



Tom Corbett: A New Direction for Pennsylvania

Tom Corbett is running for governor because he believes we can build a Pennsylvania where we are the standard of excellence that other states are measured against in business growth, job creation, agriculture, transportation, tourism, energy production and education. But, in order for this vision to become a reality, we need a governor who has the experience and courage to make the tough decisions. A governor whose top priority is getting our state moving in the right direction, putting Pennsylvanians back to work and creating an economic climate that fosters growth and prosperity for all. We need a leader like Tom Corbett.

For the past eight years, Pennsylvania has seen a dramatic downturn in our economy. Our state budget has gone from \$22 billion to \$28 billion – a 40 percent increase in government spending. We have the 11th highest tax burden in the country, and we have witnessed a 40 percent increase in our state's debt. The unemployment rate in Pennsylvania is at 9.2 percent – the highest it has been since the early 1980's – with nearly 600,000 Pennsylvanians looking for work.

These statistics represent real people. People who are hurting. People who are losing their jobs, and people who are losing their homes. It is time for a new direction in Pennsylvania and a new leader who will do what is in the best interest of this great commonwealth.

As the next Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett has a vision and a plan to turn our economy around and put hardworking Pennsylvanians back to work. It does not include more taxes and spending – nor does it see the government as the solution to every problem. His economic plan will unleash the power of the private sector based upon three tried and true principles: fiscal discipline; limited government; and free enterprise.

Fiscal Discipline

Tom Corbett will bring fiscal discipline to state government – developing commonsense budgets that control spending and eliminate waste. That is one of the reasons he signed a no new tax pledge – he knows that the people of Pennsylvania are taxed too much and should not have to give up more of their paychecks for government greed and

wasteful spending. He will direct state agencies to save taxpayers millions of dollars through spending cuts such as reducing the state vehicle fleet, instituting meaningful welfare reform and cutting government administrative operations by 10 percent.

Limited Government

Tom Corbett will restore integrity to state government through accountability and transparency. He believes that we need to shrink the size of government and reduce the burdensome regulations that stifle business growth and job creation. Tom Corbett has released a detailed plan to reform state government that he will take to the Legislature during his first week in office. From eliminating the way per diems are paid to stopping “pay for play” antics to ending government corruption – Tom Corbett is the proven leader to make government more accountable to the taxpayers of Pennsylvania.

Free Enterprise

Tom Corbett knows that government does not create jobs – private industry does. He has put together a plan that will revitalize our free enterprise system by reducing job crushing taxes on families and businesses, instituting meaningful regulatory and legal reform and growing Pennsylvania’s industry sectors.

- **Tax Reform** – Tom Corbett believes that we need to reduce taxes – not raise them – to help keep the jobs we have and grow new ones. He has released a detailed jobs and economic development plan that will reduce the corporate net income tax, remove the net operating loss cap, continue phase out the capital stock and franchise tax, and phase out the inheritance, or death tax, which impacts our small businesses and family farms.
- **Legal Reform** – Tom Corbett is going to work for meaningful legal reform, including passage of the fair share act and placing caps on noneconomic damages.
- **Regulatory Reform** – Tom Corbett has released his plans to reform Pennsylvania’s burdensome regulatory climate and eliminate the permit backlog at state agencies like DEP and PennDOT.

Revitalizing and growing Pennsylvania’s economy goes beyond reform – Tom Corbett knows that we must look to the future in order for Pennsylvania to be a global leader and a top performing state.

- **Empowering Innovation** – Tom Corbett will work to build a foundation for innovation in our economy that attracts broad industry sectors and new jobs. From embracing public-private sector collaboration to growing entrepreneurial support for the high tech and life sciences industries to harnessing higher education and incorporating sustainability and green infrastructure into all

sectors, Tom Corbett has outlined a vision to elevate innovation in Pennsylvania's economy to support 21st Century job growth.

- Training Pennsylvania Workers – Nothing is more critical to ensuring the economic vitality of Pennsylvania and to securing good-paying jobs for Pennsylvania families than the development of an educated workforce that meets the demands of the marketplace. Tom Corbett is committed to making workforce development a top priority by eliminating waste and improving performance of state agencies; strengthening regional workforce development initiatives; aligning education and training with marketplace demands; re-engaging Pennsylvania drop outs; maximizing the potential of Pennsylvania's diverse educational institutions; and retaining and recruiting college graduates back to Pennsylvania.
- Growing Small Businesses – Every day, small business owners embrace the entrepreneurial spirit by taking risks to achieve success. In Pennsylvania, small businesses account for nearly 50 percent of our private-sector employment. Tom Corbett will work tirelessly to grow and support small business by designating a small business advocate; developing a small business portal; repealing the inheritance "death" tax; and instituting regulatory flexibility.
- Expanding Pennsylvanian's International Reach – More than 12,000 Pennsylvania companies sell their goods and services across international borders with total exports at more than \$34 billion – making Pennsylvania the 11th largest exporting state. Tom Corbett believes that we must continue to grow our international presence and open new markets by expanding our exports of goods and services and direct investment into the commonwealth. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to expand the commonwealth's international trade opportunities and facilitate job creation by growing our ports and intermodal assets; focusing on enhancing our foreign presence; penetrating new markets for small and mid-size company growth; selectively recruiting new companies to invest in the state; and marketing Pennsylvania to the rest of the world.

