

Election 2006:

VOTE FOR HOMES!

Education is Power: Vote on November 7.

The *Election 2006: Vote for Homes!* coalition is guided by the principle that everyone deserves a place to call home. Our goals:

- Raise issues of affordable housing, living wage jobs, and quality services in the Pennsylvania elections for Governor and U.S. Senate.
- Empower people who are living on low-incomes, including those who are homeless, living with disabilities, or ex-offenders, to become involved in the electoral process.
- Protect and ensure the voting rights of all citizens, particularly those who are frequently disenfranchised.

Get Out to the Polls!
 Election Day is Tuesday,
 November 7.

To find your polling place,
 call the City Commissioners'
 Office at (215) 686-1520 or
 1523 or the Committee of
 Seventy at (215) 557-3600.

Host a discussion about this voter's guide. A discussion guide is available at www.projecthome.org/vote. For more information on using this guide, contact Jennine Miller at 215-232-7272, ext. 3042.

VOTE FOR HOMES! SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:

Achieve Ability • ACORN • Acts Christian Transitional Services • American Friends Service Committee • Bethesda Project • Bread and Roses Community Fund • Church of the Advocate • Coalition Ingenuie • Colours Organization, Inc. • Darlene Morris Loving Care Residential System • Dominican Sisters of Elkins Park • Drueding Center Project Rainbow • Frankford Group Ministry • HACE • Homeless Advocacy Project • Horizon House, Inc. • Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania • Institute for the Study of Civic Values • Journey Home • Kol Tzedek Synagogue • M.O.S.T.-Motivation, Opportunity, Structure, Transition • Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania • New Kensington Community Development Corporation • Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network • Oasis • Pathways PA • Pennsylvania Prison Society • People's Emergency Center • Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations • Philadelphia Health Management Corporation • Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development • Philadelphia Senior Center • Philadelphia Voter Mobilization Coalition • Pittsburgh League of Young Voters, Education Fund • Project H.O.M.E. • Ready, Willing, and Able • Resources for Human Development • RHD-Ridge Center • SELF, Inc. • St. John's Hospice • St. Mary's Church, Hamilton Village • The Salvation Army • TURN • Visitation Homes • Women of Hope-Lombard • Women's Community Revitalization Project • WOMENS WAY • WomenVote PA \ Women's Law Project • X-Offenders for Community Empowerment • Youth Service, Inc.



ELECTION 2006: VOTE FOR HOMES!
 C/O PROJECT H.O.M.E.
 1515 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19130

Election 2006

VOTE FOR HOMES!

VOTERS GUIDE

General Election:
 Tuesday, November 7

Election 2006: Vote for Homes! is a coalition of organizations concerned about housing, jobs, and services for people and families who are living on low incomes.

This Voters Guide covers two important races in this year's election: **Pennsylvania Governor** and **U.S. Senator**. The Guide features the candidates' responses to a series of questions covering issues of housing, jobs, and services. It is not the intention of this guide to endorse any candidate, but to educate voters on the candidates' stances on the issues.

Since 1999, the *Vote for Homes!* coalition has registered, educated, and mobilized homeless and low-income voters in the Philadelphia area as well as educating candidates and voters on issues of housing, jobs, and services. *Vote for Homes!* fans out across the city to shelters and programs to conduct voter registration drives, host educational events including voting machine demonstrations, and help people get to the polls on election day.

We do this both because voting increases our likelihood of having elected officials address our issues and also because voting itself is an act of political empowerment and civic engagement.

Working with a broad coalition of more than 70 groups over the past five years, *Vote for Homes!* has registered 9,000 new voters, distributed 50,000 voters guides, hosted several large candidates' forums, and organized over 100 educational events.



