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# Exeter School Board member seeks state House seat

## Democrat favors some new levies, replacing property taxes

  
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Education will be a filter through which decisions will be made if Russell J. Diesinger wins the two-year seat in the 130th Legislative District of the state House.

Most elected officials don't seem to understand that a direct link exists between education and economic recovery, he said.

The Democrat said that as a teacher and Exeter School Board member he knows that Berks County never will attract employers unless it has a trained work force.

"In my background, education comes first," he said. "It's opportunity and hope for young people. I don't believe there's anything more important than young people.

"They're either going to be contributing members of our community or they're going to move and be part of somebody else's community or they're going to be a detriment here."

The Republicans in control now wouldn't have made such drastic cuts in education funding if they had made that connection, Diesinger said.

"We balanced the budget on the backs of children," he said. "That's an outrage."

Spending needs to be controlled, but cuts should be made across the board instead of hitting one area so hard, he said.

And new revenues need to be raised by taxing gas extraction

from the Marcellus shale and smokeless tobacco and closing the loophole that allows businesses to incorporate in Delaware and avoid this state's taxes, Diesinger said.

He favors replacing school property taxes with a revenue source that would provide stable and equitable funding for public schools.

Maintenance of roads and bridges has been neglected and needs to become a priority to attract economic development, Diesinger said.

If he would be nominated in the April 24 primary election and go on to win the seat currently held by David M. Maloney Sr., he would do his best to help people, he said.

"The intimacy and the experiences I've had will bring a voice to Harrisburg that has an accurate perception of what the problems are," Diesinger said. "There won't be a disconnect here.

"I have principles, and I stick to them. I want to give back to the community."

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