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**The Pennsylvania**

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# REPUBLICAN

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## Gov. Corbett Year One: A Record of Achievement

*By Rob Gleason, Chairman*



**Chairman  
Rob Gleason**

Pennsylvanians elected Governor Tom Corbett to make the tough, necessary decisions to get us out of the mess left behind by years of higher taxes, out-of-control spending, and fiscal disarray. As we enter into year two, it's clear that Governor Corbett has kept his promises in year one and has produced a series of big wins for Pennsylvania's working families and taxpayers.

In spite of the fact that Governor Corbett inherited a \$4 billion dollar budget gap, he passed a historic budget that didn't raise your taxes by a single cent. While Democrats clamored for tax increases on Pennsylvania's working families to fund their addiction to spending, Governor Corbett choose to keep his word to the people of Pennsylvania and delivered a budget that eliminates waste, protects taxpayers, and passed it on time for the first time in 8 years.

Governor Corbett continues to push job-friendly policies to help put Pennsylvanians back to work. While Democrats wanted to protect the special interest groups that donate to their campaigns, Governor Corbett took the necessary steps to make Pennsylvania more business and jobs friendly by signing

To read more, see **CHAIRMAN** page 2.

## Game On: Road to November 2012

*By Valerie Caras, Editor*

President Barack Obama's failed economic agenda has left us with nearly 9% unemployment and \$15 trillion in debt. Americans are clamoring for new leadership and our Keystone State will play a critical

role in the effort to fire President Obama and elect our Republican nominee to the White House. By delivering Pennsylvania and its 20 electoral votes for the Republican nominee, we can support leadership that offers bold solutions to cut spending, stimulate

To read more, see **CAMPAIGN** page 3.

### Inside this Issue of *The Pennsylvania Republican*:

Chairman's Corner	PG. 1,2	PA GOP Liberalert	PG. 10	PA GOP Eyewitness	PG. 12
PA GOP Profile	PG. 2	PA GOP Playbook	PG. 4, 5	Republican of the Month	PG. 3
PA GOP News	PG. 1,3	PA GOP Humor	PG. 11	Auxiliary Reports	PG. 11
PA GOP Commentary	PG. 8,9	Legislative Lowdown	PG. 6, 7		

# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

From CHAIRMAN, pg 1.

legislation called the "Fair Share Act" that will curb frivolous lawsuits which have hurt small business and job creators.

Rather than being satisfied with some students trapped in failing schools, Governor Corbett championed an innovative education reform package, allowing poor families to have a say in their children's educations.

From day one, the Governor has put Pennsylvania's children first and has reshaped the conversation on education reform. He passed legislation that protected property owners from large tax increases while at the same time restoring the state resources for education to 2009 levels – the highest ever. Most pundits will not tell you that the state portion of education funding under Governor Tom Corbett was higher than what was in Governor Rendell's last budget.

Finally, Governor Corbett's leadership was certainly tested by crisis in 2011.

From hurricanes and floods to earthquakes, the

Governor demonstrated his ability to be in command during a crisis and show steady and strong leadership under pressure.

Despite the toughest of times, Governor Corbett has shown the courage and willingness to make the tough decisions to put Pennsylvania back on the track to prosperity.

After passing a balanced budget, implementing job-friendly policies, moving education reform forward and keeping our citizens safe, it's clear that Governor Corbett had an incredibly successful year.

As we enter 2012, additional challenges will certainly lie ahead, but by building on their record of achievement, Governor Tom Corbett, Lt. Governor Cawley and our Republican legislature will be able to continue to advance an agenda that puts working Pennsylvanians first and our Commonwealth back on the right fiscal track.

*Rob Gleason is the Chairman of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania. Chairman Gleason can be reached at [rgleason@pagop.org](mailto:rgleason@pagop.org) or at 717-234-4901.*

## Robert Kerr of Northampton County

### named PA GOP Republican of the Month for January 2012!

*For your tireless efforts and dedication to furthering conservative principles, the Republican Party of Pennsylvania is pleased to recognize **Robert Kerr** as our Republican of the Month for January 2012!*

## Congratulations, Robert!

Do you know of a local activist who deserves to be recognized for the work they are doing for our Party? Submit nominations for the PA GOP's Republican of the Month by contacting Valerie Caras at [vcaras@pagop.org](mailto:vcaras@pagop.org)

# PA GOP PROFILE

## Meet Margot Crouch: PA GOP's Deputy Finance Director

By Kayla Vollmer, Staff Reporter

The PA GOP welcomes Margot Crouch who was just recently hired as our Deputy Finance Director! Margot is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Pleasant Hills and shortly after began her college career majoring in International Studies with a specialization in Economics at Michigan State University.



Margot Crouch

In her spare time, Margot enjoys playing the violin, reading and watching the Pittsburgh Penguins and Steelers games! Margot comes from a long family line of Republicans.

"My parents raised me with traditional family values. Additionally, they always encouraged me to research and understand my own views on the various issues. I have always believed that less is more when it comes to the government. I really started to embrace my fiscal conservative views in college from my various economic classes. What I learned there made me understand why free and competitive markets are the best course for our country and economy."

When asked what inspired her to get started in politics, Margot answered, "I was first inspired to get into politics from my AP History classes in high school.

