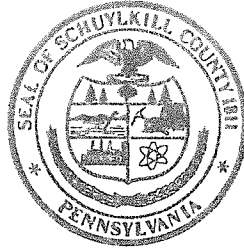


## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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December 28, 2022

For Immediate Release  
From the Board of Commissioners  
Schuylkill County

### Re: **Schuylkill County – Real Property Reassessment Project**

The Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners unanimously selected Vision Government Solutions (“Vision”) as the vendor to perform the countywide reassessment and technology update for the Schuylkill County Tax Assessment office. Vision was chosen after an extensive evaluation process for the Request for Qualifications and Quotes published in August 2022.

Vision has extensive Pennsylvania reassessment experience and is familiar with the County’s legacy systems and data. With offices near Harrisburg, they have numerous licensed Certified Pennsylvania Evaluators on staff and currently serve 27 Pennsylvania Counties. The Project Director is Tim Barr of Middletown, Pennsylvania and the Onsite Project Supervisor is Charlene Kechula, CPE of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania.

A lawsuit filed against Schuylkill County by local real property owners in 2018 suggested the County’s property assessments were no longer fair and consistent and are in violation of the Pennsylvania Uniformity Clause. Rather than continue with costly litigation, it was determined that a countywide reassessment was the best path forward for equitability and legal compliance. The County entered into a consent decree with the Plaintiffs on May 16, 2022, which mandates a reassessment be completed and new property values implemented no later than January 1, 2026.

County, municipal, and school real estate taxes are calculated for each property annually, based on the Fair Market Value at a given point in time, referred to as the base year. Under Pennsylvania law, this base year must be used for assessments until a new base year is established by a countywide reassessment. The current base year for Schuylkill County assessments is 1996, also the year of the last countywide reassessment.

Field Data Collection will begin in early 2023. Vision will conduct site visits to every property, distribute data mailer surveys, and conduct in person Town Hall style meetings. Vision will also provide ample notification to the residents of what specific areas of the County they will be working.

Proposed value mailers will be mailed to property owners in early 2025. Property owners will have the opportunity to correct any errors found in property characteristics. An official Value Change Notice will be mailed to property owners by July 1, 2025. Property owners will have forty (40) days to file a formal appeal. The new values will be effective for the tax year of 2026.

Additional information on the reassessment and process will be available in the coming weeks.

*End*