:

It is our understanding that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee for Tuesday, June 19 in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099. Please accept this letter as our testimony and enter it into the hearing's office record.

As municipalities, we strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and we disagree with the apparent premises of the bill that the present system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system centralizing more power at a high level of government.

As municipalities, we strongly support a local system of tax collection. While SB 1099 suggests that there is a choice involved, we disagree. To us, the legislation looks like it stacks the odds against municipalities continuing to work with a system that has served taxpayers for many years. A provision in Senate Bill 1099 (section 3.1) says that a county may unilaterally take over collection of real estate taxes if it so chooses. It does not appear to allow for continued collection of real estate taxes by a municipality but rather says that the county can do what it chooses. There are situations where townships have collected real estate taxes. Should their administration of tax collection be usurped by a different level of government? We municipalities say no.

There appears to be a similar bias towards a higher level of government where municipalities would eliminate the elected Office of the Tax Collector. If you believe as we townships do as echoed in PSATS 2017-18 Policy State Page 8, that local government works best and its taxing authority should not be eliminated or eroded, you would not want to eliminate this elected office.

Frankly, we do not understand why this legislation is being considered at all. Is the perceived problem specific to a particular county situation? If so, might it better addressed at the local level? As municipalities, we seek the highest level of efficiency at the local level and we believe Senate Bill 1099 works against this goal. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing our concerns with the proposal.

Sincerely,

Barbara G. Heilman

Barbara G. Heilman, CPTC
Rayburn Twp Tax Collector/Armstrong County

CC: emarsicano@pasen.gov ; Imiron@pasenate.com

June 15, 2018

State Local Government Committee
Main Capitol Building
Room 8E-A
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Troy Hanchar
247 Montgomery Road
Scottdale, PA 15683

Dear Committee Member,

I write to you today to express my concern for our local government officials. My Mom is a tax collector and I am a voter and a student continuing my Homeland Security Degree. With the impending decision coming up on Tuesday, June 19th, I want to ask you for your help in keeping our local tax collectors in office. The local tax collector acts as our community voice and focal point in our society. I urge you to keep in place our historic values that uphold our commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Troy Hanchar

June 15, 2018

From: David & Tammy Cramer

Tax Payer of Saltlick Township

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

In regards to Senate Bill 1099, I feel it of utmost importance to re-examine any decisions on eliminating the need to abolish the Office of Tax Collectors.

Our Tax Collector is a valued asset to our small community. Our Tax Collector strives to help all tax payers by providing long office hours, being available to us that we can walk into the office and pay our taxes and receive a “stamped paid copy” of our tax bills for our records, and just being a “one on one” real person.

If we as a tax payer are required to pay property taxes, then we should have a say in deciding where we want to pay the taxes to.

With that said, we wish to keep our Tax Collector and not have to deal with a large business office, that you have to try and reach during minimal office hours and lunch breaks, play the “press 1 for ENGLISH game” on the telephone, places you on hold for hours and then tells you to call back later as they can’t answer or help with your question anyway!

Your help in voting NO to this senate bill will be appreciated and remembered. After all, we never get the opportunity to see your face out doing your job, but we know you are there.

Sincerely,

David and Tammy Cramer

164 Grimm Road

Indian Head, PA 15446

From: kstough [<mailto:kstough@lhtot.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 11:03 AM
To: Martin, Senator Scott <smartin@pasen.gov>
Cc: luc.mlron@pasenate.com
Subject: Tax Collectors

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Dear Members of the Senate local Government Committee,

I know how tax collectors are hated, and usually without cause. They are responsible for collecting our hard earned money and often times are on the receiving end of our aggression and bad attitudes. But let me tell you I am truly thankful for my local Tax Collector.

Often times I have written my check out for the wrong amount in error, and she has caught my mistake and helped me correct it before I was penalized.

She is a wonderful lady who goes out of her way to help not only me but many others in the community. I can't begin to tell you all she does and the many she has helped.

Please do not let Senate Bill 1099 pass.

I know in our community our tax collector is a valuable asset and we (speaking for a number of people in our community) would hate to see her loose her position.

Kathy L. Stough

From: Beers, Laura [<mailto:Laura.Beers@luzernecounty.org>]

Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 1:12 PM

To: Martin, Senator Scott <smartin@pasen.gov>

Subject: I am a Tax Collector that Supports SB 1099!

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Dear Senator Martin-

I am writing to you and the entire Senate Local Government Committee to voice my support of SB 1099.

My office collects County taxes for four cities and county/municipal taxes for one township. Over 34,000 tax bills. There are three of us. The advantages of centralizing tax collection are tremendous.

- We deposit funds collected on a daily basis. Most tax collectors remit to their taxing authorities on a monthly basis. Sometimes more frequently, when collections are busy. They cannot hold more money than they are bonded for.
- Our county spent over \$30K on tax collector bonding this year. The school districts and municipalities paid even more.
- We provide the tax data to the major mortgage companies each year for a small fee. They then email us the data for the properties they are paying. We load it, delete any duplicate payments, send them a report, and they then wire the funds directly to our bank account. This year we processed 7,582 payments this way. 23% of the tax bills we are responsible for. Most tax collectors insist on one check per bill, with duplicate bill fees anywhere from \$5 to \$25 each. The largest escrow company I deal with recently provided me with the amounts paid to Luzerne County tax collectors for duplicate county/municipal and school tax bills in 2017. The total was **\$372,499**. Seven of our 71 elected tax collectors were paid over \$10K last year from this one company alone. The highest was paid \$38,880.
- We offer online tax payments - eChecks, debit and credit cards. There is a convenience charge for this (\$1.50 flat fee for eChecks, 2.5% of the tax for credit/debit). 1,253 taxpayers paid this way in 2017. Over \$645K!
- We are in a secure, accessible location open to the public 7.5 hours a day, five days a week. We provide same-day duplicate bill and tax certification service. In 2017, we brought in \$34,490 in duplicate bill and tax certifications fees. That money went to the County's General Fund. I estimate we could earn at least \$100K per year if County tax collection was centralized.

I realize that HB 1099 addresses so much more than tax collection. The current tax collection laws of Pennsylvania are archaic, to say the least. And every time the subject of changing this system is brought up, the tax collectors come out in full force. Luzerne County tried to centralize tax collection twice, and each time the pressure brought to bear on the County Council (we are Home Rule) by our tax collectors caused them to back down. On 4/25/18, Senator Mario Scavella was a guest on WILK, our local talk radio station, discussing his legislation to eliminate school property taxes for owner occupied properties. When asked by the host why SB 76 is floundering, he commented that several of its supporters were voted out. I wonder who was behind that?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Good luck with your committee hearing on Tuesday!

Laura Beers
Office Manager/Tax Administrator
Luzerne County Treasurer's Office
200 N River Street

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
V 570.825.1782
F 570.825.1893
www.LuzerneCounty.org

Date: June 15, 2018
From: Shari Bukovac,
Saltlick Township Tax Collector

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

I am writing this letter to explain why Tax Collectors play an important role in the community and would appreciate this letter to be as written testimony for the official hearing.

I am an active member of the community in a small town where I provide property owners with one-on-one assistance. Any issues they may have are generally resolved within my office and if I am unable to solve their problem, I direct them to whoever or whatever department that can help them to resolve the issue.

As most tax collectors, I make myself available to the constituents and offer my service in many ways. Here are a few of the many duties that are performed on a daily basis at my office:

- I notify the property owner of delinquent taxes, underpayment of taxes and often times refund overpayment of taxes.
- I provide Tax Certifications to the banks, attorneys, closing companies and settlement companies.
- I help the elderly with property tax rebates, letting them know it's available, if they are eligible and preparing the rebate forms.
- I provide the taxpayers with assistance in filing permits for removal of mobile homes and help with the completion of farm and homestead applications, and clean and green applications.
- I provide duplicate copies of tax bills along with receipts because constituents misplace their originals.
- I take daily calls from constituents ranging from simple questions such as "how much are my taxes?", "did I pay my taxes?", to "how did my property get sold?".
- I do additions and removals to the per capita tax bills, as well as, address corrections and changes.
- I post the sheriff sale notices and in turn have to notify the sheriff's office of any current delinquent taxes.
- I catch many errors made by the constituents in paying their bills, with them either paying too much or too little, sometimes trying to pay them twice or even trying to pay the wrong year, and correct these errors before sending it on to the taxing bodies saving both time, money and headaches.

I work very hard for the taxing authorities to collect tax dollars in a timely and efficient manner to save both constituents and authorities time and money. I try very hard to have all constituents be accountable for paying their fair share of all taxes owed.

Please reconsider Senate Bill 1099.

Sincerely,

Shari Bukovac, Tax Collector

From: C. J. Mitchell [mailto:appraisalcenter@zoominternet.net]

Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 5:49 PM

To: xenobun@aol.com; Martin, Senator Scott <smartin@pasen.gov>; jblake@pasenate.com

Cc: Marsicano, Erin <emarsicano@pasen.gov>; lmiron@pasenate.com

Subject: RE: SB1099

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Honorable Scott Martin Honorable John Blake
Interim Chair Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Martin and Blake:

It is my understanding that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee for Tuesday June 19 in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099. Please accept this letter as my testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.

As Tax Collector, I strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and disagree with the apparent premise of the bill that the present system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system centralizing more power at a higher level of government.

As Tax Collector, I strongly support a local system of tax collection. There are so many of our residents that are elderly and wish to have a stamped signed receipt handed to them. They use those receipts for rebates and they want to be sure they have it in hand. They enjoy coming to my office in their community and chatting with me for a few minutes each collection period. It would be cumbersome for them to drive into the government center, find parking, and make their way to the office to get a hand stamped receipt and peace of mind. Many of them could not because of their physical abilities be able to do this. Many of my elderly tax payers are grateful that my office is close by and that they know me as a neighbor.

I do not understand why this legislation is being considered at all. Is the perceived problem specific to a particular county situation? If so, might it be better addressed at the local level? I give the highest level of efficiency at the local level and I believe Senate Bill 1099 works against this goal. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing my concerns with the proposal.

Sincerely,

CJ Mitchell, Tax Collector
Franklin Township, Butler County, PA

From: Maureen <mbelinski@verizon.net>

To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>; smartin <smartin@pasen.gov>; jblake <jblake@pasenate.com>; cmcilhinney <cmcilhinney@pasen.gov>

Sent: Sun, Jun 17, 2018 4:50 pm

Subject: Opposed To Elimination of Elected Tax Collector

What is wrong with the system we have now? Elected Tax Collectors work, at least, mine works for me, a taxpayer. Where else am I going to have someone from the community explain things to me? I am told that there is legislation that would get rid of the office of Tax Collector or make it easier to abolish that office if someone wants to. That would be a big mistake. Please keep our present system.

Sincerely,

Maureen Belinski
Yardley, PA
Lower Makefield Township
Bucks County

June 16, 2018

Honorable Scott Martin

Interim Chair

Senate Local Government Committee

Main Capital

Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable John Blake

Minority Chair

Dear Senators Martin and Blake:

It is my understanding that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee is set for Tuesday, June 19 in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099. Please accept this letter as my testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.

I strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and disagree with the apparent premise of the bill that the present system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system centralizing more power at a higher level of government.

As a tax collector who has served the people in our township for over 20 years I strongly support a local system of tax collection. While SB 1099 suggests that there is a choice involved I disagree. To me the legislation looks like it stacks the odds against municipalities continuing to work with a system that has served taxpayers well for many years. A provision in Senate Bill 1099 (section 3.1) says that a county may unilaterally take over collection of real estate taxes if it so chooses. It does not appear to allow for continued collection of real estate taxes by a municipality but rather says that the county can do what it chooses. There are situations where townships have collected real estate taxes. Should their administration of tax collection be usurped by a different level of government? I would say no.

There appears to be a similar bias towards a higher level of government where municipalities would eliminate the elected Office of the Tax Collector. If you believe as I do as echoed in PSATS 2017-18 Policy Statement Page 8, that local government works best and its taxing authority should not be eliminated or eroded, you would not want to eliminate this elected office.

Frankly I do not understand why this legislation is being considered at all. Is the perceived problem specific to a particular county situation? If so, might it be better addressed at the local level? As a member of our local municipal government I seek the highest level of efficiency at the local level and believe Senate Bill 1099 works against this goal. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing my concern with the proposal.

The job of tax collector is more than collecting taxes and distributing them to the proper government entities. It is an important bridge between the tax payer and the entity we collect taxes for. We as elected officials do more than just collect tax money. We provide not only a buffer between taxpayer and county, school and local government, but we provide services of a personal nature, looking up information for taxpayers, providing many extra copy receipts when a tax payer loses or misplaces their original. I have even taken the time on more than one occasion to look up five to seven years of receipts and make copies for taxpayers. We provide three year lien letters to attorneys and mortgage holders. I have even provided curb side service for elderly and disabled taxpayers who feel it is easier for me to come out to their car and collect their tax than for them to get out of the car and walk into my office - a service I gladly provide to my taxpayers. The job of tax collector is a service of more than just accepting tax money and marking a tax notice paid. It is a personal touch that only an individual tax collector can provide.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Bettis

Bethel Twp/Armstrong County Tax Collector

3129 Ridge Road Ford City, PA 16226

From: **Jennifer Bundy** <j.bundy0@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 17, 2018 at 8:07 PM
Subject: Letter
To: springfieldtownshiptreasurer@gmail.com

Honorable Scott Martin
Interim Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable John Blake
Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators,

I am a 48 year old resident of Springfield Township, Montgomery County, PA.