I wanted to turn my interest in those subjects into a career, so in college I decided to major in International Studies with a specialization in Economics. After my internships with the Michigan State House of Representatives, a gubernatorial campaign, and at The Heritage Foundation, I knew without a doubt that politics and public service is what I wanted to do with my life."

Her proudest professional achievements, thus far, is the time she spent at the Heritage Foundation.

While working for Heritage, Margot was able to contribute to policy blogs for Heritage's Foundry.org. She also had a very up close view of policy making up in the Center for Health Policy Studies at both the state and federal levels.

Margot could not be more excited to take the next step and begin her work with the PA GOP in the Finance Department.

"I feel very blessed to have the opportunity to work with the great people here at the State Party and to help achieve victories for Pennsylvanians and the rest of the country in 2012 and beyond."

In five years, Margot hopes to still be working in the finance capacity for the Republican Party. She is very excited for what the future will bring here at the PA GOP and we are very excited and lucky to begin with working with her!

*Kayla Vollmer is the Commonwealth Club Coordinator for the Republican Party of Pennsylvania. She can be reached at [kvollmer@pagop.org](mailto:kvollmer@pagop.org)*

# PA GOP NEWS

From CAMPAIGN, pg. 1.

growth and get America and Pennsylvania working again.

The PA GOP will work closely with the Republican National Committee and the Presidential nominee's campaign to create a comprehensive Pennsylvania strategy to fuse the best in political messaging and grassroots technology to energize voters about this marquee election, and help our volunteers and campaign structures get voters to the polls.

"We look forward to pulling out all the stops in 2012 to educate voters about why we must fire President Obama," Executive Director Mike Barley said.

But President Obama isn't the only problem in Washington. U.S. Senator Bob Casey has been the President's most reliable ally in the U.S. Senate, voting with President Obama's failed agenda 98% of the time. Senator Casey changed when he went to Washington and forgot about the everyday Pennsylvanians he has been elected to represent.

Voters will have the opportunity to change that in 2012. A strong field of candidates has already emerged to challenge Senator Casey on the issues and the Republican Party of Pennsylvania will be

prepared to support him or her every step of the way.



In addition to the U.S. Senate race, each of Pennsylvania's 18 Congressmen will be on the ballot in 2012. This includes 11 Republican incumbents, 6 Democrat incumbents, and one open seat.

"We look forward to working with each campaign to ensure that we re-elect our Republican incumbents as well as recruit and support formidable challengers to Democrats across the Commonwealth," Congressional Liaison Jerry Morgan said.

Voters will also elect Pennsylvania's three row office positions this year - Attorney General, Auditor

General and Treasurer.

"It is important that we support qualified Republicans for these three row offices so that they may become partners for Governor Corbett's agenda to reform Harrisburg," Deputy Executive Director Bob Bozzuto said.

Also on the ballot in 2012 will be elections to the Pennsylvania legislature. Republicans currently enjoy historic majorities in both the State House and State Senate and are eager to return to those majorities in 2013.

The odd-numbered districts in the Pennsylvania State Senate (25 seats) will be up for election, while all State House districts (203 seats) will appear on the ballot.

Between the Presidential election, U.S. Senate, three state row offices, and State Senate and State House elections, 2012 is the busiest year a Pennsylvania election cycle can be.

Thank you for joining us as we begin the long march towards November. Game on!

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*Valerie Caras is the Communications and Technology Director for the Republican Party of Pennsylvania. She can be reached at [vcaras@pagop.org](mailto:vcaras@pagop.org).*

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## Happy Birthday!

*The PA GOP would like to extend their best wishes to the following people during the month of February:*

### Elected Officials

February 7th - PA State Senator John Rafferty  
 February 10th - PA State Representative Dave Millard  
 February 11th - PA State Representative Richard Stevenson  
 February 15th - PA State Representative John Evans  
 February 19th - PA State Representative Tom Creighton  
 February 22nd - PA State Senator Rich Alloway  
 February 23rd - PA State Representative Kathy Rapp  
 February 24th - PA State Representative Doyle Hefley  
 February 25th - Congressman Jim Gerlach  
 February 26th - PA State Senator Gene Yaw  
 February 26th - PA State Representative Thomas Murt

*Did we miss someone? E-mail [bpitman@pagop.org](mailto:bpitman@pagop.org).*

### State Party Members

February 2nd - Nadine Devine, Adams County  
 February 2nd - Virginia Martin, Adams County  
 February 2nd - Toni McAndrew, Wayne County  
 February 4th - Nancy Kilgore, York County  
 February 7th - Stanley Kerlin, Fulton County  
 February 7th - Joe DeFelice, Philadelphia County  
 February 8th - Susan Williams, Clearfield County  
 February 8th - Chris Vogler, Philadelphia County  
 February 9th - John Hannum, Chester County  
 February 10th - Julie Forbes, Pike County  
 February 11th - Troy Miller, York County  
 February 13th - Jack Parry, Montgomery County  
 February 14th - MaryEllen Salerno, Carbon County  
 February 14th - Ethan Demme, Lancaster County  
 February 15th - Heather Reed, Indiana County  
 February 15th - Michael Pickard, Lancaster County  
 February 17th - William Donnelly, Montgomery County  
 February 18th - Sonia Stopperich, Washington County

