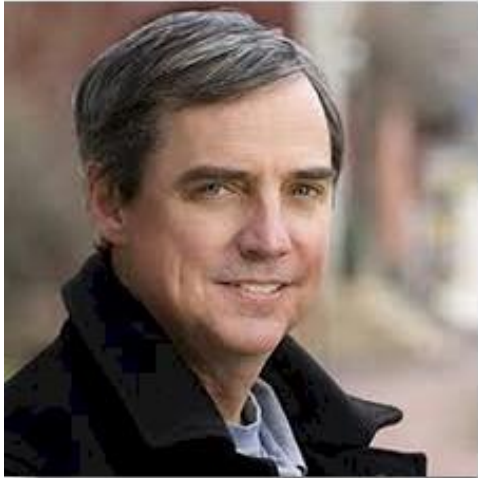


Pennsylvania's property tax: A state of denial

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

Panelist:

Brian O'Neill, columnist, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



For 27 years, Brian O'Neill has written about his adopted city in two or three newspaper columns a week. A 2007 magazine profile described him as “Arguably Pittsburgh’s most influential newspaper columnist” and “the region’s top columnist.”

His range is wide. He has successfully campaigned to open the Roberto Clemente Bridge to foot traffic during Pirates games and to alter the Occupation Tax (by extending it over a year instead of collecting it all at once).

He has written about his appeal of his Allegheny County real estate assessment of his North Side home. The hearing, O'Neill wrote, was “Kafkaesque.” “Your odds would be better at a casino,” he argued.

O'Neill is a native of suburban Long Island. He graduated Syracuse University in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and English. Since 1980, he has been a reporter and columnist for The Roanoke (Va.) Times, a columnist for The Pittsburgh Press and, since 1993, a columnist for the Post-Gazette.

In 2009, Carnegie Mellon University Press published O'Neill's book "The Paris of Appalachia: Pittsburgh in the Twenty-First Century." The original book title was "I Love Pittsburgh Like a Brother (and My Brother Drives Me Nuts)." The title stands as the fastest-selling in the publisher's history.

In 2015, O'Neill won the state Society of Professional Journalists' Spotlight award for daily commentary.

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