As a resident, I am often confused about the local taxing system. I appreciate the individual time my Tax Collector spends with me to sort things out. She has many other taxpayers to deal with but she always gives me the time we need. She is a caring person and not some impersonal taxing system that you would see in a bigger level of government.

Sincerely, Jennifer Bundy

From: <cynthiakreilick@aol.com>
Date: Sat, Jun 16, 2018 at 12:41 PM
Subject: Re: SB 1099
To: springfieldtownshiptreasurer@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

I am Cynthia Kreilick, a 58 year old resident of Oreland, Pennsylvania, in Springfield Township.

As a resident, I am often confused about the local taxing system. I appreciate the individual time my Tax Collector spends with me to sort things out. She has many other taxpayers to deal with but she always gives me the time we need. She is a caring person and not some impersonal taxing system that you would see from a bigger level of government.

Please make this letter part of the official record.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kreilick

Robert L. Byers

276 Bristol Road
Chalfont, PA 18914

June 17, 2018

PA Legislators:

RE: PA Senate Bill 1099

Please do not vote for More Big Government that will harm Small Citizens!

Today's society is cold and too impersonal. It's where too often a real live person is replaced by a recording, and where you cannot get answers! Press "2" for this and "3" for that makes sense to people in government or a big business, that wants to reduce personnel costs, but it is definitely not friendly to the taxpayer who has questions.

Thankfully, Pennsylvania has a personal system where an elected Tax Collector takes the time to explain, and if necessary may explain it again, until the tax payer fully understands his or her question. This is a service that is really appreciated not only by myself, but all who avail themselves of it. Consequently, it's one less thing that alienates the taxpayer and brings disrespect to elected politicians. The Tax Collector makes the system work for the taxpayer who simply wants to live our lives, do our jobs, raise our families and have a tax system that is understandable and personally explained to them when they have a question.

Thank you very much in keeping the present system.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Byers

From: **Beth Warms** <blw113@me.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 17, 2018 at 8:12 AM
Subject: SB 1099
To: Bonny Davis <bdavis1128@aol.com>, Bonny Davis
<springfieldtownshiptreasurer@gmail.com>

Dear Senators Martin and Blake and Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

Please make this letter part of the official record.

I am Tom Warms, a 79 year old resident of Springfield Township, Montgomery County. The Pennsylvania taxing system is hard to figure out, as are most taxing systems. One of the nice things about the Pennsylvania system, however, is the provision for Tax Collectors like the Tax Collector, Bonny Davis, we have in Springfield. She makes a great deal of time available to help us sort things out and figure out exactly how much we owe in taxes. This is so much better than an impersonal system in which you have to press a sequence of codes that might or might not lead to a person who can help.

Please help those of us who benefit from the help of our local Tax Collector and continue supporting the office of Tax Collector.

Sincerely,
Tom M. Warms, Ph.D.

Sent: 6/15/2018 1:56:56 PM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: SB 1099

As a real estate agent since 1969 I find the elimination of independent tax collectors is a detriment to owners of real estate in the state of Pennsylvania.

They provide valuable assistance to us since they are available at times township offices are closed or on vacation. Most have evening hours so that individuals can process their payments at convenient hours for the tax payer. We often need certifications and find out that they are more responsive to our needs than local employees.

I believe the independence is also critical because they have knowledge about the assessment process, appeals, and items such as the Homestead Act as well as the myriad of other tax's we are presented with.

I therefore ask you to table this legislation, and provide a more simplified tax process for the citizens of this fine state.

PLEASE MAKE THIS E MAIL A PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Daniel J. Helwig

Licensed in the State of Pennsylvania

License # AB067240

Associate Broker

Member of MCAR, PAR, NAR

Springfield Township Rotarian

Dan Helwig, Inc. REALTORS®

1415 Bethlehem Pike

Flourtown, PA. 19031

Wk: [215-233-5000](tel:215-233-5000) x111 Fax: 215-233-5837

-----Original Message-----

From: KAREN DAUGHERTY <daughkf@hotmail.com>

To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>

Sent: Sat, Jun 16, 2018 8:29 am

Subject: TAX COLLECTOR

MR VINCE PHILLIPS:

I WAS AWAY WHEN I GOT THE E-MAIL FROM PSTCA TO GET TESTIMONY FROM TAX PAYERS, ETC EXPLAINING OUR VALUE TO THEM. I WAS NOT ABLE TO CONTACT ANY OF THEM BECAUSE I WAS AWAY AND DIDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO ANY PHONE NUMBERS OR OTHER MEANS OF CONTACTING THEM.

I JUST WANTED TO GIVE MY OWN TESTIMONY OF WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR THE TAX PAYERS IN MY TOWNSHIP.

I MAKE SURE THE BILLS GET MAILED ON TIME

I HAVE OFFICE HOURS FOR THEM TO COME TO MY OFFICE TO PAY THEIR TAXES AND MAKE OTHER TIMES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO COME DURING THAT TIME

WHEN BILLS ARE RETURNED FROM THE POST OFFICE FOR INCORRECT ADDRESSES, I INVESTIGATE TO FIND THE NEW ADDRESS AND RE-MAIL THE BILL

I HAVE A LOT OF PERSONAL INTERACTION WITH TAX PAYERS FROM PHONE CALLS ANSWERING THEIR QUESTIONS ANY HOUR AND DAY OF THE WEEK

I RESEND RECEIPTS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MISPLACED THEM OR NEED A COPY FOR INCOME TAX OR TAX REBATES OR MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO THEM THE SAME DAY

I PROVIDE SAME DAY CERTIFICATIONS FOR BANKS AND CLOSING COMPANIES

I PROCESS MAILED PAYMENTS EVERY DAY AND DEPOSIT THE PAYMENTS TO THE BANK

I REPORT AND TURN IN PAYMENTS TO COUNTY, TOWNSHIP AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ON TIME

I SUPPLY ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE COUNTY WHEN A TAX PAYER HAS MOVED

I SUPPLY PERMITS FOR REMOVAL OF MOBILE HOMES FOR THE COUNTY'S RECORDS

I BELIEVE SB 1099 IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR TAXPAYERS BECAUSE OF THE PERSONAL SERVICE WE GIVE THEM.

ALSO, FOR MANY OF THESE TAX COLLECTORS, THIS IS THEIR ONLY MEANS OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOME OF THEM ARE RETIRED AND DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT INCOME TO LIVE ON AND COUNT ON THIS INCOME TO JUST MAKE ENDS MEET.

I FOR ONE RELY ON MY THIS INCOME.

PLEASE RECONSIDER AND DO NOT VOTE FOR SB1099 !!!!!

SINCERELY

KAREN DAUGHERTY

EAST ST CLAIR TOWNSHIP, BEDFORD COUNTY

From: J Jerdon <majicmanor@verizon.net>
Date: June 16, 2018 at 9:44:53 AM EDT
To: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: I need your local West Rockhill Township support!

To whom it may concern,

My name is James Jerdon,
My wife and I own Ann Reno Park, we are a 55 and older mobile home park within West Rockhill Township. Most of our residents are of the "older" nature and therefore take comfort in knowing who they are speaking with when they have questions or concerns about their taxes. The patience and human touch afforded our residents by Ms. Clarke goes a long way in giving those same residents the confidence to remain independent and in control. Some had no idea they could apply for rebates and were informed of this opportunity when they payed their tax bill in person. These and many other intangibles provided by Ms. Clarke result in our ability to retain quality residents and therefore a quality mobile home park.

Thank You,

James Jerdon

From: Edwrothstein <edwrothstein@aol.com>
Date: June 16, 2018 at 9:22:04 AM EDT
To: westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: I need your local West Rockhill Township support!

Dear Mrs Clarke

Please add our names to those opposing senate bill 1099. We have experience with both locally elected tax collectors and tax collection businesses hired by local municipalities. In each instance, including West Rockhill, the locally elected officials were more responsive to questions and more effective in correcting errors (made by me, not them)

**Ed and Tina Rothstein
1020 Boulder Hill
West Rockhill Twp**

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Telly <taxcollector@hilltown.org>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Cc: Sherry Labs (s.labs@verizon.net) <s.labs@verizon.net>
Sent: Sat, Jun 16, 2018 8:40 am
Subject: FW: Request for support

Hello Vince,

See below a letter of support for inclusion in the SB1099 hearing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diane Telly, CPTC

Hilltown Tax Collector
13 W Creamery Rd
PO Box 265
Hilltown, PA 18927

P: 215-453-6057

E: taxcollector@hilltown.org

From: Milford Pinkney [<mailto:mpinkney12@verizon.net>]
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 10:49 PM
To: Diane Telly
Subject: Re: Request for support

Hello Diane,

My wife and I are dismayed that they may be taking away the local tax collector. You have been a great help to us in being able to get direct information regarding deadlines, amounts and copies of bills when needed. Being able to get this information on quickly and because the office is local has proved to be such a comfort. Paying taxes correctly, on time and being able to get all the options should not be taken away and given to outside companies.

Yours,
Milford and Vincella Pinkney

From: Gina Skiffington [<mailto:gskiffington@camelotabstract.com>]
Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2018 7:47 AM
To: Diane Telly
Subject: Re: Request for support

Diane Telly does an outstanding job. She is prompt with her responses and anytime we have any questions even if she is on vacation she will get us a response so we can help all our clients in Hilltown Township to settlement.

Her tax certifications are so easy to read and always accurate.

Don't know how we would do business without wonderful tax collectors like Diane Telly. She makes our job so much easier.

Gina Skiffington
Camelot Abstract, Inc
215-453-3521

From: Daniel West <dmwest3333@verizon.net>
Date: June 16, 2018 at 7:55:19 AM EDT
To: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: I need your local West Rockhill Township support!

Dear Suzanne,

We have heard of the attempt by Sen. Scott Martin, (R) 13th Dist, to eliminate the local position of tax collector. Loss of this position will penalize taxpayers having a voice in personal tax bill issues.

Suzanne is our trustful voice who has been there to personally explain the often confusing part of a local tax obligation. That personal service is a direct benefit to our community's deep roots.

Thank you Suzanne.

We are opposed to Bill 1099

WHARTON TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR

DALEEN SINNAMOND
1198 EAST FORK ROAD, AUSTIN, PA 16720

June 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Daleen Sinnamond I am tax Collector in Wharton Township, Potter County, PA.

I have 771 Tax Payer to serve. I know just about everyone on them. I have talked to Them, I have answered all their questions, I have changed address at least 90 a Year, I have answered telephone questions and sent duplicate bills, I have hand Taken bills to people that cannot leave their home.

This position is not just stuffing the bills, mailing them, and receiving them, posting Them, paying the County, Township and School and proving out at the end of the Year. It is working with people, answering their questions and being there for them. Who is going to do that if you eliminate the tax collectors?

A lot of these tax collectors need their position and work for them.

We have done everything DCED requested and also the taxing districts. Now you want To eliminate us.

Please take to time really consider this and not make this move on the tax collector.

Take a good look we are great service to our community.

Sincerely,



Daleen Sinnamond
Tax Collector
Wharton Township
Potter County Pennsylvania
814-647-9906

From: vphillips [mailto:xenobun@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 7:19 AM
To: Marsicano, Erin <emarsicano@pasen.gov>; luc.miron@pasenate.com
Subject: Fwd: SB1099 Bill

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

For the hearing.

Thanks, Vince

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Witt <kswitt13@gmail.com>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 11:41 pm
Subject: SB1099 Bill

Mr. Vince Phillips,

The County Treasurer's are trying to monopolize the collecting of the taxpayers money. The Tax Collectors act as a Checks and Balance system, The Tax Collectors collect the money and the Treasurer's Office checks our record to make sure the money and records are correct, that is how government was set-up; George Washington is rolling in his grave about now.

If this goes into effect, the County would have to hire more employees, add more office space, more salaries, plus benefits and that sounds more cost effective then; Paying the Tax Collector a flat rate per parcel collected, with few other expenses, no office space and no benefits ???

As far as a Large Profit Collecting Agency, who is going to be pay to make their profit for the company--the taxpayers and they are not happy with the amount of taxes they are paying now---too too much. The taxpayer feels comfortable coming to me and handing me their check because they know me and trust me, they **elected** me. We talk about the community and what is happening; they also like to vent. I will take the time to listen and talk. Do you think the Treasurer's office will do that or a Large Profit Company? **NO**-- the taxpayer will be just a number with a dollar amount behind his name.

By eliminating the Tax Collector's job would be an injustice to the American taxpayer of Pennsylvania.