ELECTION 2006: VOTE FOR HOMES! | C/O PROJECT H.O.M.E. | 1515 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19130 | (215) 232-7272 EXT. 3042 | WWW.PROJECTHOME.ORG/VOTE

KNOW YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

YOU CAN VOTE:

- ◆ If you are registered (you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on election day, and a resident of your election district for at least 30 days).
- ◆ If you have prior felony convictions. The five-year waiting period has been eliminated.
- ◆ While you are incarcerated while awaiting trial.
- ◆ While you are doing time for a misdemeanor.
- ◆ While on probation, parole, or house arrest.
- ◆ If you will be incarcerated on Election Day, you should request an absentee ballot. Use your home address to register to vote. Use the jail's address and your PP# as the delivery address for your absentee ballot.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE

- ◆ You have the right to have help filling out the voter registration form. The person helping you should add their name and signature to your form, in the designated space.
- ◆ You can bring someone into the booth to help you vote on Election Day. Just fill out a Declaration of Assistance form at your polling place and anyone you select may help you vote, except your employer, your union leader, or the Judge of Elections.
- ◆ If your polling place is inaccessible and you are disabled, or if you are over 65 years of age, you may vote by alternative ballot at City Hall.

YOU CAN VOTE IF YOU ARE AWAY ON ELECTION DAY OR TOO SICK TO VOTE IN PERSON

- ◆ If you will be unable to vote in person on Election Day because of work responsibilities or other duties, or because of illness or physical disability, you may vote by absentee ballot. Absentee Ballot requests are due on October 31, 2006.

YOU CAN VOTE IF YOU DON'T HAVE A PHOTO ID

- ◆ In Pennsylvania, only first-time voters are required to present ID at the polls. Approved forms of photo identification include: PA driver's license or non-driver's photo ID issued by the state; ID issued by any PA agency or by the U.S. government; U.S. passport; U.S. Armed Forces ID; Student ID; Employee ID.
- ◆ If you do not have a photo ID on Election Day, just present one of the following non-photo ID's: Voter's ID card issued by voter registration commission; Non-photo ID issued by any PA agency; Non-photo ID issued by the U.S. Government or any of its agencies; Firearm permit; Document showing your current address such as a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check.
- ◆ If you must show ID at the polls but don't have one, ask for a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is a paper ballot for registered voters who cannot meet ID requirements or whose name doesn't appear in the poll books.

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

- ◆ City Commissioners Office (215) 686-1520 or 1523
- ◆ Committee of Seventy Hotline (215) 557-3600 - www.seventy.org
- ◆ Hallwatch - www.hallwatch.org

GET A RIDE TO THE POLLS

- ◆ Vote for Homes! Transportation Hotline (215) 232-7272, x3106

QUESTIONS COMPLAINTS, ASSISTANCE

- ◆ Committee of Seventy Hotline (215) 557-3600 - www.seventy.org
- ◆ County Board of Elections (215) 686-1590
- ◆ City Commissioner's Office (215) 686-1520 or 1523
- ◆ Pennsylvania Department of State / Help America Vote Act (800) 552-VOTE - www.hava.state.pa.us
- ◆ District Attorney's Office (215) 686-8000
- ◆ Election Protection Voter Assistance Hotline 1-866-OUR-VOTE

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES:

The following questions on issues of housing, jobs, and services, were presented to all candidates in the U.S. Senate and Pennsylvania Governor races. The candidates were asked to give 100-word responses to each question. Their responses on the following pages have not been edited.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The lack of affordable housing in Pennsylvania has been called a crisis. In 2003, the University of Pennsylvania reported that Philadelphia needs 60,000 more units of housing affordable to low-income households (those earning \$20,000 or less annually). Throughout the state, an estimated 169,000 additional affordable housing units are needed for low-income Pennsylvanians. Many of these are persons with disabilities who need accessible housing. *What, if any, should the role of the federal/state government be in filling this gap and what would you specifically do to make sure that individuals and families most in need have access to affordable housing?*



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Philadelphia has lost a quarter of its jobs since 1970. Many of Pennsylvania's low- and moderate-income neighborhoods face economy-related challenges ranging from the unavailability of needed goods and services to blight, vacancy, and crime. Low-income communities are also burdened with poorly performing schools. *As Senator/Governor, what policies would you promote to help economically distressed communities?*



FEDERAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

For Senate candidates only.

