

Who are we?

The ***Coalition of State College Neighborhood Associations*** is an *ad hoc*, unincorporated, informal group whose objective is to address issues of mutual concern to the Associations and convey those concerns to Council and the Borough staff. The Associations are represented by the following members:

- **College Heights Associations:**
Steve Smith and Donna Queeney
- **Greentree Association:**
Frank Maguire and Kristoffer Greenert
- **Highland Civic Association:**
Mark Huncik and Peg Hambrick
- **Holmes-Foster Neighborhood Association:**
Ron Madrid and Bill Hartman
- **State College South Association:**
Dave Baker and Elaine Prestia
- **Tusseyview Neighborhood Association:**
Sally Lenker and Jean Dietrich
- **Vallamont/State College Neighborhood Association:**
Gordon Kauffman and Jane Cervone

Coalition of State College Neighborhood Associations

Town Hall Meeting

August 17, 2017



Agenda

7:00 pm	Introductions
7:05	Presentation
7:30	Discussion and Questions
8:00	End

Town Hall Meeting

Objective: Provide information on a Coalition and Borough initiative to increase *municipal self-determination* and gage resident level of interest/support.

Municipal Self-Determination

What is it? The ability of local communities like the Borough to have the *authority* to levy consumption-like taxes and have the authorization to incorporate mechanical/electrical devices to enhance safety.

What are we talking about?

- The Borough's primary sources of revenue are real estate taxes (16.4 mills. 1 mill= \$465K), the earned income flat tax of 2.25% (1.3% going to the Borough, .95% going to the school district), the real estate transfer tax (1.5%) and the local service tax (LST, \$52.00. \$47 municipal. \$5 school district). Both Allegheny County and the City of Philadelphia have greater financial authority.
- PA is the only state that does not allow **local** jurisdictions to use radar as a means to enforce traffic laws. Local municipalities like the Borough are not allowed to use red light/stop sign cameras for traffic enforcement.

Why is this important to me as a resident of State College?

- We have over a million visitors to the region each year. Because we can't charge a sales or hotel tax, the costs of safety and security services falls onto the property and income tax payers of the Borough.
- Over 42% of the Borough's property is tax exempt. That means both personal and commercial properties pay the property taxes.
- From 1970 through 2010, the Borough total family households declined by 31% (4,412 to 3,069). Loss of households means loss of earned income tax and transition of single family homes to rentals. Family households in the *region* grew by 123.8%.
- Labor costs account for 70% of the Borough's budget. Along with the cost to maintain infrastructure, these costs are ever increasing while revenues are stagnant.
- Without alternate sources of revenue, we as residents can look to a future of ever increasing property tax increases and potential changes to the earned income tax rate/calculation.
- Red light/stop sign cameras and radar are enforcement tools that should be used at the discretion of *local* jurisdictions.

Potential Revenue Sources

- County-wide 1% sales tax.
- Alcohol Drink Tax/Liquor Tax: 10%
- Share of the hotel tax: .5 - 3.0%

The Haves

- City of Philadelphia: 2% sales tax, 1 % hotel occupancy tax, 8.5% hotel room rental tax, 10% liquor tax, 22.5% parking tax, 3.8907% earned/unearned income tax and red light cameras.
- Allegheny County: 1% sales tax, 7% alcohol drink