From: Barbara McMonagle [<mailto:salfordtaxcollector@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 10:08 PM
To: Barbara McMonagle
Subject: SB 1098 & SB 653

Dear Senators & Representatives,

When I decided to run for Tax Collector last year I had no idea what was brewing in the state legislature. I knew there were some issues in the past and new legislation had been enacted just last year to correct problems. I have been a volunteer in my township for many years on the Planning Commission and Open Space Committee. Running for Tax Collector would give me another way to help our residents and also provide for my family. Since taking office this past January, I can honestly tell you that I love this job. I help people every day with questions about their real estate bills, per capita bills, notices pertaining to bills from Berks and Montgomery County, last minute tax certifications and often just by lending a friendly ear when people come into the township building to pay their taxes. In today's changing environment, the local Tax Collector makes the burden of paying taxes a little lighter and much easier when questions arise. We are their "go to" person. We provide a tremendous service to our residents. Would you, your kids, your wife or parents rather talk to someone that they know who gives them personal service or a stranger in an office outside our community.

Now, SB 1099 and SB 653 want to eliminate my job and the jobs of my colleagues. Do you really think there is a more efficient, personal way to collect taxes? I don't. Today, Tax Collectors need to be elected to this office. We spend a lot of our own money before we even get the job. I would like to think we are elected because we have shown our residents we are really qualified for the position, want the job badly and care about our community. It isn't just any job. We don't get paid the greatest for our service but it is personally rewarding.

Taking away our positions won't simplify collecting taxes or save money. It will only result in increased collection costs and take away the personal service Tax Collectors provide and residents expect and deserve.

Please actively oppose Senate Bills 1098 & 653. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Barbara McMonagle
Salford Township Tax Collector
Montgomery County, PA
P.O. Box 55
Tylersport, PA 18971

From: DEBBIE Tomlin <debbietomlinpa@comcast.net>
Date: June 15, 2018 at 9:22:14 PM EDT
To: ktpercetti@comcast.net
Subject: Senate Bill 1099
Reply-To: DEBBIE Tomlin <debbietomlinpa@comcast.net>

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express I oppose the Senate Bill 1099. I am a seasoned business women who has had previous experience with out sourcing roles and the results have never been positive. The parties handling have no accountability, therefore the tasks at hand are managed half heartedly with no accuracy often resulting in an abundance of mistakes causing an audit nightmare.

Our local Tax Collectors are experienced professionals including expertise in their direct area. As we all know the world today has many nuances and customizations. Therefore collecting taxes is certainly not a cut and dry role. It takes professionals with knowledge and experience and dedication. I truly believe if the Senate approves the bill more cost will be incurred. I value and appreciate our individual tax collectors just as much as my direct reports. They are a true asset.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like any additional feedback.

Kind regards,

Debbie Tomlin
213 Strassburger Rd
Perkasie, PA 18044

215-262-3788 Cell

From: Vicki Sellers <victoriafay.vs@gmail.com>
Date: June 15, 2018 at 9:13:06 PM EDT
To: ktpercetti@comcast.net
Subject: Oppose Senate bill 1099

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing to express that I oppose Senate bill 1099.

I am a senior citizen and I appreciate the help my tax collector provides me. She is part of our community and she keeps me informed with any change with my taxes so I can budget properly. She is very informative in a friendly and respectful way, explains to me thoroughly what my taxes are used for in our community.

Again, I oppose senate bill 1099, I currently enjoy my tax collectors personal touch and I do not want this to be contracted out to a for-profit corporation.

Respectively,

Vicki Sellers

From: Mary Ellen [mailto:meurmin1@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 3:06 PM

To: Martin, Senator Scott <smartin@pasen.gov>

Cc: luc.miron@pasenate.com; Marsicano, Erin <emarsicano@pasen.gov>; jblake@pasenate.com

Subject: SB 1099

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Dear Sirs:

This Bill concerns me, both as a Tax Collector and as a taxpayer of PA, because it gives the opportunity to increase the size and scope of government.

By changing the current law with this legislation, should it be passed, the three entities of municipality, county and school boards will have the ability to decide who will collect their respective taxes. If they choose to do it themselves, haven't we just armed government with the ability to grow bigger?

Without Tax Collectors, a level of local government is removed. Elected Tax Collectors are at the most basic level of government where there is direct communication and constant contact between taxpayers and the local government which serves them.

Additionally, Tax Collectors are independent, small business owners. Wouldn't the Bill encourage the shutting down of those entrepreneurs who are currently in business, only for the County government to perform those duties, thereby growing larger?

A comprehensive study done in 2010, referenced in our meeting, done by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, concluded that property taxes are less costly to collect than other local taxes, less than .5% of collections on average. Also, there were counties which collect the taxes that expressed the major amount of staff time required to address taxpayer questions and resolve over-and under-payment issues. When salaries, health care benefits, vacation and other paid time off, not to mention enrollment in the already anemic state pension program, are added up with salaries to pay additional staff, how could adding these duties to any government entity be cost saving?

Finally, this bill was prompted in part by the Manheim School District's legal battle with their Tax Collector. I do not want to get into this legal thicket, but I do not see the Manheim Township case as any more than local litigation which does not warrant changes in state law. I cannot agree that this course of action is the solution.

Perhaps instead of centralizing government across the Commonwealth, it might be better to let the local judicial system resolve the dispute between the School District and the elected Tax Collector in Manheim Township?

I am very concerned about keeping government authority local, not inciting the expansion of government to larger levels (county, state).

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Caris
Sadsbury Township Tax Collector

From: Orlando, Victor [<mailto:OrlandV@lmsd.org>]

Sent: Monday, June 18, 2018 3:10 PM

To: Martin, Senator Scott <smartin@pasen.gov>; Blake, John <blake@pasenate.com>;
'luc.miron@pasenate.com' <luc.miron@pasenate.com>

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 1099 Hearing

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Dear Mr. Martin, Mr. Blake and Mr. Miron,

This email is regarding Lower Merion Township Tax Collector, Samuel Adenbaum who is testifying at the SB 1099 hearing. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the trust that Lower Merion School District places in Mr. Adenbaum, and the respect he has earned for his professionalism and expertise. Mr. Adenbaum has been the school district's tax collector for 11 years and has displayed tremendous efficiency and accuracy in this position. His monthly tax collector report has always been filed in a timely and accurate manner. He is prompt in submitting tax collections to the school district. He is one of the first tax collectors to implement the electronic payment feature to taxpayers. In my 23 years in the public school district business, Mr. Adenbaum is the most competent and skilled tax collector that I have ever dealt with in my career. I make this testimonial with complete confidence in Mr. Adenbaum to speak about this bill.

*Victor Orlando
Business Manager
Lower Merion School District
301 E. Montgomery Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003*



June 16, 2018

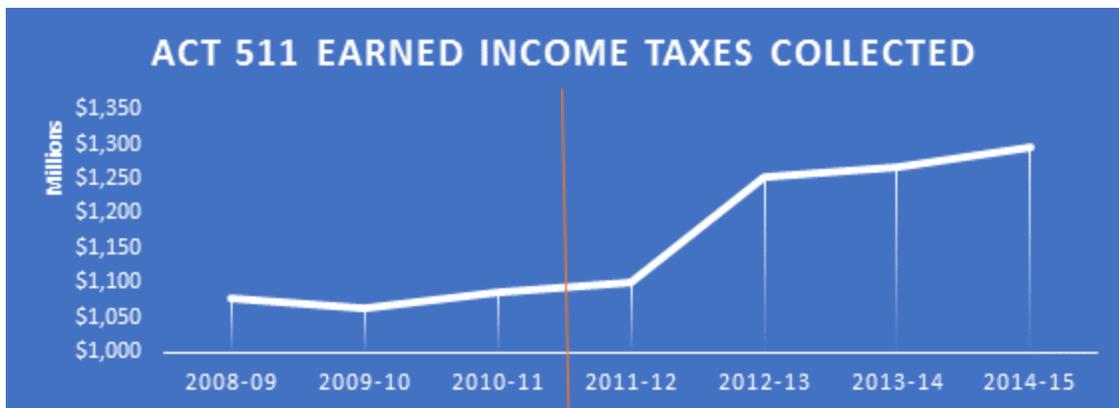
Senate Local Government Committee
Senate of Pennsylvania

Re: Support of Senate Bill 1099

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the 4,500 elected officials who govern the commonwealth's public school districts, **we are writing to request your support of Senate Bill 1099**, sponsored by Senator Scott Martin. We believe this legislation continues the success of Act 32, which simplified the administration and collection of earned income tax in Pennsylvania, by allowing school districts to appoint efficient, modern and technologically advanced tax collectors.

Background of a Successful and Efficient tax change: After implementing Act 32 in 2008 school districts received over \$237 million in increased local earned income tax revenue annually because of efficiency. The inefficiency of the previous system was mostly due to the lack of uniform withholding, varying thoroughness of tax collectors' records, training and resources, and red tape. After Act 32 tax collectors were hired that had incredible experience and the numbers below speak to what modernization of a tax system can produce. Simply collecting this tax in a more efficient and coherent manner has had benefits to tax payers and government entities:



The need for modernization: Allowing School Districts to utilize reliable and efficient tax collectors for EITC tax collection gave taxing districts economy of scale, professionals dedicated to efficiency, and the utilization of collection technology not previously available to most districts. This same concept should be applied and is being applied by some districts in Pennsylvania to collect their property tax. Senator Scott Martin's Senate Bill 1099 cuts through the

red tape that is halting some of these cost saving reforms and simply would allow districts to achieve efficiency by adopting a resolution appointing its tax collector.

Further, this legislation deals with the unfortunate circumstance when a school district and tax collector are unable to create a successful partnership, which has costed taxpayer and created undue burden when paperwork is sent out incorrectly.

As a membership-driven organization that is pledged to the highest ideals of local lay leadership for public schools PSBA works to support reforms for the betterment of public education and to promote the achievements of public schools, students and local school boards. We want to thank you for your attention to these important issues and the dedication you have shown to the students of this great Commonwealth. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (717) 506-2450 x3337.

Sincerely,

John M. Callahan,
Chief Advocacy Officer
Pennsylvania School Boards Association



Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

2608 Market Place, Harrisburg PA 17110-9358 | 717.540.9551 | FAX 717.540.1796
www.pasbo.org

The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) supports Senate Bill 1099 (Sen. Martin, R-Lancaster). This legislation would grant a local board of school directors the option to appoint one or more persons as tax collector to collect the school taxes in any one or more wards or proper divisions within the school district.

PASBO supports the flexibility that this legislation provides to school districts in determining the best and most cost-effective manner for collecting school property taxes.

While many school districts work effectively with their locally elected tax collectors, Senate Bill 1099 would provide school boards with authority to make decisions, based on the individual needs of their districts and communities, to appoint an individual or individuals other than the locally elected tax collector to engage in this critical function for the school district.

In addition to providing efficiency and cost-savings for the school district, we believe that this legislation is beneficial to school districts, as it has the potential to streamline tax collection procedures.

Three administrators have provided written testimony and supporting documents as examples of issues that school districts have witnessed under the current tax collection system and instances of the positive impact Senate Bill 1099 would have on many school districts.

PASBO welcomes the committee's review of this legislation and we hope you will consider supporting this bill in the future. Thank you for allowing PASBO and the administrators testifying today to present to this committee.



Manheim Township School District
450A Candlewyck Road | Lancaster, PA 17606

Manheim Township School District, in Lancaster, has efficiently and effectively collected school taxes in-house for over 30 years. The district's tax collections, which totals approximately \$60 million dollars during the 2017-18 fiscal year was primarily collected using an automated process called a "lockbox". The lockbox allows tax payments to be remitted directly from taxpayers to Fulton Bank, processed using a barcode from the bottom of the bill. Funds are automatically deposited into the district's bank account to begin earning interest, with the payee information automatically posting to the district's tax software for reconciliation purposes. Taxpayers also have the option to send payments directly to the school district; however, that is not the typical payment option.

For the 2017-18 fiscal year, the school district collected a total of 16,330 real estate tax bills. Sixty-percent (60%) of the bills (9,751) were processed via the lockbox, thirty-three percent (33%) of the bills (5,371) were collected electronically via escrow companies, and only 7% of the bills (1,208) were manually collected by district staff. Due to the swiftness of deposits, the district has enjoyed a consistent and reliable cash flow, which has yielded maximum interest earnings. In addition, due to the efficient process, minimal district staff time is spent manually handling tax payments.

However, Manheim Township School District and its taxpayers will lose the efficiency and effectiveness of the current tax collection process. Our local tax collector was elected and has served since February 2013. During this time, she did not seek to collect taxes for the Manheim Township School District. She did not inquire to or communicate with the district regarding the process, method or manner in which the school district collected taxes. School district records indicate that the school district has been collecting taxes internally with the cooperation of locally elected tax collectors since at least 1985, over thirty years ago.

In an effort to meet and establish a positive relationship with the local tax collector, the school district's newly hired Chief Operating Officer reached out to her twice but received no reply. Unfortunately, the only response received by the local tax collector to the school district was in the form of a lawsuit, filed on November 6, 2017; one day prior to the election.