February 18th - Mary Lou Doyle, Chester County  
 February 19th - Joseph Kantz, Snyder County  
 February 21st - Paul Kozlovsky, Centre County  
 February 22nd - Agnes Tilley, Philadelphia County  
 February 22nd - Debbie Taylor, Franklin County  
 February 23rd - Kathy Holtzman, Cambria County  
 February 24th - Dave King, Mercer County  
 February 24th - Peter Dolan, Montgomery County  
 February 24th - Jason Owen, Erie County  
 February 24th - Christine Toretta, PA GOP National Committeewoman  
 February 25th - Dan Bradley, York County  
 February 25th - Megan Carpenter, Beaver County  
 February 25th - William Schafer, Lawrence County  
 February 26th - Marty Taugner, Forest County  
 February 27th - Michael Hosier, Fayette County  
 February 27th - Elizabeth Kremer, Northumberland County  
 February 27th - Steve Miller, Centre County

# PA GOP NEWS

## PA GOP Welcomes NJ Governor Chris Christie to Annual Commonwealth Club Luncheon in NYC

**Sold-out crowd heard passionate speech about America**

*By Kayla Vollmer, Staff Reporter*

The annual Commonwealth Club Luncheon held in New York City in December of 2011 was a tremendous success. A private VIP reception was held prior to the luncheon which allowed an intimate setting for a small group of guests to mingle with Governor Chris Christie. Governor Tom Corbett, Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley and many others were also in attendance.

Following the reception, Commonwealth Club members, elected officials, candidates, community leaders, business executives, entrepreneurs, physicians, attorneys and others from all across the Commonwealth gathered in the Plaza Hotel's Ball Room, listening to Governor Chris Christie speak while enjoying a delicious lunch full of mingling. Chairman Rob Gleason, National Committeewoman Christine Toretta and National Committeeman Robert Asher each said a few words in honor of former State Party Treasurer, Skip Brion, during the luncheon for all of his hard work and dedication to the Republican Party over the years.

Board of Director Eric Morrison said, "The most recent NYC Commonwealth Club Luncheon, I thought it was fantastic and a tremendous success by all measures. Everything from the venue to the capacity crowd to Governor Christie's entertaining yet deeply substantive and highly relevant speech of great import, was energizing and memorable."

The Commonwealth Club already has three events scheduled and working to ensure there is at least one Commonwealth Club event each month, if not more. To kick off 2012, we are beginning with a luncheon at the Union League in Philadelphia with special guest speaker Congressman Patrick Meehan. There will be a reception beginning at 11:30 am and the lunch will follow at noon.

The Commonwealth Club is very excited to return to Philadelphia for their second event and plans to return at least once every other month this year! Congressman Lou Barletta and Congressman Charlie Dent will be the Commonwealth Club's special guests on February

13th at a reception at The Bar in the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg.

The Commonwealth Club returns to the Northeast on March 29th with special guest, former Lieutenant Governor William Scranton at a luncheon hosted in the Glenmaura Country Club in Moosic.

With many other events in the works these first three will start the year off just right. Last year the Commonwealth Club soared from a small group of about 40 to a group of close to 200, and we believe the numbers will grow much higher this year for many reasons, especially due to the great group of people on the Club's Board of Directors that work hard to grow Commonwealth Club membership!

The Commonwealth Club is an excellent way to meet the leaders of our Commonwealth and support the

Republican Party of Pennsylvania who helps elect them. Members from across the state will gather each month at a Commonwealth Club event. This is a great way to support the Republican Party of Pennsylvania, especially in this very important election year.

If you would like to become a Commonwealth Club member you can visit the Commonwealth Club's website, [www.pacommonwealthclub.com](http://www.pacommonwealthclub.com). You can also contact the Finance Director, Angela Nielsen, by email at [anielsen@pagop.org](mailto:anielsen@pagop.org) or by phone at (717) 234-4901 ext. 131 and the Commonwealth Club Coordinator, Kayla Vollmer at [kvollmer@pagop.org](mailto:kvollmer@pagop.org) or directly at (717) 234-4901 ext. 162.

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*Kayla Vollmer is the Commonwealth Club Coordinator for the PA GOP and can be reached at [kvollmer@pagop.org](mailto:kvollmer@pagop.org).*



*New Jersey Governor Chris Christie addresses guests at the PA GOP annual Commonwealth Club Luncheon in New York City*

## Featured Board of Director: Pat Poprik

By Kayla Vollmer, Staff Reporter

Pat Poprik is a 1970 graduate from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She is married to John T. Poprik for forty-two years and has two sons, twin grand-daughters and two grandsons.

Pat served as the first female Finance Chair for the State Party. Pat has been a State Party member since 1984 and continues to work hard in this position today. In 1991, she was elected to the Finance Committee and served as Chairman from 1994 to 1997. Since 1988, Pat served as the President of the First American Municipals, Inc. and specializes in municipal bond underwriting and financial advisory services. Pat is also the President of the First American Asset Management Inc. where she specializes in stock executions for money managers. Pat has accumulated a long list of political activities throughout her career. She was elected Committeewoman 1977 and worked

in this position until 1997. Pat is currently the Vice Chair of the Bucks County Republican Committee, a position she was elected to in 2008. Pat is a Board of Director for the Anne Anstine Series of Public Excellence. She is the former President and member on the Board of Directors for the Bucks County Community College Foundation. From 2002 to 2009, she worked a member on Pennsylvania State University's Board of Trustees. She was named "Woman of the Year" by the Philadelphia Chapter in 2006 and also in 2000 by the Bucks County Council of Boy Scouts.