Several proposals to reform federally-assisted housing programs have been introduced in past sessions of Congress. Congress continues to debate the appropriate level of funding for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers (the primary federal low-income housing subsidy). In Philadelphia, the Section 8 waiting list – closed for several years – includes an estimated 17,000 households, while the number of public housing units has shrunk by 15 percent in the past decade. An estimated 50,000 Pennsylvanians are on waiting lists for subsidized housing. *How would you propose to change federally assisted housing programs that serve the lowest income households?*



HEALTH CARE

Almost two million Pennsylvanians have no health insurance, and millions more have insurance that is inadequate for their health needs. Recent changes in Medicaid at the state and federal levels have consequences for many low-income Pennsylvanians with special health needs, including mental health and substance-use issues. *What will you do to bridge the gap between the health needs of Pennsylvanians and their access to comprehensive health care?*



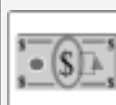
HOMELESSNESS

The City of Philadelphia has adopted a plan to end homelessness in ten years. The Pennsylvania Interagency Council on Homelessness has likewise developed a statewide Agenda for Ending Homelessness in Pennsylvania. It is estimated that in a given year there are 25,000 homeless people in Philadelphia, in shelters, programs, or on the streets. Statewide, the figure could be as much as 130,000. *As Senator/Governor, what will you do to assist Philadelphia and Pennsylvania in achieving the goal of ending homelessness?*



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In 2002, President George W. Bush established the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health to eliminate inequality for Americans with disabilities and implement a recovery-based treatment system. Budget cuts and changes in health care coverage have complicated the Commission's call to reform the behavioral health system. Pennsylvania still loses 3.5 residents every day to suicide, largely due to behavioral health crises. *What is your position on behavioral health services (including Mental Health and Drug courts, drug treatment, and sterile needle exchange)?*



WAGES

In the Philadelphia area, to rent a modest two-bedroom apartment, a person must earn \$17.15 an hour – more than three times the federal minimum wage. A similar gap exists in many areas throughout the state. The federal minimum wage is now worth 24 percent less than it was in 1979, but the consumer price index – the cost of goods and essentials such as housing and health care – has risen by more than 200 percent in the same period. *How would you address the disparity between earnings and the cost of living for low- and moderate-income Pennsylvanians?*



EX-OFFENDERS

In Philadelphia alone, approximately 32,000 people are released from prisons each year, and of those, 30-40 percent are released to homelessness. Ex-offenders who are living in our communities are legally disqualified from many public services (such as public housing and the Section 8 subsidized housing program) and face significant barriers to employment. *What actions, if any, would you take to respond to issues of housing, jobs, and services for ex-offenders who are released from prison and are re-entering the community?*



ROBERT CASEY (DEMOCRAT)

Candidate information provided by campaign.

At a time of great unease both in Pennsylvania and across our country, Bob Casey is running for the U.S. Senate because he wants to help bring much-needed change to Washington. Bob Casey believes Pennsylvania deserves a senator in step with the values and concerns of its citizens. And he believes this country deserves a government committed to changing the direction of the United States. As a U.S. Senator, Bob Casey will focus on creating jobs, restoring fiscal responsibility, lowering the cost of health care, improving education, safeguarding Social Security, protecting our environment, and strengthening homeland security. Bob Casey believes in a government that reflects our shared values like watching out for each other, preserving the dignity of our most vulnerable, and taking responsibility - both personal responsibility and fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately, too many people in Washington are pushing a narrow, intolerant ideology that says to people - "I'm right, you're wrong, and you don't know better." The current leadership in Washington believes in the politics of divide and conquer. Bob Casey believes we should unite and prosper.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Wages are stagnant and consumer prices, including energy costs and prices for safe and affordable housing near jobs, are skyrocketing. This is especially difficult for Pennsylvania's families and elderly households on fixed incomes. We must raise the minimum wage, cut health care costs, find ways to encourage energy cost savings and energy alternatives, and return to a focus on working families to help people make ends meet. The federal government should continue to provide funding and support to programs, such as the low income housing tax credit program, that have proven to be successful at stimulating production of affordable housing.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The community block grant program and federal HOME program should be funded at levels that enable local communities to address the causes of blight and revitalize neighborhoods. Programs to stimulate private investment in distressed communities, such as the New Markets Tax Credit program, should be encouraged at the federal level. I support reauthorization of this program. The federal government should assist in the redevelopment of polluted brownfield sites by supporting effective statewide brownfield programs (like those that exist in Pennsylvania). Federal education programs are drastically under funded.



FEDERAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Congress should consider increasing Section 8 funding. Programs that rehabilitate subsidized housing units should be promoted. We must support the transformation of public housing into viable communities through the HOPE VI program. Initiatives, such as weatherization funding and energy assistance programs that help low income families stay in their homes, should be supported. KeystoneHELP, a program recently introduced by the Pennsylvania Treasury Department, makes low-interest loans available to families so that they can increase the energy efficiency of their homes and results in dramatic reductions in fuel consumption and fuel costs.



HEALTH CARE

I am committed to guarding against cuts to Medicare and Medicaid that result in loss of services. I announced a health care coverage plan to help increase access to health care while reducing the cost. Under my plan, the federal government would help small businesses provide health care to their employees through tax credits and by forming open purchasing pools. My plan would lower costs for low- and middle-income families by having the federal government pick up a larger share of the Children's Health Insurance Program to cover more children.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

I support restoring funding for programs to help those with disabilities. I support drug prevention and drug treatment programs. Also, it is essential that we recognize that mental illness can often be a significant contributing factor to homelessness. We must identify and fund community behavioral health service programs, and promote those efforts that integrate such community support services with effective affordable housing programs.



HOMELESSNESS

More funding is needed for programs that enable self-sufficiency, such as job training. Child care is a critical component that allows new workers to remain in their jobs. Greater partnerships with local non-profits dedicated to community and resident improvement should also be encouraged. Organizations through churches, Project H.O.M.E., and the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service and Education Center all provide vital support services to persons and families in need.



EX-OFFENDERS

Programs like the Amachi mentoring program that provide a positive role model for children of those who are incarcerated deserve our support. My early childhood program will help all four year-olds receive pre-K education. I support increased assistance for Head Start, child nutrition education, after school programs, job training, and higher education assistance. We must promote innovative local programs that ease the transition from prison back into the community, and into the job market. Lancaster County just introduced a program that helps transition former prisoners back into the workforce. The federal government must help expand this program to other areas.



WAGES

Increasing the minimum wage, investing in working families, and helping to lower health care costs are a few of the many changes that need to occur to help low- and middle-income families. I disagree with those -- like my opponent -- who have said the only way they will support a minimum wage increase is if it is coupled with an estate tax repeal for the very wealthy. Rick Santorum wrote that families with two parents who work are being selfish. He said: "if they really took an honest look at the budget, they might confess that both of them really don't need to [work]..."

RICK SANTORUM (REPUBLICAN)

Candidate information provided by campaign.

Rick Santorum was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990 at the age of 32 representing Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District. As a Congressman, he was a strong voice for congressional accountability and welfare reform. In 1994, Rick Santorum was elected to the United States Senate. Because of his strong leadership record, Rick was chosen by his Republican colleagues to serve as Conference Chairman in 2000, making him the third ranking Republican in the Senate. This leadership position has enabled Rick to deliver for Pennsylvania. Rick Santorum has been a leader in the fight against poverty by championing programs that empower all citizens to reach their full potential. Rick was the primary architect of the landmark welfare reform bill, which has enabled over seven million Americans to exchange a welfare check for a paycheck. Of all his accomplishments, Rick is most proud of his role as a husband and father. Rick and his wife Karen are the parents of five wonderful children: Elizabeth, John, Daniel, Sarah Maria, Peter, and Patrick. His family and the people of Pennsylvania inspire him to work tirelessly to ensure that generations to come have a bright future in our Commonwealth.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

I have been a longtime supporter of tax credits and other programs to promote the production of affordable housing. I strongly support increasing the cap and making permanent the low income housing tax credit, which is the nation's largest rental housing production program for low-income families. I have also sponsored the Community Development Homeownership Tax Credit Act which would similarly encourage the construction of affordable houses for low- and moderate-income families to own. I also support the HOPE VI program which enables cities to demolish distressed and unsafe housing and replace it with new affordable housing.



FEDERAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

I believe local housing authorities should be given the tools they need to best ensure their residents have safe and affordable housing. I am working to ensure that housing authorities receive full funding for their public housing operating fund costs so that they can serve their residents well. I also support giving housing authorities greater flexibility and freedom in the use of HUD funds so that they can seek new ways to use their federal funding to serve as many families and individuals in their community as possible. As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, I support exploration of the best ways to structure the Section 8 program.



HOMELESSNESS

I have long supported HUD's homeless assistance grant funding through numerous letters and requests and have listened closely to the recommendations I have received from Project H.O.M.E. and other organizations serving the homeless in Pennsylvania. I am a cosponsor of the Services to End Long-Term Homelessness Act, which would provide grants for needed services for the chronically homeless as it is critical that these individuals receive both housing and the services that will enable them to stay in that housing. It is also important that homeless programs be permitted to meet the needs of homeless families with children, enabling them to eventually make the transition to self-sufficiency.



WAGES

I have voted 11 times to increase the federal minimum wage to help address this challenge. However, we must also ensure that our children are receiving a solid education so that they are prepared to advance to college and careers. I have introduced America's CLASS Act which will provide scholarships to help empower parents in choosing the best school for their child to learn. I am also working diligently to bring down health care costs and bring good jobs into Pennsylvania.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I have designated staff members in each region of Pennsylvania who are focused on encouraging community and economic development in needy areas. I support programs like the Community Development Block Grant, the Community Services Block Grant, HOPE VI and others which all provide needed funds to communities that they can use to improve and develop distressed areas, provide services, and attract new business. Combined and under local control, these programs can help to turn communities around. The HOPE VI bill I have cosponsored would require communities using the grants to partner with local schools so that they improve as the neighborhood improves.



HEALTH CARE

I have strongly advocated for policies that expand access to affordable health insurance for low-income patients. I support proposals to expand access to quality and affordable health care like my Tax Relief for the Uninsured, which would provide significant tax incentives to purchase private health insurance. I also strongly support Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), which now cover over 3 million Americans, and over one-third of the policies sold last year were sold to those previously uninsured. I have also supported legislation to increase outreach and enrollment in the State Children's Health Insurance Program.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

I believe that the federal government has a unique role to play to help those with mental health conditions. I have supported legislation to increase outreach and enrollment in the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which offers mental health and substance abuse treatment for children. I also worked hard to pass the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, named after the son of a fellow Senator who committed suicide, which provides increased federal resources for suicide prevention programs in all 50 states. I have also authored the Combating Autism Act to dedicate unprecedented resources for autism screening, prevention, intervention, and education.



EX-OFFENDERS

I am a cosponsor of the Second Chance Act which is focused on helping ex-offenders move back into their communities and neighborhoods in a positive way. It provides grants to states and local governments to promote reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated. These grants could be used for mentorship, housing, education and job training, and family programs. I have also supported repealing the federal ban on convicted drug felons receiving food stamps and TANF benefits after they have paid their debt to society.



EDWARD RENDELL (DEMOCRAT)

Candidate information provided by campaign.