Since receiving the lawsuit, the School Board approved a resolution establishing policies and procedures for elected tax collectors. These policies and procedures are the same followed by the district to ensure that all public funds are adequately safeguarded and

properly accounted for. The Resolution also established procedures so the district does not lose interest or money with a delay in deposits of tax checks, which is extremely important. In addition to seeking an unspecified increase to her compensation in her lawsuit, the local tax collector is also challenging portions of the district's resolution, including the right to issue tax certifications — which confirms that tax bills have been paid — and to keep the fees generated from issuing those certifications. The school district receives approximately \$40,000 a year in certification fees. The lawsuit is on-going and to date has cost the Manheim Township taxpayers over \$21,000 in legal fees.

The school district has not disputed the local tax collector's legal right to collect the taxes, despite the fact that the current process has been efficient and effective. The lawsuit filed by the local tax collector is ultimately about her compensation and the Resolution Establishing Collection Policies and Procedures, which she is challenging. At this point, the district will be turning over all tax collection responsibilities to the local tax collector on July 1, 2018. It has been a complex and monumental task to be forced to unravel an efficient and effective system that has been in place for many years.

Manheim Township had been following the same tax-collecting procedure for decades. And it's not alone: Out of the 17 school districts that serve Lancaster County students, only one school district, Conestoga Valley, does not collect school property taxes in-house.

Senate Bill 1099 would explicitly allow school districts, such as those in Lancaster County, the ability to elect to collect its own taxes should that be the most efficient and effective manner in which to do so. It would prevent situations such as what is occurring at Manheim Township, in which an automated tax collection process is forced to be collapsed and turned over to one individual to process over 16,000 tax payments. The cost of lost interest earnings, potentially lost tax certification fees, tax collector compensations costs, and legal fees are yet to be determined.

Submitted by:

Donna Robbins, MBA, PRSBA
Chief Operating Officer



The Pennsylvania Municipal League
President – Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., Mayor, City of Easton



The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners
President – John Kuntzelman, Commissioner, East Pennsboro Township

MEMO

To: Senate Local Government Committee

From: Amy Sturges, Director of Governmental Affairs, PML and PSATC

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1099

Date: June 18, 2018

On behalf of the member municipalities of the PA Municipal League and the PA State Association of Township Commissioners, I write to express support for Senator Martin's SB 1099. This bill authorizes alternative methods of Real Property Tax collection for the majority of political subdivisions in PA.

PML and PSATC support the flexibility provided in the bill to decide locally if a change in the Real Estate Tax collection process is necessary. The bill offers several alternative options for collection by an appointed entity including: the county, a municipal employee or a third party collector. This allows each local government to assess its satisfaction with the current system and make adjustments, if necessary.

We request the Committee move the bill to the full Senate. Thank you.



COUNTY OF BUCKS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
55 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA 18901
215-348-6424

County Commissioners

Robert G. Loughery, Chairman
Charles H. Martin, Vice Chair
Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW

June 15, 2018

The Honorable Scott Martin
Interim Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable John Blake
Minority Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Martin and Blake,

On behalf of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to you to express our concern with Senate Bill 1099 which would amend the Local Tax Collection Law.

It is our understanding that a hearing on Senate Bill 1099 of the Senate Local Government Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2018 in Harrisburg. Please accept this letter on behalf of the Bucks County Board of Commissioners as our testimony and make it part of the official record.

The Tax Collectors in Bucks County play a key role in supporting local government. Not only are they responsible for the collection of millions of dollars in tax revenue each year, they also provide numerous services to the residents of the County. Tax Collectors are able to provide residents with a level of personal service that would be irreplaceable if these offices were eliminated. Whether it be answering a simple tax related question or explaining a complex problem these individuals provide a service to our residents that is in much demand. This level of service will not be found if the tax collection is done via third party.

The Local Tax Collection Law provides a procedure to assist counties who are unable to find qualified individuals to run for this elected position.

We are in opposition to SB 1099.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Loughery, Chairman

Cc: Erin Marsicano, Executive Director, Local Government Committee
Luke Miron, Executive Director, Local Government Committee

DIANE TELLY, CPTC
Hilltown Township Tax Collector
113 Gentry Dr
Perkasie, PA 18944
E: TaxCollector@Hilltown.org C: 215.272.6563

June 15, 2018

Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol Building
Room 8E-A
Harrisburg, PA 17120

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today to speak for the residents of my township who are not equipped to communicate directly with you. That is, our senior citizens. They are often the population that goes unheard in the world of tax collection as they do not have the stamina to attend meetings and do not have the means to email their concerns.

One such senior, whom I will refer to as JW, found herself in a difficult situation when she converted to a reverse mortgage. Her reverse mortgage company was insisting that her property information was incorrect and that they could not issue the mortgage. JW asked me to inform the reverse mortgage company of the correct information. I did correct this information with them, and JW was able to get the reverse mortgage set up appropriately.

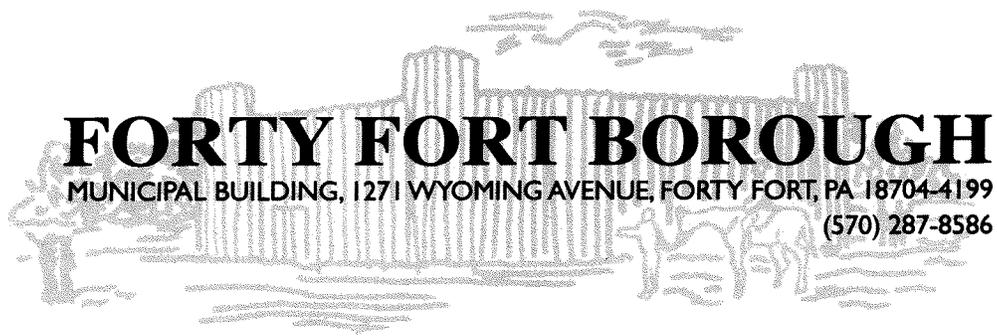
Other seniors who need assistance are those who file PA Property Tax Rebates. Many seniors request receipts from me to file with their rebate requests. There are also times when seniors' requests are denied due to insufficient information, and I provide to them the information being requested. The seniors have direct access to me and can get the help that they need without delay or difficulty. I believe that this access and help is invaluable to our seniors.

The final population that I want to mention today are the disabled veterans. The Local Tax Collector assists the veteran in filing the appropriate documentation for tax exemption and ensures that their real estate tax bills are removed from the tax roll. These veterans benefit from the personal assistance we offer.

Thank you very much for your consideration. With our current system of tax collection being cost effective and having superior customer service, I ask that you do not support SB1099.

Sincerely,

Diane Telly, CPTC
Hilltown Township, Bucks County



June 15, 2018

Honorable Scott Martin Honorable John Blake
Interim Chair Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Martin and Blake:

It is our understanding that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee for Tuesday June 19 in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099. Please accept this letter as our testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.

As municipalities, we strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and we disagree with the apparent premise of the bill that the present system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system centralizing more power at a higher level of government.

As municipalities, we strongly support a local system of tax collection. While SB 1099 suggests that there is choice involved, we disagree. To us, the legislation looks like it stacks the odds against municipalities continuing to work with a system that has served taxpayers for many years. A provision in Senate Bill 1099 (section 3.1) says that a county may unilaterally take over collection of real estate taxes if it so chooses. It does not appear to allow for continued collection of real estate taxes by a municipality but rather says that the county can do what it chooses. There are situations where townships have collected real estate taxes. Should their administration of tax collection be usurped by a different level of government? We municipalities say no.

There appears to be a similar bias towards a higher level of government where municipalities would eliminate the elected Office of the Tax Collector. If you believe as we townships do as echoed in PSATS 2017-18 Policy Statement Page 8, that local government works best, and its taxing authority should not be eliminated or eroded, you would not want to eliminate this elected office.

Frankly, we do not understand why this legislation is being considered at all. Is the perceived problem specific to a county situation? If so, might it be better addressed at the local level? As municipalities, we seek the highest level of efficiency at the local level and we believe Senate Bill 1099 works against this goal. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing our concerns with the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Arnone".

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager

CC: smartin@pasen.gov jblake@pasenate.com

emarsicano@pasen.gov luc.miron@pasenate.com Thomas Alexander



HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP POLICE

Christopher E. Engelhart
Chief of Police

13 West Creamery Road ▪ P.O. Box 260 ▪ Hilltown, PA 18927
Office (215) 453-6000 ▪ Dispatch (215) 453-6011 ▪ Fax (215) 453-6062

June 15, 2018

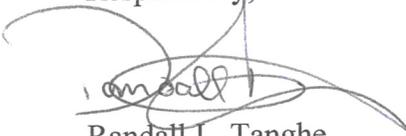
To whom this may concern:

I have recently become aware that the Pennsylvania State Senate will be conducting hearings regarding Senate Bill #1099. It is my understanding that Bill # 1099 intends to eliminate our local elected tax collectors. I believe this will create the possibility for large companies to collect and report the taxes and therefore will charge greater fees in doing so.

I can also add that our Tax Collector for Hilltown Township, Diane Telly, has provided quick, reliable, and accurate tax and reassessment information on a moment's request. My experience in obtaining information from larger companies over the years has been quite frustrating, and many times unsuccessful.

Please accept this letter of my opposition to Senate Bill #1099.

Respectfully,


Randall L. Tanghe
Lieutenant

SB 1099 MUNICIPALITY LETTER

smartin@pasen.gov jblake@pasenate.com

CC: emarsicano@pasen.gov lmiron@pasenate.com

Honorable Scott Martin Honorable John Blake
Interim Chair Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Martin and Blake:

It is our understanding that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee for Tuesday June 19 in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099. Please accept this letter as our testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.

As municipalities, we strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and we disagree with the apparent premise of the bill that the present system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system centralizing more power at a higher level of government.

As municipalities, we strongly support a local system of tax collection. While SB 1099 suggests that there is choice involved, we disagree. To us, the legislation looks like it stacks the odds against municipalities continuing to work with a system that has served taxpayers for many years. A provision in Senate Bill 1099 (section 3.1) says that a county may unilaterally take over collection of real estate taxes if it so chooses. It does not appear to allow for continued collection of real estate taxes by a municipality but rather says that the county can do what it chooses. There are situations where townships have collected real estate taxes. Should their administration of tax collection be usurped by a different level of government? We municipalities say no.

There appears to be a similar bias towards a higher level of government where municipalities would eliminate the elected Office of the Tax Collector. If you believe as we townships do as echoed in PSATS 2017-18 Policy Statement Page 8, that local government works best and its taxing authority should not be eliminated or eroded, you would not want to eliminate this elected office.

Frankly, we do not understand why this legislation is being considered at all. Is the perceived problem specific to a particular county situation? If so, might it be better addressed at the local level? As municipalities, we seek the highest level of efficiency at the local level and we believe Senate Bill 1099 works against this goal. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing our concerns with the proposal.

Sincerely,

Janet A. McKinley
Tax Collector
Armstrong Co. / Valley Twp.

MEMORANDUM

PLEASE MAKE THIS LETTER PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE HEARING

TO: Honorable Scott Martin, Interim Chair Honorable John Blake, Minority Chair
 Senate Local Government Committee Senate Local Government Committee
 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120 Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120

FROM: Janis Creason, Dauphin County Treasurer

DATE: June 17, 2018

RE: Remarks on Senate Bill 1099

I have served as Dauphin County Treasurer since 2008. There are 40 taxing districts in Dauphin County. Of those, my office collects municipal real estate taxes for nine districts. I am under contract (no remuneration) through the county to teach the Tax Collector Qualification Course and administer the examination on behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal League. Previously, I developed the Best Practices in Tax Collection curriculum and instructed same through PSATS. I present on tax collection at the annual PSATS Conference, as well as at other seminars across the Commonwealth.

When I took office, the county treasurer collected the county portion of real estate taxes in the City of Harrisburg only. There was no legal basis for counties to collect real estate taxes on behalf of municipalities, although several counties were doing that. As a loophole to the law, municipalities sometimes elected “name-only” tax collectors who deputized the county (or some other entity) to collect the real estate taxes for the county and municipality. Dauphin County had several such arrangements, which accomplished the task of collecting taxes efficiently where no person was willing to actively serve as the tax collector; however, the situation was not ideal.

In 2010, I approached Rep. Hickernell about drafting legislation to allow county treasurers to collect and remit municipal real estate taxes in the absence of an elected or appointed tax collector. After gaining support of the county treasurers, CCAP, PSATS, and the PA State Tax Collectors’ Assn, House Bill 715 PN 729 passed on December 22, 2011, which is now Section 4.4 of the Local Tax Collection Act.

This provision is not perfect; it is a stop gap measure. While it allows the county treasurer to step in and collect municipal taxes if a vacancy exists, it also requires that the office of tax collector appear on the ballot in the next municipal election. Regardless of how efficient and cost-effective the arrangement is between county, municipality and county treasurer, it risks disruption at the next municipal election should someone wish to run for the office.

For instance, the Dauphin County Treasurers’ Office has been collecting real estate taxes for almost nine years for Millersburg Borough and Susquehanna Township, just to name two municipalities for whom we collect. The arrangement is working very, very well. The county and the municipalities have saved a significant amount of money while providing 24/7 service to the taxpayers and mortgage companies. All parties agree that the current system is ideal over any other and wish it to continue. Yet, the office of tax collector appears on the ballot every two years and threatens to derail an otherwise perfect arrangement.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the portion of SN1099 that calls for a voluntary omission of the office of tax collector from the voting ballot when the county treasurer is collecting real estate taxes for the municipality as the result of a prior vacancy that was not filled by an individual and all parties agree that they wish the arrangement to continue indefinitely.