Pat works very hard as a member of the Commonwealth Club Board of Directors to recruit new Commonwealth Club members and grow the Club's membership. "The Commonwealth Club, it is an excellent opportunity for business people to meet with and hear from our elected officials while also networking with other interested individuals. The Club has really grown from its early days when Tim Carson thought it was a good idea to get some folks together for lunch who were travelling to New York for the PA Society. Then it was a fledgling group having lunch and now, it is a major part of everyone's weekend."



### MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMONWEALTH CLUB 2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rob Gleason, PA GOP Chairman  
Joyce Haas, PA GOP Vice Chair  
Chris Gleason, Finance Chairman  
Jim McErlane, Finance Vice Chairman  
Michael Cibik  
Nick DiFrancesco  
Vince Galko  
Elaine Gowaty  
Adam Maust  
John McNally  
Eric Morrison  
Pat Poprik  
Jim Roddey  
Lawrence Tabas  
Joe Vella

### UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMONWEALTH CLUB LUNCH  
WITH  
CONGRESSMAN PAT MEEHAN  
January 31st  
Union League, Philadelphia, PA

COMMONWEALTH CLUB RECEPTION WITH CONGRESSMEN CHARLIE DENT AND LOU BARLETTA  
February 13th  
The Bar, Hilton, Harrisburg, PA

COMMONWEALTH CLUB LUNCHEON WITH FORMER LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BILL SCRANTON  
March 21st  
Glenmaura Country Club, Moosic, PA



### JOIN THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB!

Joining the Commonwealth Club is an excellent way to demonstrate your support of our Republican team.

Members enjoy networking with Pennsylvania's elected officials, candidates, community leaders, business executives, entrepreneurs, physicians, attorneys and retirees from all across the Commonwealth. Former speakers have included Governor Tom Corbett, Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley, U.S. Senator Pat Toomey and many others.

The Commonwealth Club is an opportunity to put Republican ideas into action. All contributions stay right here in Pennsylvania to help elect Republican candidates for federal, state and local offices.

Please register today for your charter membership by contacting Commonwealth Club Coordinator Kayla Vollmer at 717-234-4901 or [kvollmer@pagop.org](mailto:kvollmer@pagop.org).

# LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

## Toomey's Take: Had Enough?

*From the office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey*

Over the past year, I have traveled all across the commonwealth listening to the concerns of hardworking Pennsylvanians - workers, small business owners, entrepreneurs - and the message is too often the same: Government is getting in our way.



Pat Toomey

Today, excessive government regulations are making it difficult and more expensive for employers to hire and create jobs. Federal red tape is imposing burdensome, unfunded mandates on local cities,

townships and counties. Small businesses and farmers are struggling to comply with new directives from overreaching agencies. Government waste, fraud and abuse continue eating up taxpayer dollars at a time when many households are watching every penny they spend. This is not how government is meant to work.

You've have had enough, and so have I.

All Pennsylvanians want is better, more sensible, more efficient government, not more government. Is that really too much to ask?

I don't think so.

That is why I have recently launched a public service

## Scarnati Re-Elected Senate President Pro Tempore

*From the office of PA Senator Joe Scarnati (R-25)*

Harrisburg -- State Sen. Joe Scarnati (R-25) was sworn in as President Pro Tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate for 2012, the sixth time Senate colleagues have elected him to the third-highest constitutional office in the commonwealth.

In brief remarks to the chamber, the senator said the legislature must continue to focus on creating jobs and making state government live within its means. Scarnati also highlighted several cost saving initiatives that have been implemented in the Senate in

campaign called "Had Enough?" to help Pennsylvanians find solutions to government excess and over-regulation. Through my "Had Enough?" website, you can submit details of your experiences with unreasonable red tape and government excess. My staff and I will be monitoring the submissions and working hard to find solutions to make the federal government work more effectively.

Let me give you an example of the kind of excessive regulation Pennsylvanians are struggling with and the kind of solutions we can find. Earlier this year, officials in Southeastern Pennsylvania's Lower Merion Township and Scranton alerted me to a Transportation Department mandate that would soon require all municipalities to replace current street signs with new signs that meet federally approved reflectivity standards.

The mandate would force communities across the country to spend local taxpayer dollars to replace their existing, perfectly adequate, street signs. This could have cost some townships over a million dollars. How many cities and towns are sitting on excess cash in their budgets? I don't know of any. Already strapped for cash, many officials said they simply could not afford this new expense without making cuts to other vital communal services or raising property taxes.

In addition, some communities, such as Lower Merion, would be forced to replace historically significant signs that have become a part of their local culture.

In response, I sent a letter to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood requesting an exemption, and

2011.

"We have all recognized the need to make government more accountable and efficient. The public expects it and our economic conditions require it," he said.

Senator Scarnati is currently serving his third term in the Senate. He was born and raised in Brockway, Jefferson County, and represents the 25th Senatorial District, which includes Cameron, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Tioga and portions of Clearfield and Warren counties.

*PA Senator Joe Scarnati's Senatorial District comprises portions of Warren, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Elk, Cameron, Jefferson and Clearfield counties.*

he announced in late August that the department would eliminate the street sign replacement deadline.