Pennsylvania is blessed with many industries that serve as the anchors of our economy. From transportation to agriculture to education, each sector plays a vital role in shaping the future of Pennsylvania, and Tom Corbett has shared his vision to grow each of them to guarantee a new direction for the commonwealth.

- Transportation Infrastructure – A critical component of a state's economic and quality of life foundation is its transportation infrastructure. Tom Corbett believes that safety, convenience and economic development must guide transportation policy decisions – doing what is in the best interest of all Pennsylvanians. He knows that we cannot delay any longer in addressing Pennsylvania's critical transportation issues. Specifically, he will maximize the funding available for transportation infrastructure with a real plan based on honest numbers; manage a maintenance and construction program to address current challenges while building an infrastructure for the future; leverage all of Pennsylvania's intermodal

assets for convenience and economic development; and maintain the viability of Pennsylvania's transit systems while helping to position them to meet changing commuter dynamics.

- Education Quality. – Tom Corbett believes that all Pennsylvania children – regardless of zip code, race, economic or educational status – deserve a first class education to help them achieve their full potential. As Governor, he will work to ensure that all Pennsylvania children have the choice of a great school, led by highly effective teachers and leaders that will enable students to achieve their full potential. Tom Corbett wants to put students and their achievement at the center of our education system, right where they belong. Specifically, Tom Corbett will align basic education funding with school and student achievement and ensure that funds, such as opportunity scholarships, are portable to give students access to achieving schools – not failing ones. He will work to enhance educational opportunities for students and ensure that we have effective teachers in our classrooms and administrators leading our schools. He will embrace accountability and empower parents to be in charge of their children's education by instituting a school grading system to allow them to better understand the quality of education and make informed choices. He also believes that safe learning environments are critical to the success of our children's educational experience.
- Energy Independence. Harnessing Pennsylvania's energy potential to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and make energy affordable for all Pennsylvanians is an important priority for Tom Corbett. Pennsylvania is home to the second largest energy field in the world, and as Governor, Tom Corbett will support and encourage the development of Pennsylvania's energy resources in an environmentally sound manner to make us an energy independent state. He will work to grow our energy infrastructure; encourage renewable, alternative and clean energy; cultivate Pennsylvania's natural gas and coal resources; transition to competitive markets; and refocus the Department of Environmental Protection and get it "back to basics."
- Government Reform. To create real economic growth in Pennsylvania and put hard-working Pennsylvanians back to work, Tom Corbett believes that we must dramatically reform the government that guides our economy. He will provide an open, transparent, accountable and trustworthy government that finally puts Pennsylvania taxpayers first and gets the state back on track and moving in the right direction. During his first week in office, Tom Corbett will take his detailed reform plan to the Legislature and work to eliminate per diems, end "pay to play" and institute transparency across all of state government.
- Agriculture. Pennsylvania is blessed to have a rich agricultural heritage that continues today as the number one industry in Pennsylvania. From dairy to mushrooms and grains to hardwoods, Pennsylvania's diverse resources make the commonwealth a worldwide leader in agriculture production. While our agricultural industry is strong due to the hardworking men and women who run

Pennsylvania farms, Tom Corbett knows that the industry is in critical need of leadership at the state level to ensure the viability and success of our agricultural community for generations to come. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to support and grow our farming community and natural resources by enhancing the Department of Agriculture; securing the future of agriculture by assisting all sectors of the industry; growing the impact of Pennsylvania dairy; and promoting Pennsylvania's equine industry. He also believes that Pennsylvania should phase out the inheritance "death" tax to help multi-generational family farms.

- Healthcare. Putting Pennsylvanians first must be the focus of meaningful healthcare reform in the commonwealth. Tom Corbett believes that Pennsylvania must adopt common sense policies regarding healthcare and health insurance coverage to ensure access, quality and affordability and to protect the relationships between patients and the care providers of their choice. Over 1.1 million Pennsylvanians are employed by the healthcare industry, and it is one of the key engines of our economic growth and prosperity. Pennsylvania needs to keep this foundation healthy. As Governor, Tom Corbett will lead the effort to make our world class healthcare affordable, both to patients and to businesses that buy healthcare coverage for their employees. Recognizing that Pennsylvania is suffering from a physician shortage, Tom Corbett will work to make Pennsylvania a place where new physicians want to practice and all physicians want to stay. This needs to be a priority in order to ensure that there is access to quality care. Coverage without access to quality care or with lengthy waits for care has little value. Finally, and critically, from a timing perspective, the new federal healthcare law has to be thoughtfully implemented consistent with Pennsylvania's core values of free enterprise, consumer choice, and individual responsibility.

It will take leadership and courage to get Pennsylvania back on the right track, and Tom Corbett is the only candidate for Governor who has the experience and proven leadership to do what is in the best interest of Pennsylvania. He has a vision for Pennsylvania where we are the standard of excellence that other states are measured against. Tom Corbett knows that we have the people and we have the resources to make this vision a reality. What we need is a governor with a plan and the courage to lead the way. Pennsylvania needs Tom Corbett.