This allows the county and the municipality to allocate time and energy to a long-term working relationship without the concern that the arrangement will be disrupted every two years.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the elimination of the office of tax collector from the voting ballot when there is no confirmed vacancy because a) the incumbent tax collector wishes to seek office in subsequent elections or b) another qualified individual intends to seek the office of tax collector. The reason I do not support this portion of the bill is multi-faceted.

1. Elected tax collectors invest significantly of their own resources to establish and maintain their offices, operation, and qualified status. Apart from reimbursement for paper, postage, and printer ink, tax collectors in Dauphin County are responsible to purchase their own supplies, phone and internet services, office space, if necessary, insurance, additional manpower, computer equipment, etc. The potential that the office of tax collector may be eliminated at the end of any given term is a disincentive to investing in and maintaining an effective operation.
2. It is my opinion, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that politics may play heavily into whether or not the office of tax collector will be abolished by a municipality. Not only may a municipal governing body or a member of that body hold the threat of elimination of the position over a tax collector's head, it may also create a "pay-to-play" scenario whereby a tax collector is in jeopardy if they do not support the "right" candidate or play by the "right" rules. Furthermore, there have been instances during my tenure where a municipal official is at odds with the elected tax collector because of how they perform their duties, despite the tax collector following the rule of law. For example, by law, a tax collector is permitted to refuse personal checks for property taxes after December 15, and that can be seen unfavorably by some taxing districts and may be the catalyst to eliminate the position. Therefore, the tax collector may be judged not on whether they comply with the law, but if their performance satisfies or dissatisfies the municipal officials and/or the tax-paying public.
3. There is no matrix for evaluating the performance of a tax collector in relation to eliminating the position; therefore, the elimination of the office of tax collector would be subjective and unquantifiable. The tax collector is mandated by law to carry out most functions of the position. The law gives considerable latitude to the taxing districts to impose policies that facilitate prompt and timely payment, accurate reporting, and fiduciary accountability. The taxing districts bear some responsibility for insuring that the tax collector operates within the law and has at their disposal the ability to inspect the records and conduct audits.
4. While I believe that the office of tax collector will eventually be eliminated, I believe it will happen more appropriately by attrition. As less and less individuals seek the office and vacancies are filled by county treasurers, there will be a natural decline in elected or appointed tax collectors. In those cases, it would be prudent to allow the county and municipality to agree to the formal omission of the office of tax collector from the ballot at all subsequent elections for as long as practical.

Respectfully submitted: Janis Creason June 17, 2018

Honorable Scott Martin, Interim Chair

Honorable John Blake, Minority Chair

Senate Local Government Committee

Main Capitol, Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senators Martin and Blake,

It is our understanding that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099. Please accept this letter on behalf of myself and my constituents as our testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.

We strongly believe that locally elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and we disagree with the apparent premise of the bill that the present system should be eliminated and replaced with a new system awarding more power to a higher level of government. The current system provides personal, individual service. The proposed new method does not.

Locally elected Tax Collectors process payments in a timely, accurate, and efficient manner. In Armstrong County the collection rate is 93%. We assist with farmstead/homestead applications, provide state required receipts for the rent/rebate program, work closely with mortgage companies, lawyers, closing companies and realtors. Tax Collectors go above and beyond our required duties to assure the collection of the revenue that is vital to the municipality, county, and school district's existence.

Allowing for the collection of property taxes by the local treasurer or an outside entity would adversely affect our county. If taxes were to be collected by the county, it would be total turmoil. At the end of the discount period there would be in excess of 2000 people showing up in person to pay. The parking lot has approximately 40 spaces with three handicapped slots. Having this amount of people showing up would be a safety hazard as well as extremely inefficient. Our county is primarily senior citizens that should not have to go through that hassle.

If taxes were to be collected by an outside entity, approximately \$82,000,000 would be processed out of our county. That would have a major negative effect on our already economically depressed area.

Senate Bill 1099 leads directly to the property owners losing their rights to local government services. We do not understand why the bill is being considered at all. The current system works: it is not broken. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing our concerns with this proposal.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bauer, Tax Collector North Buffalo and Codagon Townships, Armstrong County PA

And the property owners of said townships

FROM THE DESK OF MARIGRACE BUTELA
DUNBAR TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR
FAYETTE COUNTY, PA

MEMO TO: SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
DATE: JUNE 15, 2018
SUBJECT: SB1099 – AMENDING LOCAL TAX COLLECTION LAW – PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR COUNTY OPTION TO COLLECT REAL PROPERTY TAXES, FOR OPTIONAL ALTERNATIVE TAX COLLECTION AGREEMENTS, COLLECTION OF SCHOOL TAXES BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR BONDS OF TAX COLLECTORS

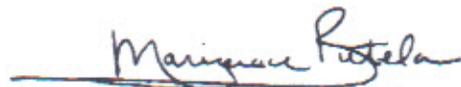
As an elected tax collector for the past 14 years, I am disappointed that such a bill would be introduced in the General Assembly to eliminate the position of "Elected Tax Collector" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. ***I am an advocate and a liaison between my taxpayers and the taxing bodies I serve.*** In 2003 my county implemented its first reassessment. It was a very confusing and frustrating time for many of my taxpayers/property owners. I personally assisted and provided seniors and others with information that helped them gain insight and knowledge when filing appeals. In 2004, I was able to convince the Connellsville Area School District board members to allow taxpayers the option of paying their taxes in 4 equal installments which helped hundreds of taxpayers/property owners in my municipality. It should be noted that CASD became the first school district in Fayette County to implement such a plan, which later became mandated in 2006.

My office provides excellent and outstanding customer service that cannot be replaced with a lockbox or an unknowledgeable office staffer at a faceless agency. My office assists taxpayers Monday through Friday, 12 months throughout the year. I assist with filing PA Property/Rent Rebates, Homestead/Farmstead, and Clean & Green applications/forms. I help manage escrow accounts and assist my taxpayers by answering various questions concerning interims, corrections, exonerations, etc. I collect taxes for the homebound and I travel to senior centers. I also report new construction and additional structures that may have not been permitted, thus helping the taxing bodies in generating needed revenue. I assist and help taxpayers/property owners figure out and understand their tax bills, records cards, comparables, etc. I am much more than just a collector of real estate taxes, ***I am a public servant who is there to help my taxpayers with any problems, concerns, or questions they may have. I help them cut through government red tape that is often part of their daily lives. I know my taxpayers needs because I am part of the community with an office that is located centrally within their municipality.***

I help my county, township and school save money by not being required to provide health care, retirement and other fringe benefits. They do not reimburse me for rent, utilities, office supplies, internet service, faxing and making copies of tax receipts/bills, etc. These and other services are provided at no cost to the taxing bodies and the taxpayers/property owners.

In closing, I am asking that ***you not support SB1099***, which I believe, will have a negative effect not only for the people in my township, but for all municipalities that are covered under the Local Tax Collection Law, Act of May 25, 1945, P.L. 1050, No. 394 72 P.S. § 5511.1 et seq. ***The consideration and passage of this bill opens the back door in allowing Big Brother to quietly step in and dismantle our local government. Please do not forget about the taxpayers/property owners who depend on their elected Tax Collector in providing them with outstanding customer service that they have come to know and expect.***

Respectfully,



Marigrace Butela, CPTC (Certified Pennsylvania Tax Collector)

June 16, 2018

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

I **am writing** this letter in opposition of SB1099. I never realized how much work was involved in collecting real estate taxes until I offered to volunteer my services for my sister, Marigrace Butela, who is an elected Tax Collector for Dunbar Township, Fayette County, PA. As a retired college graduate in business, I assumed that her job was fairly straightforward. I never realized how involved and sometimes complicated her job is. My sister wears a headphone so that she can multitask. She begins her day by cleaning her office and making sure forms such as the Pennsylvania Property Rebate and other helpful brochures are readily available. She then listens and returns phone messages while she reads and responds to her emails. After her offices closes, she opens her mail, processes payments, and solves problems with overpayments, underpayments, etc. Her county sends her changes every month for new ownership & mailing addresses, corrections, additions, new charges, exonerations, etc. She sends out copies of tax bills with new ownership/ mailing addresses for taxes that are unpaid. She contacts agencies that request tax bills when payment has not been made. She often helps taxpayers by contacting local government offices to help them with questions concerning their assessments, deeds, wills, etc. She routinely helps taxpayers with their Pennsylvania Property/Rent Rebates. She even provides help with filing out forms for other programs such as LIHEAP, SNAP, Medicare and Social Security. She also faxes documents and provides free postage, all at no charge. I often tell people, I would not do her job for a million dollars. My sister is dedicated to the taxpayers and her job. I now realize the important role she plays as an elected local official.

I am asking that you not support SB1099.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marilyn Sanner
122 East End Road
Connellsville, PA 15425



Amy J. Smith
Superintendent

MOUNT UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
603 North Industrial Drive
Mount Union, Pennsylvania 17066

Telephone
814-542-8631

January 30, 2018

Mrs. Patricia Endres
Union Township Tax Collector
P. O. Box 156
7212 Colbert Road
Calvin, PA 16622

Dear Patty:

At its regular meeting held on January 29, 2018, the Mount Union Area Board of Education approved the listings for exoneration and delinquent Per Capita/Resident taxes for 2017 as you presented for the Union Township taxing region of the District. The delinquent listings for 2017 will be mailed to the District's delinquent tax collection agency -- Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc.

The approval of these listings closes-out your second tax year as Union Township Tax Collector. At this time, we wish to express our appreciation for your efforts in fulfilling the responsibilities of the position of tax collector for the District.

If you have any questions on the action taken at the board meeting, please contact our office at 814-542-8631.

Sincerely,

MOUNT UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Amy J. Smith, Superintendent

AJS/dlw

BOARD

Dolly Ranck, President
Deanna Lee Wagner, Secretary
Telephone: 814-542-8631

DISTRICT-WIDE ADMINISTRATORS

Carol L. Kauffman, Dir. Business Affairs
Telephone: 814-542-8631
Dianne Thomas, Dir. Spec. Ed.
Telephone: 814-542-2518

DISTRICT BUILDINGS

Administrative Center: 814-542-8631
Junior High School: 814-542-9311
Senior High School: 814-542-2518
Mapleton Union Elementary: 814-542-4401
Mount Union-Kistler Elementary: 814-542-2595
Shirley Township Elementary: 814-542-9381

1000 E. Walnut St., Ste. 622
Perkasie, PA 18944



Phone: 267.885.7405
Fax: 267.687.0593
Email: bburke@principleabstract.com

June 15, 2018

Pennsylvania Senators

RE: SENATE BILL 1099

Dear Senators:

As a title company we rely heavily on the efficiency and timeliness of tax certifications for the settlement process. It is crucial to the local community of home buyers, sellers, title companies, and lenders to have the support from our local tax collectors for a smooth closing transaction.

We struggle with the idea of a large corporation taking over this role in our community as this could result in the lack of knowledge and customer service this industry requires. As a small local title company, we highly support our local tax collectors and see the proposed change as a significant negative impact to our closing process and the community.

For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Bill Burke
Principle Abstract and Settlement Services, LLC

**40TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
MONROE & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES**

Room 168 Main Capitol
P.O. Box 203040
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717-787-6123
Fax: 717-772-3695

2989 Route 611
Suite 103 – DePue Plaza
Tannersville, PA 18372
Phone: 570-620-4326
Fax: 570-620-4379

2 North Robinson Avenue
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
Phone: 610-863-1200
Fax: 610-863-1214

msscavello@pasen.gov
marioscavello.com



Senate of Pennsylvania
MARIO M. SCAVELLO
STATE SENATOR

COMMITTEES

Community, Economic and
Recreational Development, Chair

Consumer Protection &
Professional Licensure, Vice Chair

Appropriations

Game & Fisheries

Transportation

Urban Affairs & Housing

Majority Policy

June 15, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 1099, legislation which proposes the elimination of many local tax collectors and shifts the responsibilities of local tax collection to County Treasurers across the Commonwealth.

Tax collectors in the 40th District of Monroe and Northampton Counties do a great job on behalf of our school districts and municipalities. They operate in a professional and ethical manner, providing a local face for area taxpayers.

Local tax collectors are not only trained in tax collection but also serve as an important resource "in the field" for constituents who have questions or concerns with their tax bills. While this legislation proposes creating greater efficiency by consolidating tax collection, the existing system is already efficient in that it provides greater accessibility and convenience for area residents.

Should you wish to discuss this proposal or similar legislation in the future, I would welcome you to contact me directly at msscavello@pasen.gov or 570-620-4326.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mario M. Scavello".

Mario M. Scavello
State Senator
40th Senatorial District

Honorable Scott Martin
Interim Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable John Blake
Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capital
Harrisburg, PA 17120

June 15, 2018

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

My name is Emily Thrasher Caliguri. I have been a resident of Abington Township, Montgomery County for the last three years. As a newlywed, we were looking for a friendly neighborhood and have found that in Abington.