This isn't the only example of how we've been able to find solutions for government overreach and red tape. In Western Pennsylvania, my staff helped Grove City College secure an exemption from new U.S. Education Department rules that would have made Grove City College students ineligible for scholarships and state aid. And in Delaware County, I was able to secure a waiver for liquefied natural gas tankers so that a new project in Marcus Hook can begin and create hundreds of jobs.

Every day, Americans are struggling with new mandates that make it more difficult for them to run their businesses, hire new workers, and simply make a living for their families. Often, government officials back in Washington don't realize how burdensome these regulations can be for folks on a daily basis.

But that doesn't mean we should just give up. My staff and I are committed to taking your stories and your struggles to the appropriate officials and agencies in Washington and finding the solutions you deserve.

I encourage you to visit my website at [www.toomey.senate.gov/hadenough](http://www.toomey.senate.gov/hadenough) and submit your experiences with overregulation and red tape. It's time to send a message to Washington that Pennsylvanians have had enough.

*Republican U.S. Senator Pat Toomey represents Pennsylvania. For more information, visit [toomey.senate.gov](http://toomey.senate.gov).*

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## Governor Corbett, Senate President Pro Tempore Scarnati, House Speaker Smith Name Members to Task Force on Child Protection

*From the office of Governor Tom Corbett*

Harrisburg – Governor Tom Corbett, Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati and House Speaker Sam Smith today named members of the Task Force on Child Protection, a panel created by the General Assembly to thoroughly review state laws and procedures governing child protection and the reporting of child abuse.

“This task force has a tremendously important job,” Corbett said. “It will provide input to help us strengthen state laws and ensure every Pennsylvania child receives the protection from harm they deserve.”

The four members appointed by the governor are:

- Hon. David W. Heckler, Bucks County District Attorney;
- William Strickland, president and CEO of Manchester Bidwell Corporation;
- Cindy W. Christian, M.D., director of Safe Place: The Center for Child Protection and Health, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; and
- Delilah Rumburg, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Corbett also designated District Attorney Heckler, a former state legislator and county judge, as the task force’s chairman.

“It is my honor to accept the recommendations of my colleagues, Senators Pileggi, Ward, Costa and Washington for three immensely qualified individuals with impressive and diverse qualifications,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati.

“The three Senate appointments collectively have over 80 years of experience dealing with a variety of child abuse issues.”

Members appointed by the Senate are:

- Dr. Rachel Berger, member of Child Protection Team at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh;
- Garrison Ipock Jr., executive director, The Glen Mills Schools, Glen Mills; and

- Carol Hobbs-Picciotto, MHS, Intake Social Worker, City of Philadelphia.

“There is a real need to review how we approach, define, investigate and respond to the issue of child abuse overall,” Speaker of the House, Rep. Sam Smith (R-Jefferson County) said.

“With input from Majority Leader Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny County) and Democratic Leader Frank Dermody (D-Allegheny County), I am appointing three individuals with the background to tackle these issues, but even more importantly, a shared vision to protect our most vulnerable citizens... our children.”

Members appointed by the House are:

- Jason Kutalakis, senior partner, Abom & Kutalakis LLP, Carlisle;
- Jackie Bernard, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Blair County; and
- Hon. Arthur Grim, Senior Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Berks County.

Governor Corbett also announced a representative of the Pennsylvania State Police will assist the task force. Lt. Gregg Mrochko of the State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation will serve as a liaison and resource to the panel.

Department of Public Welfare Secretary Gary Alexander will also serve as an ex-officio member of the task force, Corbett noted. As called for under House Resolution 522 and Senate Resolution 250, the 11-member task force will:

- Examine and analyze the practices, processes and procedures relating to the response to child abuse.
- Review and analyze law, procedures, practices and rules relating to the reporting of child abuse.
- Hold public hearings, accept and review written comments from individuals and organizations.
- Submit reports which will include recommendations to improve the reporting of child abuse; implement any necessary changes in state laws and practices, policies and procedures relating to child abuse; and train appropriate individuals in the reporting of child abuse.

The task force’s final report is due by Nov. 30.

In Pennsylvania, certain types of professionals -- health care workers, educators, and others who come into contact with children -- are required by law to report suspected child abuse. Protecting children from abuse and neglect requires the collaboration of the entire child welfare system, community partners and

residents, Corbett said.

To report suspected child abuse in Pennsylvania, contact the Department of Public Welfare’s ChildLine and Abuse Registry at 1-800-932-0313.

*Governor Tom Corbett is the 46th and current Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati represents the 25th Senatorial District. Pennsylvania House Speaker Sam Smith represents the 66th Legislative District.*

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e-mailing [vcaras@pagop.org](mailto:vcaras@pagop.org).



# PA GOP PLAYBOOK

## Substance over Style

**By Sean Spicer**  
*Communications Director, Republican National Committee*

Substance trumps style in 2012. In this economy, Americans are hurting. They need results, not rhetoric.

That's bad news for Barack Obama, purveyor of empty slogans and hollow promises. And it's bad news for a dysfunctional White House that prioritizes the demands of politics over the duties of governing.

"We are the change we've been waiting for" and similar catchphrases worked in 2008, but they won't work today. Now that Obama has proven the hollowness of his 2008 rhetoric, voters are looking for something different. They've learned their lesson.

