

Regional Plan Association

FUNDAMENTAL REFORM: LAND USE, REGULATORY AND FISCAL REFORM Sponsored by Regional Plan Association and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Regional Plan Association and the Lincoln Institute of Land Use Policy are researching policy alternatives for a proposed constitutional convention in 2006 to address the state's over-reliance on local property taxes to fund public education. The project also seeks to identify policies which would make growth areas in New Jersey – in the Somerset Regional Center, the Highlands, or other parts of the state – accepting of more growth and density.

Key to this effort are three roundtable forums and white papers on the deficiencies in the current system. These forums will be chaired by prominent public leaders and will produce issue reports on fiscal mechanisms for smart growth, fiscal zoning and attainable housing, and differential taxation, to inform the public debate and set the stage for the convention.

The format for the panels will include a presentation by experts on a policy issue, including specific proposals for policy changes in New Jersey. At each forum, two respondents from the New Jersey Legislature – a member of each party closely identified with the specific issues – will discuss the political feasibility of the proposals. There will be opportunities for the audience to raise issues and questions.

RPA and the Lincoln Institute hope that you will be able to attend one, two or all three sessions, and share your thoughts and comments with us.

Roundtable 1

How Can We Afford Smart Growth?

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Roundtable 2

How Can Property Tax Reform Ensure Sufficient School Funding and Attainable Housing?

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

The College of New Jersey

Ewing, New Jersey

Roundtable 3

Should Land and Buildings Be Taxed Differently?

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

The Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies, Rutgers University

Newark, New Jersey

For each program, registration and reception begins at 3:00pm. Each Roundtable starts at 4:00pm and conclude by 6:30pm.

For more information, contact Sasha Corchado, RPA Program Manager at 732.828.9945 or e-mail her at symposium@rpa.org. You may also find more information about the forums and RPA on our web site: www.rpa.org.