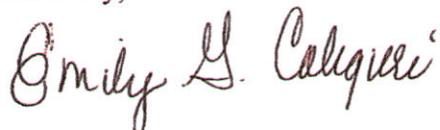
Having a tax collector who is a member of the community was very helpful in our search for a new home. The office provided us with annual tax information, explained the sewer and refuse and provided us with the Homestead application. It was nice speaking with people who went above and beyond explanations and welcoming me to the township

My understanding is that your Senate committee is holding a hearing on something that would possibly eliminate the office of Tax Collector. Eliminating this office, you eliminate the personal touch of a strong neighborhood that so many of us rely on.

Why pass this on to someone who ONLY thinks of it as a job and could care less if they have helped a resident, it's not their neighbor.

Please take this into consideration.

Sincerely,



Emily G. Claiguri
402 Glen Lane
Elkins Park, PA 19027

Township of Falls

BUCKS COUNTY, PA



188 Lincoln Highway
Suite 100
Fairless Hills, PA 19030
(215) 949-9000

E-Mail: admin@fallstwp.com
Website: www.fallstwp.com

Board of Supervisors

Jeff Boraski
Jeffrey E. Dence
Brian M. Galloway
Robert J. Harvie, Jr.
Jeffrey Rocco

June 18, 2018

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing this letter to express the serious reservations held by the Falls Township Board of Supervisors regarding the potential approval of SB1099. As elected officials, we have a full appreciation for the necessity of having local elected officials who are readily available to their constituents, and this is especially valuable when it comes to the delicate issue of taxes. Tax collectors must deal on a daily basis with problematic issues that arise with residents and business owners, many of whom don't fully understand all the ins and outs of tax laws, and who rely on the tax collector to help them navigate those confusing waters. Having someone they know, often know personally, makes all the difference when it comes to helping all the taxpayers, from major corporations to senior citizens on fixed incomes who are worried about keeping their homes. In addition, in our Township we have, over the past decade, learned that outsourcing government work to a company or agency that isn't located in the immediate area, does not usually work to the advantage of the municipality or the people it represents. We have spent our time "insourcing" that work so that we can maintain the kind of local connections and local control which we have found much more efficient and responsive.

We ask that you reject SB1099.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Harvie', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Bob Harvie, Chairman

Falls Township Board of Supervisors

Loyalsock Township School District

***1605 Four Mile Drive
Williamsport, PA 17701
Telephone: (570) 326-6508
Fax: (570) 326-0770
www.loyalsocklancers.org***

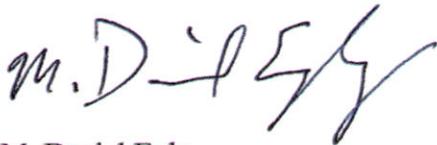
***Gerald L. McLaughlin
Superintendent of Schools***

June 18, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf the Loyalsock Township School District in reference to Senate Bill 1099. Loyalsock Township School District strongly opposes Senate Bill 1099, specifically, allowing an elected Tax Collector to be removed from being placed on the ballot. The service that the Loyalsock Township's elected tax collector provides to its community is outstanding. Her responsiveness to residents within the community is unrivaled. The Loyalsock Township School Districts calls upon its legislature to explore alternatives to Senate Bill 1099.

Sincerely,



M. Daniel Egly
Business Manager

From: Marybeth Chapman <mchapman412@gmail.com>

To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>

Subject: hearing of Senate Local Government Committee in Harrisburg to discuss SB 1099

Date: Mon, Jun 18, 2018 8:41 am

Dear Mr. Vince Phillips,

Today's society is cold. It is impersonal where a real live person is replaced by a recording and where you can't get answers. Press '2' for this and '3' for that makes sense to people in government or a large corporation who want to reduce personnel costs but it is not friendly to the taxpayer. Thankfully, Pennsylvania still has a personal system where the elected Tax Collector takes the time to explain and if necessary, explain again. This is not something you will find in a big business or from impersonal government. The Tax Collector makes the system work for us ordinary citizens who simply want to live our lives, do our jobs, raise our families and have a tax system that is explained to them.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Chapman

To Whom It May Concern:

Please oppose Senate Bill 1099.

I am an Elected Tax Collector for West Penn Township. I have been Tax Collector since 1998.

The Elected Local Tax Collector stem is not broken.

There is much fraud going on in the Court House and School System, but we do not see stories listed on them.

I spend countless hours talking to local tax payers about their taxes, I DO NOT GET PAID FOR THESE HOURS.

I DO NOT CHARGE RENT OR ANY EXPENSES TO MY TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OR SCHOOL for the tax office. This saves taxpayer dollars that would be spent on employee salaries, benefits, pensions, etc.

IT IS THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO BE ABLE TO ELECT THEIR LOCAL TAX COLLECTOR. Abolishing the office is a violation of our constitutional system of local government of the people.

People know their Local Elected Tax Collector. The TAX COLLECTOR IS WHERE A PERSON GOES FOR ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS.

THIS IS THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM OF CHOICE TO ELECT THEIR LOCAL TAX COLLECTOR. If a Tax Collector is not working efficiently, he or she can be replaced now per the will of the people.

PLEASE OPPOSE BILL 1099

Helene Zeigler

West Penn Township Tax Collector/Schuylkill County

570-386-2420

Sent from my iPhone

Attached Message

From harts4 <harts4@comcast.net>
To shireyfam <shireyfam@dejazzd.com>
Subject Pa. Tax Collectors
Date Fri, 15 Jun 2018 10:27:14 -0400 (EDT)

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this email for my mother Fay Hart who lives in Oley, Pa. She does not have email capability but wants to voice her opinion in support of her local tax collector, Janet Shirey. Janet is always available to answer personal questions throughout the year not only during the tax season. As advertised, she has many convenient hours that you can pay your taxes and if you call her, she will always accommodate you. Who else would give you this personal and friendly service? Thank You.

Fay Hart

610 Main St.

Oley, Pa.

From: shireyfam <shireyfam@dejazzd.com>
To: Vince Phillips <xenobun@aol.com>
Subject: SB1099
Date: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 7:06 pm

Hi Vince,

Here is another email.

Thanks,
Janet R. Shirey, Oley Twsp. TC

Attached Message

From Patti Kehoe <Patti_Rusty@hotmail.com>
To shireyfam@dejazzd.com <shireyfam@dejazzd.com>
Subject Tax Collectors
Date Fri, 15 Jun 2018 17:59:19 +0000

It has come to our attention that there is a bill to eliminate the tax collector position in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If this were to happen, the people will suffer the loss of the personal touch of the tax collector. My tax collector is available to answer questions and help with any problems. If there is no tax collector, who is going to help the tax payers if there is an issue?

We live, and I work in the Oley Valley School District. If it falls to the school district to collect own their taxes, it will add a burden to a small district whose employees are already stretched thin.

We feel this would be a huge mistake.

Please feel free to contact us at 610-921-2665.

Sincerely,
Rusty & Patti Kehoe



Adams County Treasurer

117 Baltimore Street Rm 101, Gettysburg, PA 17325-2390
Telephone (717) 337-9833 * Fax (717) 334-6498
E-mail credding@adamscounty.us

Crissy Redding, Treasurer

Friday, June 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with regards to Senate Bill No. 1099 – and my personal opposition in the passing of the bill - in my personal opinion I do believe that this particular Senate Bill if passed – has the potential to channel in a direction of complex dynamics of which all would not be positive –

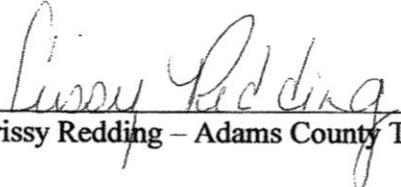
As the presently seated Treasurer of the County Of Adams – and having been a Tax Collector in Straban Township (Adams County) - (Straban is one of largest townships in Adams County) for the last 10+ years – I can personally attest to the merit ability and importance of individual representation as a tax collector to those we represent – tax collectors are a life-line to the community – the feet on the ground – the front line to the residents – in doing so much more than simply collecting the financial amount due and stamping a bill paid – the rostering of duties as a tax collector are much more than most individuals realize – with potential change on the horizon I strongly urge those who are in favor of this Senate Bill – to do the research, ask the proper questions as to what exactly is inclusive to the collecting of taxes – and balance the scale in consideration of how this will affect all involved if a change such as is suggested would prevail –

Having the experience of having been a tax collector and now the prideful opportunity of being the Treasurer of the County Of Adams – my availability in the view of this the dynamic filled topic is broadened – hence my opinion that the passing of Senate Bill No. 1099 has true potential of trickling down a channel of complexity – that could be prevented if the format of collecting would stay as it is presently – I could continue endlessly in referencing/documenting the positive role tax collector's play in our world – and the reflective complexity of the possibility of some taxing entities being challenged to collect in their offices – (County Treasurer's Offices, School Administration Offices, - Access To The Facilities - Lack Of Staffing – Etc.)

In a simply stated statement - I sincerely feel this is not the correct direction in moving forward in the collection of the referenced taxes and yet once again a life-line of communication would be lost in our world that has already become challenged in connectivity – and there are truly a large number of individuals (Tax Collectors) who work diligently, professionally and respectfully in representation of the tax payers – and whom have worked endlessly in continuing education and going above and beyond from what would be considered a normal routine These are the individuals who are working with and for the community with all their hearts

.....

I thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts/opinion


Crissy Redding – Adams County Treasurer

From: vphillips <xenobun@aol.com>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: I need your local West Rockhill Township support!
Date: Mon, Jun 18, 2018 11:37 am

-----Original Message-----

From: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
To: Phillips Vince <xenobun@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 3:00 pm
Subject: Fwd: I need your local West Rockhill Township support!

West Rockhill twp tax collector support

Sent from Suzanne's iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: rita cipriano <rjcup@yahoo.com>
Date: June 15, 2018 at 1:45:09 PM EDT
To: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: I need your local West Rockhill Township support!

Dear Suzanne,
You have diligently served as our township tax collector for many years. The idea of losing your personable service is unimaginable. Your availability, by phone , email or in person has always been appreciated and I cannot imagine a company supplying the same service or even caring what our concerns might be. Our residents, myself included, look forward to your "Tax Talk" column in our township newsletters. I trust you because you are my neighbor, my friend, a local volunteer who handles our taxes in a professional, knowledgeable manner. I am opposed to Bill 1099.

Rita J. Cipriano
922 Lonely Road
Sellersville,PA 18960

Suzanne Clarke

*West Rockhill Township
CPTC Tax Collector
Bucks County
1028A Ridge Road
West Rockhill Township Bldg*

June 15, 2018

Committee for Senate Bill 1099:

On behalf of The Union Township Supervisors, it was gratifying to hear that so many local tax collectors came to Harrisburg to express their concerns of the importance of collecting taxes at the local level. Today I would like to express my reasoning of why tax collecting should remain in the local community. They are familiar with the people in our own district and can answer their questions personally and provide them with information because they have direct contact with them. There are many times the tax collector assists our municipality with information regarding residents of the township. (Example: If a house or fire tax was not added on the tax rolls). If taxes were collected by an outside agency our municipalities will lose the information and assistance that local tax collectors provide. Senior citizens would be particularly negatively impacted because the majority prefer to pay them in person. Please take this information into consideration before you cast your vote and keep the tax collectors local!!!

Yours Truly,

Linda Farris
Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Union Township
Lawrence County

From: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
To: Phillips Vince <xenobun@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Oppose Senate Bill 1099
Date: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 3:01 pm

West Rockhill two tax collector support

Sent from Suzanne's iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ellen Schroy <eschroy@gspmanagement.com>
Date: June 15, 2018 at 12:05:38 PM EDT
To: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
Subject: Oppose Senate Bill 1099

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Community Manager of a mobile home park in West Rockhill Township, please know that I would object to eliminating the ability to vote for tax collector, for several reasons. However, the most important reason to keep a local person in this position is their ability to serve our community needs quickly and efficiently. The tax collectors know their constituents and can service our needs for tax certifications, etc. as needed. Documents such as receipts of taxes paid, both current and past, are important to our residents for tax rent rebate programs, to prove such things to their mortgage companies, etc. Without the ability to physically go to a local office, our ability to register new residents will be severely impeded.

Ellen Schroy, Community Manager, Green Top Mobile Home Park



An Affiliate of Title Alliance, Ltd.
An ESOP Company

2003 S. Easton Road, Suite 106, Doylestown, PA 18901
Phone: 267-247-0555 Fax: 267-247-0556

June 15, 2018

RE: Tax Collectors

Dear Senators,

I started here at Keller Williams as a conveyancer back in 2006. As I started to interact with the different tax collectors, I quickly learned that tax collectors are a dedicated group of professionals that want to provide exceptional service to myself and other conveyancers/title companies to benefit their tax payers. Normal responses to requests are provided the same day as requests are received. It isn't uncommon for a rush or update to be required. In these instances, many times the information is provided instantly or within minutes of the request.

In some instances, I need to use a service or a corporation to obtain specific certs. In these situations, I have to be prepared to wait up to 2 weeks to obtain a response. Rush circumstances are not an option and the same goes for updates.....forget about getting an update the same day or verbally!!