Promises of "hope and change" mobilized many in 2008. In 2012, they fall on deaf ears—the ears of voters painfully aware of Obama's destructive economic policies. It's no secret Obama is a skilled promise-maker. It's also no secret that he can't keep his promises.

Voters demand an alternative in 2012—a proven leader. Our nation needs a leader with demonstrable competence, dedicated to policies that enhance, rather than limit, economic opportunity.

Obama's record is the opposite. It's riddled with examples of devotion to self-interest. It's a record of failure. And, through Obamacare, regulations, mandates, and misplaced priorities, he's done more to deeply wound our economy than to repair it. It's no surprise at least 70 percent of Americans say the country is on the "wrong track."

Obama talks a good talk. It's the walking-the-walk part that's just so hard for him. Roughly once a week the White House plans a happy photo-op where Obama puts on his presidential face and delivers remarks on the importance of jobs and how he so seriously wants to create them. But then, once reporters file their stories, he scurries off to a couple campaign fundraisers.

As of early December, Obama had averaged one fundraiser every 5 days in 2011. And by September, he had attended more fundraising events than either

Bush or Clinton did in the entire year before their re-election bids. Clearly, this is a president who cares more about saving his own job than creating jobs for the unemployed.

This week's photo-op was a "jobs forum." Obama offered a few recycled thoughts as bold new ideas, gave shout-outs to swing states, and introduced the day's catchphrase: "in-sourcing." It was the choreographed work of a White House outsourcing its work to campaign strategists.

Next on the agenda: three fundraisers in Chicago. Plouffe, Messina, & Co. just hope they can keep up the charade through November.

But like Oz's storied wizard, Obama's cover has been blown, leaving him scrambling to maintain a self-inflated false image of himself. Slogans and stagecraft won't cut it. "We Can't Wait" won't win an election anymore than Obama's promises could produce good policy.

2008 was the story of a candidate who won with his rhetoric. 2012 will be the story of a president who lost with his record.

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*Sean Spicer (@SeanSpicer) serves as the Communications Director for the Republican National Committee.*

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## GOP Voter Registration Advantage

**By Rick Wiley**  
*Political Director, Republican National Committee*

The GOP has the momentum. It's all in the numbers.

STATE	2008 ADVANTAGE	2012 ADVANTAGE	NET CHANGE	DATE REPORTED
Colorado	GOP +0.3%	GOP +0.5%	<b>GOP +0.3</b>	12/1/2011
Florida	DEM +5.9%	DEM +4.9%	<b>GOP +1.0</b>	9/1/2011
Iowa	DEM +5.1%	DEM +1.5%	<b>GOP +3.6</b>	1/3/2012
Nevada	DEM +7.7%	DEM +7.6%	<b>GOP +0.1</b>	10/1/2011
New Hampshire	DEM +0.2%	GOP +1.1%	<b>GOP +1.3</b>	12/15/2011
New Mexico	DEM +18.4%	DEM +17.4%	<b>GOP +1.0</b>	1/31/2011
North Carolina	DEM +13.8%	DEM +12.5%	<b>GOP +1.3</b>	11/26/2011
Pennsylvania	DEM +15.4%	DEM +13.5%	<b>GOP +1.9</b>	1/2/2011

The Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire primary brought out a record number of voters—many voting Republican for the first time in their lives. With over 70 percent of Americans looking for a new direction, voters are turning decidedly to the Republican Party. An analysis of voter registration numbers demonstrates that the promising trend is not isolated only to Iowa and New Hampshire. In every battleground state for which there is relevant registration data available, the GOP has either narrowed the registration gap or increased our lead since 2008. And that's bad news for Democrats.

In Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, the GOP enters 2012 from a stronger position. All are states Team Obama has identified as necessary to their pathway to victory. In all of these states, the net change from 2008 to 2011 (or early 2012 in some cases; see chart below) favors the GOP.

(Note: the other battleground states, Indiana, Virginia, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Washington, and Ohio do not report registration in a way that makes such analysis possible.)

Furthermore, there are only a handful of states in which the net change from 2008 to today favors Democrats, and all are reliably blue states. Needless to say none of those is on the GOP path to 270 electoral votes.

That means the GOP enters 2012 with a stronger position in all remaining states—all battleground states included—as compared to 2008. As enthusiasm during the nominating process continues to favor us, we expect our registration position to

# PA GOP COMMENTARY

## Important Work Ahead in Congress

*By Congressman Joe Pitts (R-16)*

Traditionally, presidential election years are not seen as important legislative years. The heat of the campaign can make it difficult to reach agreement on major bills. However, this election year coincides with the expiration of a number of pieces of important legislation. This should not be a year when we let partisan politics prevent good work from being done.

As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I have to lead in the House on two major tasks: reauthorization of critical Food and Drug Administration programs and a long-term solution to the growth of Medicare reimbursement rates.

The Food and Drug Administration currently runs programs to approve medical devices and pharmaceuticals. Companies pay the FDA to evaluate products, determine safety and effectiveness, and then approve or disapprove their use. The legislation authorizing both of these programs is set to expire this year.

Previous reauthorizations of these programs have been delayed, causing uncertainty for these industries as the approval process grinds to a halt. This is no time for uncertainty. American jobs are depending on timely reauthorization. Additionally, we are looking to create two new programs to have the FDA evaluate generic drugs and generic biologic drugs.

