

October 24, 2006

To ALL Malvern Voters:

In the midst of the hullabaloo about the election, there's a vote you can cast that will affect Malvern and only Malvern. It's called "Home Rule" and you are being asked to decide if a 7 person commission should examine that as an option for governing Malvern.

Here's why:

A year ago, the School Board came very close to taking 1/2 of our Earned Income Tax revenue, a measure totally within their right. As you may know, many of us objected at the next School Board meeting and the School Board voted the measure down. Had they taken our revenue, however, under Borough Law our only option for replacing the lost revenue was to raise property taxes by 100%.

As we look to the future and the continued growth of the school system, that 1/2 of our Earned Income Tax continues to be theirs for the taking, so the problem is still here.

We looked around for a way of avoiding a property tax increase and found only two: first, convincing the State Legislature to change State Law (which legislators tried to do twice- unsuccessfully) and second, adopting a Home Rule form of government, which allows many more tax options. Home Rule is a form of government that allows us to broadly define how we want to be governed, taxes being one aspect of it.

On Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, you will be asked to vote simply whether a Commission made up of Malvern citizens should study Home Rule. Having personally asked them to help in this, I can assure you this is a good mix of citizens and a serious, thoughtful group.

If you vote in favor of the measure, the Commission will take up to a year to do the study and make a recommendation to the Council. If they do recommend Home Rule and the Council agrees, there would be another Borough-wide vote. So, it's a very thorough and deliberate process. If you vote against the measure, you will, in effect, be endorsing the doubling of Property taxes, should 1/2 of our Earned Income Tax be taken by the School Board.

This is one of the beautiful things about democracy. You decide the really big issues. But only if you vote on November 7.

Should you have ANY questions or concerns, please call Borough Manager Sandra Kelley at 610-644-2602.

Sincerely,

Henry H. Briggs  
President, Malvern Borough Council