I BEG YOU TO NOT UPSET THE APPLE CART!!! THE TAX COLLECTORS PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED SERVICE AND ALLOW ME AND THOSE IN MY FIELD TO GET BUYERS/SELLERS TO SETTLEMENT ON TIME.

Feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,
Lori McPherson
Conveyancer for Keller Williams - Doylestown
lmcpherson@midatlanticregional.com

From: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Cc: Labs (34) Sherry <president@pstca.org>
Subject: Fwd: West Rockhill Tax Collector - OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 1099
Date: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 11:55 am

Tax collector support and West Rockhill Township Bucks County

Sent from Suzanne's iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Amy Benninger <amybenninger@muhlenberg.edu>
Date: June 15, 2018 at 10:10:20 AM EDT
To: westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com
Subject: **West Rockhill Tax Collector - OPPOSED TO SENATE BILL 1099**

Suzanne,
I am absolutely opposed to losing our local tax collector to an outside company.
The personal touch you bring to this position is all the difference in the world.

I am not in favor of senate bill 1099 - doing away with local, elected tax collectors.

Thank you,
Amy Benninger



Amy Benninger
Digital Marketing Specialist
Muhlenberg College Wescoe School of Continuing Education
484-664-3253



June 18, 2018

Re: Senate Bill 1099

To Whom It May Concern:

I was recently made aware of Senate Bill 1099, introduced by Senator Scott Martin (R-13) which would give local governments the option of eliminating the tax collector position and instead have the county treasurer administer the collection of taxes.

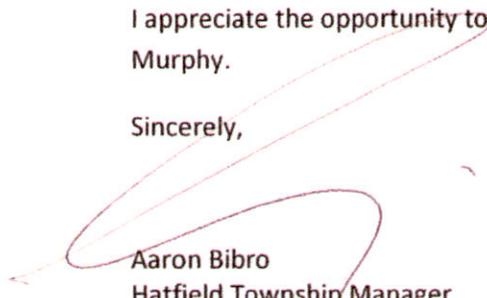
I am writing in opposition of this proposed legislation and to fully support Hatfield Township's long-serving and decorated tax collector, Christina Murphy.

Ms. Murphy has spent over the past two decades building relationships and providing excellent customer service to the residents of Hatfield and this legislation could prevent taxpayers from getting that same exemplary service in the future. Local government is the most effective level of government because it is the one closest and most familiar with its constituents and this senate bill would further remove the taxpayers from an accountable and elected local official.

Also, many of the residents in Hatfield and other similar communities throughout the Commonwealth prefer to pay their taxes in person and have any issues resolved during their visit. This legislation would mean a much longer commute for these residents and a much more difficult experience when paying their taxes.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback on this proposed legislation and to support Christina Murphy.

Sincerely,


Aaron Bibro
Hatfield Township Manager

From: vphillps <xenobun@aol.com>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Visited Legislators
Date: Mon, Jun 18, 2018 11:13 am

-----Original Message-----

From: vphillps <xenobun@aol.com>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Cc: sherryblabs <sherryblabs@gmail.com>
Sent: Mon, Jun 18, 2018 11:11 am
Subject: Fwd: Visited Legislators

-----Original Message-----

From: Patty Endres <pendrestax@gmail.com>
To: vphillps <xenobun@aol.com>
Sent: Mon, Jun 18, 2018 5:44 am
Subject: Re: Visited Legislators

Vince,

I have 12 people that I do home visits to for taxes twice a year. In my short time, I have assisted 2 veterans to make sure they reported all information for the benefit since it is only good for 5 years at a time. I have at least 300 people walk in during the discount periods to pay taxes. In addition to being open on Saturdays so working people can come too. I also installed a drop box at my house (NO CASH PAYMENTS) for the ease of people who are here on vacation for other areas so they know they have paid their taxes. I direct many people to our 81st District Rep Rich Irvin as well as to the Area Agency on Aging to make sure all paperwork is correct for their tax rebate. I know how important it is to them since most are on a fixed income and depend on that money to be able to pay taxes in the next year. I hope this helps. Did you get my letter from my school district? If so, will it be helpful?

Thanks
Patty

On Sun, Jun 17, 2018 at 7:52 AM, vphillps <xenobun@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Patty,

Is it possible to quantify (approx.) the number of home visits, etc. you do in a year? Provide info on veterans' benefits? Approx. number of walk-in vsits by senior citizens to your office? Visits to other locations like a senior center or Area Agency of Aging...anything like that?

From: vphillips <xenobun@aol.com>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Subject: Fwd: Tax collector support in West Rockhill twp Bucks County
Date: Mon, Jun 18, 2018 11:55 am

-----Original Message-----

From: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Cc: Labs (34) Sherry <s.labs@verizon.net>
Sent: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 11:53 am
Subject: Tax collector support in West Rockhill twp Bucks County

Sent from Suzanne's iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hoy PHD, Michael [JRDUS]" <MHoy@its.jnj.com>
Date: June 15, 2018 at 11:34:38 AM EDT
To: Suzanne Clarke <westrocktaxtalk@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: I need your local West Rockhill Township support!

Hi Suzanne – my wife and I very much appreciate your personal touch over the past many years. As you know, we've had a few challenges on our end with mix ups in where we sent tax payments. You were very helpful in each event and continue to be so. It is very important to me to know I can go to you directly when I have questions or need guidance. I would not be in favor of a large corporation taking over your responsibilities. I work in a large corporation and I understand the bureaucracy (black hole) and the lack of personal touch. I also understand the very significant overhead and cost that comes along with it. I very much support how things have been done for years...as they say, if it isn't broke...don't fix it. Best Regards...Michael & Rose Mary Hoy.



EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1622 N. RIDGE ROAD, PERKASIE, PA 18944
PHONE (215)257-9156 FAX (215)-257-1299
www.eastrockhilltownship.org

June 15, 2018

Honorable Scott Martin
Interim Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Honorable John Blake
Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: SENATE BILL 1099

Dear Senators Martin and Blake,

It is our understanding that a hearing of the Senate Local Government Committee for Tuesday June 19, 2018 in Harrisburg on Senate Bill 1099. Please accept this letter as our testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.

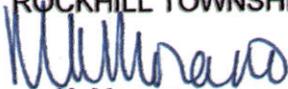
As municipalities, we strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government and we disagree with the apparent premise of the bill that the present system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system centralizing more power at a higher level of government.

As municipalities, we strongly support a local system of tax collection. While SB 1099 suggests that there is choice involved, we disagree. To us, the legislation looks like it stacks the odds against municipalities continuing to work with a system that has served taxpayers for many years. A provision in Senate Bill 1099 (section 3.1) says that a county may unilaterally take over collection of real estate taxes if it so chooses. It does not appear to allow for continued collection of real estate taxes by a municipality but rather says that the county can do what it chooses. There are situations where townships have collected real estate taxes. Should their administration of tax collection be usurped by a different level of government? We municipalities say no.

There appears to be a similar bias towards a higher level of government where municipalities would eliminate the elected Office of the Tax Collector. If you believe as we townships do as echoed in PSATS 2017-18 Policy Statement Page 8, that local government works best and its taxing authority should not be eliminated or eroded, you would not want to eliminate this elected office.

Frankly, we do not understand why this legislation is being considered at all. Is the perceived problem specific to a particular county situation? If so, might it be better addressed at the local level? As municipalities, we seek the highest level of efficiency at the local level and we believe Senate Bill 1099 works against this goal. Please reject Senate Bill 1099 and thank you for reviewing our concerns with the proposal.

Sincerely,
EAST ROCKHILL TOWNSHIP


Marianne K. Morano
Township Manager

Cc: BOS

**2006 Quill Lane
Oreland, Pennsylvania 19075**

June 15, 2018

Honorable John Blake
Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: SB1099

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee:

Please make this letter part of the official record.

My husband and I have lived in Springfield Township, Montgomery County for the past 19 years.

Over the years, there have been times when we had questions about the local taxing system. The individual time our Tax Collector has spent with us to explain, and help us sort things out has been invaluable. She has many other taxpayers to deal with but she always gives us the time and help we need. I know we would not receive this kind of service if you eliminate the office of Tax Collector at our local level.

I hope you will reconsider your position on SB1099. We, and the other citizens of Pennsylvania deserve that.

Sincerely yours,



Marlene Chachkin

From: Kathy Percetti <ktpercetti@comcast.net>
To: Sherry Labs (34) <s.labs@verizon.net>; xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Subject: Letter from Mid-Atlantic Abstract in support of Tax Collectors-East Rockhill Township
Date: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 11:43 am

Dear Kathleen,

I started here at Keller Williams as a conveyancer back in 2006. At that time, aside from my own tax collector, I couldn't name any of the tax collectors in Bucks or Montgomery Counties. As I started to interact with the different tax collectors, I quickly learned that tax collectors are a dedicated group of professionals that want to provide exceptional service to myself and other conveyancers/title companies to benefit their tax payers. Normal responses to requests are provided the same day as requests are received. It isn't uncommon for a rush or update to be required. Those are generally obtained within minutes of the request.

In some instances, I need to use a service or a corporation to obtain specific certs. In these situations, I have to be prepared to wait up to 2 weeks to obtain a response. Rush circumstances are not an option and the same goes for updates....forget about getting an update the same day or verbally!!

Kathleen, I consider you a great asset. You are a ROCK STAR and I value our relationship. I look forward to working with you for years to come and continue to receive outstanding service.

Hope you enjoy this sunny day and rain free weekend!!

Thank you ~

Lori McPherson

Conveyancer for Keller Williams - Doylestown

Mid Atlantic Regional Abstract

2003 S. Easton Road, Suite 106

Doylestown, PA 18901

P - (267)247-0555, Ext. 351

F - (267)247-0556

MyFax - (215)525-0920

lmcperson@midatlanticregional.com

Dear Senators,

Please do not consider eliminating the office of tax collector. The tax collector in Springfield Township, Montco. does so much more than collect taxes.

Few residents enjoy paying taxes but understand the need for them. She works with each resident as need arises, with problems, solutions and explanations. Taxes can be complicated, but she is there for all of us. We recently moved to a continuing care community but lived in Springfield Twp for 48 years. So, we experienced how beneficial a good collector can be.

Sincerely,

Roy and Jane Roberts, formerly of Wyndmoor, 19038
1314 Foulkeways, Gwynedd, Pa 19436

From: shireyfam <shireyfam@dejazzd.com>
To: xenobun <xenobun@aol.com>
Subject: SB1099
Date: Fri, Jun 15, 2018 6:52 pm

Hi Vince,

I want to thank you for all your hard work in reference to SB1099. I made some contacts and here are emails from taxpayers within Berks County. Hope this helps.

Thank you again,
Janet R. Shirey, Oley Township, Berks County Tax Collector

Attached Message

From: BARRY ANGSTADT <bwa39@comcast.net>
To: shireyfam@dejazzd.com
Cc: Debbie Angstadt <dla1228@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: the importance of local tax collectors
Date: Fri, 15 Jun 2018 12:28:43 -0400 (EDT)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about a pending bill that would eliminate all or most of the tax collectors in local municipalities here in Pennsylvania.

The local tax collector holds a very important position in our communities; they are akin to local barbers, hair dressers, and/or bartenders in that people feel a connection to them; folks can share their feelings on municipal, school, and state taxes as they hand over their tax payments. And there is a tremendous sense of trust between taxpayers and their tax collectors; while people certainly hate paying taxes, at least they feel like they are entrusting their payments to someone they know or are (at a minimum) familiar with to handle their hard-earned money.

We need local tax collectors...DO NOT take the human touch, much less the respected community member, out of the tax collection process!

Respectfully,

Barry W. Angstadt

Debra L. Angstadt

3198 W. Philadelphia Ave.

Oley, PA 19547

Attached Message

From: harts4 <harts4@comcast.net>
To: shireyfam <shireyfam@dejazzd.com>
Subject: SB1099 Tax Collectors
Date: Fri, 15 Jun 2018 12:11:47 -0400 (EDT)

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brian Hart from Fleetwood, PA. I am supervisor for Ruscombmanor Township in Berks County serving my sixth term, in my 33rd year serving as the Chairman. I wish to express full support for my township Tax Collector, Rose Ellen Mull, and all municipal and township tax collectors throughout the commonwealth. Rose Ellen has always been available day and night to answer residents questions involving their taxes. Besides regular tax collection hours, you can call her for an appointment. She works closely with Oley Township's Tax Collector, Janet Shirey, and the other collectors in the Oley School District with training, questions, and answers. I believe as a tax collector for Ruscombmanor Township, Rose Ellen is a most valuable asset for our residents.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 484-333-5310.

Sincerely,

Brian Hart

Chairman, Ruscombmanor Township Berks County

638 Memorial Highway

Fleetwood, PA 19522

Attached Message

From: Dottie Hoover <vballdote@comcast.net>
To: shireyfam@dejazzd.com
Subject: TC Letter
Date: Fri, 15 Jun 2018 08:09:02 -0700

Please consider this letter as a request on my behalf to NOT eliminate the position of tax collector in the state of Pennsylvania.