We've set an ambitious timeline to approve our legislation with time to spare in the House. I hope to make the process in the House as bipartisan as possible. I can't say that there won't be disagreements, but we all recognize the importance of these bills to both health and our economy.

Our other important task is long-term reform of Medicare reimbursement rates for doctors. A previous attempt at reform, the Sustainable Growth Rate, cut payments too deeply leading to the possibility that thousands of doctors could no longer afford to see Medicare patients. For years now, Congress has been kicking the can down the road, delaying implementation of the SGR. To provide certainty for doctors and the federal budget, we need a permanent fix.

While I don't sit on the Agriculture Committee, I will be working with our Pennsylvania delegation and

continue to improve.

This adds up to trouble for Democrats.

Their turnout efforts are already complicated by the fact that there is less enthusiasm on the Democratic side. Many Democrats, while not yet prepared to jump ship, are dispirited enough by Obama's failed promises that they could likely sit out 2012.

A Gallup poll released this week corroborates the trend observed in the registration data.

The number of self-identified Democrats and Democrat-leaning independents is down sharply since 2008, while the number of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents continues to tick upward.

According to Gallup, in 2008, 52 percent of Americans identified as Democrats or Democrat-leaning independents; 40 percent were Republican or Republican-leaning.

By the end of 2011, both groups stood at 45 percent. In three years, the 12-point Democrat advantage evaporated entirely.

So while 2008 represented a record high for Democrats, 2011 marks the lowest point since Gallup began reporting these figures in 1991. (In 1991 the Democratic figure was 44 percent.)

In other words, Democrats have gone from a record high in 2008 to a low-water mark in 2011.

As Gallup reports, the 2011 numbers are "similar to 2010, when the Democrats had a 1-point advantage in leaned party identification." Republicans saw sweeping victories in 2010, and now, as we enter 2012, our numbers look even better.

Meanwhile, as the media focus remains on the Republican candidates and their efforts to highlight the failings of President Obama and their respective solutions, Republican appeal should only grow.

There are many ways to quantify the Republican advantage in 2012. Partisan registration and party self-identification data are just two such ways, but they unambiguously point to the fact that the momentum is indeed on the GOP side.

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*Rick Wiley (@RickWiley) serves as the Political Director for the Republican National Committee.*

with allies across the aisle to pass a more sensible farm bill. The farm bill reauthorizes most of our agriculture and food programs for five years. The 2007 farm bill was a missed opportunity for reform. I voted against the bill in the House and also voted against overriding President Bush's veto of the bill. Not only did the bill fail to reform commodity programs, it actually increased subsidies for ethanol. Federal support for ethanol has not made this productive competitive or substantively reduced our dependence on foreign oil. It has made a number of factory farms and processors very wealthy over the past few years as the price of corn reached new highs.

In addition to ethanol subsidy reform, the farm bill should reform the sugar program. I've introduced bipartisan legislation with Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) to reduce government interference in this market. This would be good for American jobs and for the U.S. taxpayer who is subsidizing sugar growers and producers.

I also hope that we can continue programs to protect and preserve essential farmland. Lancaster County has more farmland preserved than any other county in the nation and Chester County continues to lose farmland as metro Philadelphia expands west. The 16th District has some of the best farmland in the U.S. We shouldn't lose this remarkable heritage that defines our community.

Two other important reauthorizations could be considered this year: the transportation bill and No Child Left Behind. I hope that a new transportation bill can concentrate on essential projects and avoid funding expensive boondoggles or projects that have little hope of reducing congestion. Bike trails might improve a community, but the federal government should be focused on large, long-term projects, not things best left to states and localities. I voted against President Bush's No Child Left Behind because I believed it put too much power in the hands of federal bureaucrats. I hope that a reauthorization of this program can give encourage more local and parental control.

Clearly, there is important work to be done this year. Working together may not be easy, but it will be essential to reforming our government and moving our country forward.

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*Congressman Joe Pitts represents Pennsylvania's 16th district, which comprises parts of Lancaster, Chester and Berks counties.*

# PA GOP LIBERAL ALERT

## Patrick Murphy



**From the Associated Press: Attorney General hopeful Patrick Murphy did not take Pennsylvania bar exam**

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A former U.S. representative running for Pennsylvania attorney general never took the state bar examination and has not tried a case in the state's courts.

The Bucks County resident was admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 2004 based on his passing the Minnesota bar exam and five years as an Army lawyer.

Patrick Murphy told The Associated Press this week he took Minnesota's bar exam after graduating from Widener University Law School in Harrisburg in 1999. He says he was entering the Army Judge Advocate General Corps and took the Minnesota test because fellow officers told him he would get the results sooner.

He says he's tried cases in federal, military and foreign courts, but so far none in Pennsylvania. Murphy is one three Democratic candidates for attorney general.

*(Jackson, Peter. Attorney General hopeful Patrick Murphy did not take Pennsylvania bar exam. Associated Press. Published in the Patriot News Wednesday, January 11.)*

**\*Never took the Pennsylvania Bar exam**

**\*Has never tried a case in Pennsylvania's courts**

***But he wants to be the Commonwealth's next Attorney General??***

**From PA GOP Chairman Rob Gleason: Patrick Murphy Takes "the Bar" to a New Low**

"The fact that Patrick Murphy has never taken the Pennsylvania bar exam and has never tried a case in Pennsylvania's courts shows he has little respect for the Pennsylvania Constitution and should send a message to voters that he is not prepared to be Commonwealth's chief law enforcement officer. If he could not take this small step, we cannot trust him to lock up child predators, elder abusers and drug dealers.

