



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

BILL NO. 090189

Introduced March 12, 2009

Councilmembers Green, DiCicco, Goode, Krajewski, Jones and Kelly

**Referred to the
Committee on Finance**

AN ORDINANCE

Providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia a proposal to adopt a tax on real property dedicated for the sole purpose of funding public libraries; fixing the date of a special election for such purpose; prescribing the form of ballot questions to be voted on; authorizing the appropriate officers to publish notice and to make arrangements for the special election; and amending Chapter 19-1300 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Real Estate Taxes," to provide for the tax and to provide for a corresponding adjustment in the existing real property tax rates upon approval by the voters; all under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. There shall be submitted for the approval or disapproval of the qualified electors of the City of Philadelphia at the election to be held November 3, 2009, a proposal to adopt a tax on real property dedicated to use for library purposes.

SECTION 2. There shall be placed on the ballot the following question to be answered "Yes" or "No" by the qualified electors participating in the election:

For the sole purpose of providing dedicated funding for the operation of public libraries in Philadelphia, shall a tax be levied at a rate of \$0.31 on each one hundred (100) dollars of the assessed value of taxable real property, or at such lower rate as shall be appropriate to create an equivalent amount of revenue upon the City's conversion to a full valuation system for taxing real property?

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SECTION 3. Upon approval by the voters of the foregoing ballot question, Chapter 19-1300 of The Philadelphia Code is amended to provide as follows (additions to the Code in *Italics*):

CHAPTER 19-1300. REAL ESTATE TAXES.

§ 19-1301. Real Estate Taxes.

* * *

(4) *A tax is hereby levied at the rate of \$0.31 for the year 2011 and each year thereafter on each one hundred (100) dollars of the assessed value of taxable real property returned by the Board of Revision of Taxes in the year immediately preceding the year of levy. The revenue received from such tax shall be deposited in a special fund to be used solely for the operation of public libraries in Philadelphia.*

(5) *The tax rate established in subsection 19-1301(1) for the year 2011 is reduced by \$0.31 on each one hundred (100) dollars of the assessed value of taxable real property, as provided in that subsection.*

SECTION 4. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to have printed in pamphlet form, in sufficient number for general distribution, the proposed amendment to The Philadelphia Code as set forth in Section 3 of this Ordinance, together with the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to cause to be published in three (3) newspapers of general circulation in the City and in the Legal Intelligencer the proposed amendment to The Philadelphia Code, together with the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance, once a week during the three (3) weeks preceding the election on November 3, 2009; and further, at such other time and in such other manner as she may consider desirable.

SECTION 6. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to issue a proclamation giving at least thirty (30) days' notice of such election. The Clerk of Council shall cause a copy of the proclamation to be published, together with the notice provided for in Section 5 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. The appropriate officers are authorized and directed to take such action as may be required for the holding of an election on the ballot question set forth in Section 2 of this Ordinance as provided for by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.