Edward G. Rendell was inaugurated as Pennsylvania's 45th Governor on January 21, 2003. Since taking office, Governor Rendell has made economic opportunity, community revitalization, and affordable housing, education, and health care major priorities for Pennsylvania. Today there are more Pennsylvanians working than ever before, with nearly 133,000 new jobs since January 2003, and Governor Rendell championed and signed into law a minimum wage increase so that all Pennsylvanians share in our economic growth. Governor Rendell's Administration has invested \$300 million more in housing than occurred during the prior four-year period, and the Governor created the Office of Housing and Community Revitalization and convened the Governor's Housing Cabinet to make sure that Pennsylvanians have access to affordable housing. From 1992 through 1999, Governor Rendell served as Mayor of the City of Philadelphia. The *New York Times* called the Philadelphia renaissance under Mayor Rendell "the most stunning turnaround in recent urban history." Before serving as Mayor, Rendell was elected District Attorney of the City of Philadelphia for two terms from 1978 through 1985. The Governor and his wife, First Lady Marjorie O. Rendell, a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, have one son, Jesse.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Under my leadership, state government has been and will continue to be a strong partner in making affordable housing available to Pennsylvanians. My Administration doubled funding for Housing & Redevelopment Assistance, helped create more than 11,000 new rental units, assisted nearly 19,000 Pennsylvanians in becoming homeowners, and saved almost 7,000 homes from foreclosure through increased funding for HEMAP. I launched an Affordable Apartment Locator to help Pennsylvanians find apartments that are right for them, including the option to target for specific accessibilities, and this year I provided \$3 million to help people with disabilities make their homes more accessible.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I have made revitalizing every community a priority for Pennsylvania with investments in job creation and improving our quality of life. Philadelphia and other communities are benefiting as we help businesses launch and expand, invest in inner cities, rebuild neighborhoods, move state offices downtown, clean up brownfields, and preserve open space. I insisted that Growing Greener 2 include \$50 million for downtowns and helped bring new supermarkets and affordable housing to Philadelphia, and I increased the minimum wage so that all Pennsylvanians share in our economic growth. I will build on these successes to further improve economic opportunity.



HOMELESSNESS

We must work together to end homelessness. In my first year in office, I formed a high-profile Office of Housing and Community Revitalization and convened the Governor's Housing Cabinet to address the need for affordable housing. I have increased state funding for temporary shelter and emergency assistance for Pennsylvanians in immediate danger of becoming homeless by nearly 10% since taking office. Just as importantly, I have protected and expanded our Medical Assistance program to ensure that the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians receive the care they need and can avoid losing their homes.



HEALTH CARE

I have made it possible for over 370,000 additional Pennsylvanians to receive health care. I am especially pleased that nearly 100,000 more older adults are receiving prescription drug coverage and that my plan to Cover All Kids will make it possible for every child to have quality affordable health care. We have made health insurance available to 5,000 more working adults whose employers do not provide it and – within the constraints of our budget and as part of a plan that improves quality and reduces costs – we must do far more to make affordable health care available to every Pennsylvanian.



WAGES

All Pennsylvanians deserve fair pay for their hard work. That is why I proposed, fought for and signed into law the first minimum wage increase since 1997 – bringing 423,000 Pennsylvania workers up to \$7.15 an hour by next July. At the same time, I have invested in business growth so that more Pennsylvanians can find jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. The best news is that even as we have reached our highest job count ever, Pennsylvania is not trading high-wage for low-wage jobs. In fact, our average weekly wage increased by 4%, showing that our strategies are paying off.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Behavioral health services are vital to a healthy Pennsylvania. I am working to ensure that drug and alcohol and mental health programs are integrated so consumers receive better treatment regardless of the setting. I made it a priority in the budget to expand Medical Assistance behavioral health services. I also changed the law so Pennsylvanians convicted of nonviolent drug offenses can receive a combination of incarceration and intensive drug treatment, with the approval of the prosecutor and judge. We have been actively working with the criminal justice system to expand use of drug courts, and I support needle exchange programs.



EX-OFFENDERS

Reconnecting inmates to essential services before they leave prison is imperative in order to reduce recidivism and improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. We have retooled our re-entry system so that inmates now receive better job training and connection to employment services, more intensive alcohol and drug treatment, and education on financial responsibility. I will continue to work with our government and community partners to address this important challenge.

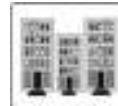
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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19109 | 215-545-4553
WWW.RENDELLFORGOVERNOR.COM

LYNN SWANN (REPUBLICAN)

Candidate information provided by campaign.