I feel this position is of great importance to citizens of the state.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Dorothy
Alsace Township
Berks County

June 18, 2018

Honorable John Blake
Minority Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Re: SB1099

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee:

Please make this letter part of the official record.

I am Gerald A. Kean, a 19 year resident of Springfield Township, Montgomery County.

As a resident, I am often confused about the local taxing system. I appreciate the individual time my Tax Collector spends with me to clarify questions I have. She has many other taxpayers to deal with, but always makes time to answer my questions. She is a caring person and not some impersonal taxing system that would take her place if SB 1099 became law.

Please reconsider your position on Bill SB1099. The citizens of the state certainly deserve that.

Sincerely,



Gerald A. Kean
2006 Quill Lane
Oreland, PA 19075

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, CHAIR
KENNETH E. LAWRENCE JR., VICE CHAIR
JOSEPH C. GALE, COMMISSIONER



**OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
TAX CLAIM BUREAU**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE • PO Box 311
NORRISTOWN, PA 19404-0311
TREASURER'S OFFICE 610-278-3066
TAX CLAIM 610-278-1216
TREASURER.MONTCOPA.ORG

JASON E. SALUS

TREASURER/DIRECTOR, TAX CLAIM

WILLIAM CALDWELL

DEPUTY TREASURER

JOHN A. ZURZOLA

SOLICITOR

June 18, 2018

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

With a constituency of over 820,000, the County of Montgomery has 62 Tax Collectors who are responsible for collecting approximately \$209 Million in County taxes this year alone. Their overall diligence ensures that County taxes are collected and remitted in a timely fashion with minimal confusion and a focus on accountability. In my two terms as Treasurer, the Tax Collectors' ability to adapt to changing circumstances and increasing demands has helped Montgomery County's budgeting process and cash flow.

In the 2017 tax year, our county initiated a separate millage to fund the Montgomery County Community College (MCCC), requiring the collection of an additional \$23 million. This change required coordinated efforts among the tax collectors as well as with the County. Our tax collectors notified constituents of these changes and were able to adapt their processes to accommodate separate remittance of the MCCC funds. Their full participation and commitment in this process helped make it a smooth implementation for both the County and the taxpayers

My office interacts on a daily basis with each of Montgomery County's Tax Collectors. On the whole our experience has been that the Tax Collectors provide solid constituent service, interacting with both us and our mutual constituents professionally and positively. They certainly provide intimate and intricate knowledge of the various taxing situations within their taxing districts. In that respect, they provide a service that could probably not be duplicated.

Please make this letter part of the official record.

Respectfully,

Jason Salus
Montgomery County Treasurer



Township of Northampton

Northampton Township Municipal Complex • 55 Township Road, Richboro, PA 18954-1592

Phone: (215) 357-6800 • Fax: (215) 357-1251

Website: www.northamptontownship.com

June 18, 2018

Honorable Scott Martin, Vice-Chair
Local Government Committee
Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 203013
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3013
Room: 183 Main Capitol

Dear Senator Martin:

The Township of Northampton is a community of 40,000 residents located in the heart of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. On behalf of the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors, duly elected to represent the residents and businesses located within our community, I am writing to you today to express our unanimous opposition to SB 1099, and to request that you, as a member and as Vice-Chairman of the Senate Local Government Committee, reconsider and withdraw your support of this pending legislation.

In Northampton Township, we understand the importance of local government that is efficient, accessible and responsive to our residents and businesses, and we embrace the responsibilities that we share with our local school directors, magisterial district judge, elected Township Auditors and elected Tax Collector to provide such government to everyone in Northampton. As personal service and personal contact are disappearing from so many facets of our society, local elected officials who are responsive and accountable to the individuals who elected them are more important than ever in our communities. Just as our Commonwealth has varied and differing regions and populations, so too does our County of Bucks, and just as the people of Pennsylvania are better served in Harrisburg by having Senators and Representatives who come from their communities and who understand and reflect the values, issues, and concerns of their particular region of the Commonwealth, this same concept holds true for the millions of residents of Pennsylvania at the local government level, as well.

Simply put, of the many responsibilities that the Commonwealth has placed upon local government, most are best performed at the Township level, including and especially those of the Township Tax Collector. In our community, the Township Tax Collector is frequently the first and only contact that our taxpayers have with the local tax system. He provides convenient hours at an accessible location for our many residents who own their homes

mortgage free, and therefore pay their property taxes twice a year directly to him. Problems of any kind are dealt with immediately, directly, and personally, before they have the opportunity to evolve or escalate into scenarios that can lead to tax liens or sheriff's sales of the properties of our residents and businesses.

In closing, please know that as fellow elected officials, we appreciate all that you and the other members of the Senate do on behalf of our great Commonwealth. We hope that you will take this letter, written by and on behalf of fellow elected officials at the local level, into consideration as you debate and ultimately decide the fate of SB 1099. To the extent permissible, we would also request that this letter be made a part of the record of the Senate Hearing currently scheduled for June 19, 2018 in regard to SB 1099, and as part of the record of any future hearings on SB 1099, as well.

My fellow Supervisors and I are, of course, available to discuss any aspect of this matter with you, or any members of the Senate, at your convenience.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. It is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



Barry Moore, Chairman
Northampton Township Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Robert M. "Tommy" Tomlinson

JACK RADER, JR., MEMBER
176TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:

Room 423, IOB
P.O. Box 202176
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2176
Phone: (717) 787-7732
Fax: (717) 782-2901

COMMITTEES:

Children & Youth
Labor and Industry
Local Government
Tourism & Recreational Development



House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2785 Route 115, Suite 103
Carriage House Square
Effort, PA 18330
Phone: (570) 620-4341
Fax: (570) 620-4349

Tobyhanna Township Building
105 Government Center Way
Pocono Pines, PA 18350
Phone: (570) 643-7683
Fax: (570) 646-7029

jrader@pahousegop.com
www.RepRader.com

June 15, 2018

To whom it may concern;

In my role as District Office Manager for State Representative Jack Rader, I am fortunate to be a part of daily interactions within our community. June O'Neill is the local tax collector in Chestnuthill Township, where our district office is located. I have spent several afternoons in her office during peak tax times to assist constituents.

Those visits have given me an insight most people may not get. To the people of Chestnuthill Township, June is not "just a tax collector". She is a confidant, a pastor, mentor, guidance counselor, directory service and a friend. Each and every person that walks in her door is treated with respect and a true desire to help them. She directs people to assistance throughout our township, county, state and if necessary federal levels. She knows their names, their children's names, she hugs them when someone has passed and gives tips on available employment.

She directs constituents to our office for all state issues. Many people come to our office after they have spoken with June about taxes and she directs them to us for their senior rebates. In 2017 our office processed over 300 rebates and 92 of them were from Chestnuthill Township. I truly believe that number is in large part due to June making sure our older neighbors are aware of the program. Our office has a great working relationship with her office, where we both are able to better assist the community.

The personal touch that local tax collectors provide is an enormous contribution to all. The people feel that they are being heard and have someone looking out for their best interests. They feel confident in one person handling their money and are able to sit down and discuss their concerns. In a world, where people feel that their voice is not heard and that their money is taken by nameless entities, this one on personal connection is vital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Parks".

Nancy Parks
District Office Manager

JACK RADER JR.
State Representative
176th Legislative District

GRACE D. MARKS
Retired Legislative Assistant for Pennsylvania Senator
2526 Deer Lane
Saylorsburg, Pa. 18353
Mobile Office 570-977-4437

June 14, 2018

Senate Local Government Committee
Main Capitol Building
Room 8E-A
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to the Committee today to explain how important it is to keep the position of local Elected Tax Collector, just that, local.

The Elected Tax Collectors are members of the community. They are involved and an asset to their communities.

As a retired Legislative Assistant with the Pennsylvania State Senate I worked closely with our Elected Tax Collector. Filling out Pa-1000 forms, Veterans Exemptions and Homestead Exemptions. Many constituents didn't know about these programs and we were able to work together to help them.

The residents had personal access to the Elected Tax Collectors. They could spend extra time with senior citizens, veterans and others to make this process go as smoothly as possible.

One question.....This process is currently working and working well. Why change it? I was always under the impression that you don't "fix" something if it isn't broken. I fear this position would be turned over to government or big business for profit. Is this really more cost effective for the people? Surely the residents will be missing the great Customer Service offered.

Please rethink your position on this matter.

Sincerely,

Grace D. Marks

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, CHAIR
KENNETH E. LAWRENCE JR., VICE CHAIR
JOSEPH C. GALE, COMMISSIONER



**OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
TAX CLAIM BUREAU**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE • PO Box 311
NORRISTOWN, PA 19404-0311
TREASURER'S OFFICE 610-278-3066
TAX CLAIM 610-278-1216
TREASURER.MONTCOPA.ORG

JASON E. SALUS

TREASURER/DIRECTOR, TAX CLAIM

WILLIAM CALDWELL

DEPUTY TREASURER

JOHN A. ZURZOLA

SOLICITOR

June 18, 2018

Dear Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

With a constituency of over 820,000, the County of Montgomery has 62 Tax Collectors who are responsible for collecting approximately \$209 Million in County taxes this year alone. Their overall diligence ensures that County taxes are collected and remitted in a timely fashion with minimal confusion and a focus on accountability. In my two terms as Treasurer, the Tax Collectors' ability to adapt to changing circumstances and increasing demands has helped Montgomery County's budgeting process and cash flow.

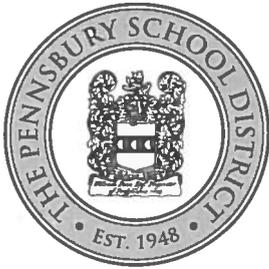
In the 2017 tax year, our county initiated a separate millage to fund the Montgomery County Community College (MCCC), requiring the collection of an additional \$23 million. This change required coordinated efforts among the tax collectors as well as with the County. Our tax collectors notified constituents of these changes and were able to adapt their processes to accommodate separate remittance of the MCCC funds. Their full participation and commitment in this process helped make it a smooth implementation for both the County and the taxpayers

My office interacts on a daily basis with each of Montgomery County's Tax Collectors. On the whole our experience has been that the Tax Collectors provide solid constituent service, interacting with both us and our mutual constituents professionally and positively. They certainly provide intimate and intricate knowledge of the various taxing situations within their taxing districts. In that respect, they provide a service that could probably not be duplicated.

Please make this letter part of the official record.

Respectfully,

Jason Salus
Montgomery County Treasurer



PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

134 Yardley Avenue • Post Office Box 338
Fallsington, Pennsylvania 19058-0338
Telephone: (215) 428-4100

June 18, 2018

** Sent via e-mail smartin@pasen.gov **

The Honorable Scott Martin
Interim Chair
Senate Local Government Committee
Senate Box 203013
Room 183 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3013

Dear Senator Martin:

I am writing this letter to express the serious reservations held by the Pennsbury School District regarding the potential approval of SB 1099. As elected officials, we have a full appreciation for the necessity of having local elected officials who are readily available to their constituents, and this is especially valuable when it comes to the delicate issue of taxes. Tax collectors must deal on a daily basis with problematic issues that arise with residents and business owners, many of whom don't fully understand all the ins and outs of tax laws, and who rely on the tax collector to help them navigate those confusing waters. Having someone they know, often know personally, makes all the difference when it comes to helping all the taxpayers, from major corporations to senior citizens on fixed incomes who are worried about keeping their homes. In addition, in our school district we have, over the past decade, learned that outsourcing government work to a company or agency that isn't located in the immediate area, does not usually work to the advantage of the municipality or the people it represents. We have spent our time "insourcing" that work so that we can maintain the kind of local connections and local control which we have found much more efficient and responsive.

We ask that you reject SB 1099 and **accept this letter as our testimony and enter it into the hearing's official record.**

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Redner
Board President

DCR/sm

c: E. Marsicano (emarsicano@pasen.gov)
L. Miron (lmiron@pasenate.com)

Members: Jacqueline Redner, *President* • T.R. Kannan, *Vice President*
Nancy Lawson • John Palmer • Gary Sanderson • Christian Schwartz
Christine Toy-Dragoni • Debra Wachspress • Joshua Waldorf

Non-Member: Daniel C. Rodgers, *Secretary*
Non-Member: Joanne J. Godzieba, *Treasurer*

RESOLUTION OPPOSING SENATE BILL 1099

WHEREAS, the Pennsbury School District strongly believe that elected Tax Collectors fulfill a vital role in local government; and

WHEREAS, as elected officials, we have a full appreciation for the necessity of having local elected officials who are readily available to their constituents; and

WHEREAS, tax collectors must deal on a daily basis with problematic issues that arise with residents and business owners, many of whom don't fully understand all the ins and outs of tax laws, and who rely on the tax collector to help them navigate those confusing waters.

WHEREAS, the Pennsbury School District disagrees with the apparent premise of the bill that the present system should be scrapped and replaced with a new system centralizing more power at a higher level of government;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Pennsbury School District urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Pennsylvania State Senate and the Wolf Administration to reject senate Bill 1099.

RESOLVED, ADOPTED and ENACTED this 21st day of June, 2018.

PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: 
President – Jacqueline Redner

ATTEST:



Secretary – Daniel C. Rodgers

[SEAL]

