

## **Pennsylvania's property tax: A state of denial**

A knowledge-based-journalism symposium  
Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 5-6:30 p.m.  
The Hadley Union Building, Ohio Room  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

### **Panelists:**

**Robert P. Strauss, Ph.D., Carnegie-Mellon University**



Dr. Strauss received his AB degree in economics with honors from University of Michigan Honors College after spending his junior year at the London School of Economics. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

He was a member of the economics department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for 10 years, and he was a visiting professor of economics and public policy at the University of Rochester.

His academic career has included periods of federal service for which he received presidential pens in recognition for his contributions to legislation signed by President Richard Nixon in 1972 and President Gerald Ford in 1976.

He served as a staff economist for three years on the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress, and served as a staff economist for three years.

Since joining the faculty of the Heinz School at Carnegie-Mellon in 1979, Strauss served as director of research at the Pennsylvania Tax Commission. From 1983-1985, he worked for the

West Virginia Tax Study Commission, the Joint Finance Committee of the Legislature and the West Virginia Tax Department on ways to restructure West Virginia's tax system.

In 1987, Strauss was appointed to the Pennsylvania Local Tax Reform Commission to advise Gov. Robert Casey on local tax reform prior to a special session of the General Assembly, which resulted in authorizing legislation in 1988 to reform Pennsylvania's system of local taxation.

His research applied to civic issues include a 2012-2013 online "Property Tax Estimator for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania" [ [www.propertytaxestimator.net](http://www.propertytaxestimator.net) ].