Lynn Swann's life has been about seizing opportunities - whether it's through his athletic, business, or philanthropic endeavors. After a successful college football career, Swann was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers. He won four Super Bowls, played in three Pro Bowls, and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2001. Following his football success, Lynn launched his career in business and broadcasting. He moved his family back to Pittsburgh, where he identified with the Pennsylvania values of hard work, determination, and the will to succeed. Lynn also set out to improve his community through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the Pittsburgh Ballet, and other organizations. Lynn Swann has decided to run for Governor - not to gain fame, fortune, or political prestige. He is running for Governor to put Pennsylvania back on track. He is committed to relieving the crushing tax burden on job creators and families; reforming education to afford every child the opportunity to succeed; reforming government and making Harrisburg more transparent; and passing real property tax reform and relief. Lynn Swann has the fresh perspective, leadership, and priorities to move Pennsylvania in the right direction.



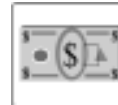
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

This is a problem that needs to be addressed by local, state and federal officials. Section 8 housing offers a positive alternative for some low income individuals but there is simply not a sufficient amount of Section 8 housing in many of our cities. Another difficulty facing low income individuals is burdensome property taxes. We need to cap property taxes increases at 3% so low income residents are not subject to 15-20 percent annual increases that they simply cannot afford. We must also find incentives for builders through subsidies or tax breaks so there is a continuous increase in low income residential units.



HOMELESSNESS

The first step to addressing homelessness in our cities is to identify those who are sleeping on the streets. The second step is to move these individuals indoors whether it is into a shelter, YMCA, a mission, or other facility. The next step, and the hardest, is to provide good training programs in order that these individuals begin the process of employment, if they do not have a job. Also, many homeless are in desperate need of drug and alcohol training which must be available at the facility or shelter in which they are temporarily residing.



WAGES

Often the media only focuses on the upside of the explosion of the housing market over the past five years or so. Unfortunately, it has had a downside which is making home ownership for low-income individuals often impossible. Thankfully, rental unit pricing has stayed generally flat. Hence, we must continue to combat blight and increase the availability of all types' living units. Health care costs are also exploding and the state must do its part to subsidized health insurance to low income adults and children. Our CHIP program needs the resources to stay the best in the nation.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Low- and middle-income individuals need more opportunity to establish their own small business enterprises. The red tape and the high taxes have made this impossible for many minorities. Further, to better serve low-income areas, I propose that students in poorly performing schools be given access to better schools. We will launch a pilot initiative to designate Education Opportunity Zones (EOZs) for schools where the need is the greatest. Families with children who reside in an EOZ will receive tax credits, which will defray the costs for low-income families to send their children to quality K-12 schools.



HEALTH CARE

Under Rendell's term as Governor, the number of uninsured in Pennsylvania has exploded. The number of under-employed individuals has also climbed dramatically. Many people have jobs, but they simply are not family sustaining jobs and often they have no health benefits. We must do a substantially better job moving people into employment that offers health benefits including mental health programs. We must offer health tax credits to small employers so that they offer health insurance to their employees. We must also expect more out of our businesses because the state cannot sustain annual increases in the uninsured population.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Many of our disabled residents have not had access to the services they need to survive. Each individual has different health care needs. Mental health services and substance abuse services are vital for the survival of many of our most vulnerable individuals. I am troubled that with the explosion of gambling coming to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh which will likely add our addicted population. Just recently I published a book on these and other related issues entitled *A New Direction: My Plan for a Better Pennsylvania*. It is available on my website at www.swannforgovernor.com



EX-OFFENDERS

I am a believer in the iron hand in the velvet glove. There must always be an unshakable commitment to enforcing the laws of the Commonwealth and to punishing those who break the laws. But justice must be tempered by compassion, a compassion extending first to the innocent victims and then to the wrongdoers. That spirit should lead us wherever possible to seek alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders. If we refuse to give some ex-offenders second chances, then we have trapped them even outside the prison. We must work with employers to move nonviolent offenders into productive work environments.

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