"Sadly, this is just another example of Patrick Murphy being a career politician but short on real experience and he obviously cannot be trusted when it comes to protecting Pennsylvanians. We need an Attorney General whose first thought is how protect our citizens and enforce the law not just try and get elected to a new office."

## Joe Biden

More campaign visits to battleground states like Pennsylvania from the Obama-Biden team as Joe Biden was seen in Doylestown on Friday, January 13.

***When will President Obama and Vice President Biden stop campaigning and start leading?***

**From PA GOP Chairman Rob Gleason: Joe Biden Uses Rhetoric to Hide Obama's Failed Record**

"Joe Biden is in Pennsylvania once again to camouflage the Obama administration's failure to create jobs and get our economy moving again. No amount of Obama-Biden rhetoric can hide the pain inflicted by a 8.5% unemployment rate, and college graduates who are struggling to find jobs as they enter the workforce have experienced the Obama economy first hand. Pennsylvanians are looking for opportunities and all they see is a debt ceiling that has to be raised again because of out of control spending and a hostile attitude to job creators.

"The reality is that thanks to Barack Obama and Joe Biden's policies, our nation's economy has suffered, and voters are looking to a Republican alternative to put us back on the path towards lasting prosperity," Chairman Rob Gleason said.

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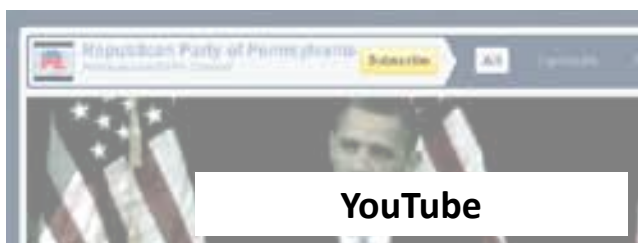
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## AUXILIARY REPORTS

### Pennsylvania Federation of Republican Women

PFRW Second Vice President Barbara Cross was elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in Cumberland County at the board's meeting on January 3, 2012. Barb was re-elected to her county commissioner post in the November General Election. Congratulations Madam Chairman!

#### 2011 Liberty Award

On October 27, 2011 the Montgomery County Council of Republican Women presented its 5th Annual Liberty Award to Barbara A. Bustard. This award was presented to Barbara for her unflagging dedication to the ideas and principles of the Republican Party. Barbara is the Montgomery County Director for PFRW. Along with the award comes a scholarship to the organization of the recipient's choosing. Barbara has chosen to give the cash award to the Anne Anstine Scholarship Fund of PFRW. The award was presented at the Montgomery County Republican Committee's Fall Dinner at Westover Country Club.

#### Central PA PFRW Spring Conference

PFRW Spring Conference PFRW Director Irene Harris asks all Republican Women to mark Saturday,

May 5th, on your calendar for the PFRW Central Spring Conference. It will be from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at Front Street Station, Northumberland, PA. Speakers will be announced when they have been confirmed. Mrs. Harris is the Central PFRW Spring Conference Chair. Details on additional PFRW Regional Spring Conferences will be announced as soon as details are available. PFRW Director Megan Carpenter is the PFRW Spring Conference Chair.

#### Sue Lynch Visits PFRW

Immediate NFRW Past President Sue Lynch was a special guest at the December PFRW Board meeting in Gettysburg. Pennsylvania was one of President Lynch's final state federation visits in her tenure as NFRW President. The 2012-2013 NFRW officers are: Rae Chornenky, President Jessie Morton, 1st Vice President; Kathy Brugger, 2nd Vice President; Betty Poe, 3rd Vice President; Lisa Roper, 4th Vice President; Carrie Almond, Treasurer; Sara Jo Odom, Secretary.

#### PFRW Public Relations

With all internet technical difficulties behind us (we hope!) work has begun in earnest on the new PFRW web site. The new site is [www.pfrw.org](http://www.pfrw.org).

## PA GOP HUMOR



IF YOU DON'T LIKE OUR NEW HIGHER PRICES, YOU COULD TRY TO DO BETTER OVER AT OUR COMPETITION...HEHE...IF WE HAD ANY

Courtesy of the Pittsburgh Tribune Review.

# PA GOP EYEWITNESS



Guests at the PA GOP Commonwealth Club Luncheon



New Jersey Governor Chris Christie



Representative Tim Murphy (second from right) shares a moment with newly sworn in Westmoreland County commissioners (from left) Chuck Anderson and Tyler Courtney in the Westmoreland County Courthouse in Greensburg (courtesy: Tribune Reveiw)



PA GOP Chairman Rob Gleason presents 2011 Republican of the Year Grassroots Leadership award to former Chester County GOP Chairman Skip Brion. The award is presented annually at the Commonwealth Club luncheon to the Pennsylvania Republican who has demonstrated exemplary service to the Republican Party of Pennsylvania.



Bucks Commissioner Rob Loughery being sworn in by Judge Rea B. Boylan with his wife, Kathy, and his daughters, Grace, Evelyn and Amelia. (courtesy: Bucks Intelligencer)



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