

RESOLUTION R13-2021

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EQUALITY FOR THE FAIR FUNDING OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the Council of the Lehighon Borough has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has legislated the use of property taxes as the primary method for collection and distribution of budgetary contributions for the funding of school districts; and

WHEREAS, risks to the fiscal strength and wellbeing of the school districts serving their constituencies present threats to the economic viability of the corresponding boroughs in which those school districts provide public education to students; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has provided formulas that are to be applied to ensure the equitable funding for school districts throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, we believe that we have an obligation as representatives of the taxpayers of our borough to demand that the legislature strictly comply with the letter and the spirit of its own laws and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in which Article 14 states, "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth", and for which our borough is a municipality which is to be served by the mandate in this article; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adherence to Article 14 of the Commonwealth Constitution by General Assembly poses a genuine threat to the fiscal wellbeing of certain school districts by creating the need for the corresponding local governments to increase taxes to such an extent that some affected taxpayers will no longer be able to afford to honor their financial obligations, and in turn, a number of such taxpayers will become delinquent and forfeit their homes, or will be otherwise forced to relocate to another municipality; and

WHEREAS, the loss of those taxpayers presents a very real, foreseeable, and avoidable threat to the financial stability of the municipalities and the wellbeing of the residents served by those school districts; and

WHEREAS, the loss of this tax base in our municipality would severely compromise our borough's fiscal stability and would endanger our ability to provide security and essential services to our residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 13th day of September 2021 that we the undersigned members of the Council of Lehighton Borough, through a letter addressed to our representatives in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, hereby demand the comprehensive, fair and full application of the Fair Funding formula to the Panther Valley School District, as mandated by Article 14 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the applicable laws and regulations of this Commonwealth; and

APPROVED this 13th day of September 2021.

BOROUGH OF LEHIGHTON

BY: *David R. Newwicker*
Council President

Attest: *Brenda K. Krentz*
Borough Secretary