



Protecting Pennsylvania's Senior Citizens

Tom Corbett has dedicated much of his career to protecting the safety and well being of senior citizens. Pennsylvania is home to 2.5 million seniors over the age of 65 – boasting the third highest percentage of seniors in the nation. As such, it is critical that the next governor of Pennsylvania be an advocate for seniors and someone who will ensure full and fair representation of seniors in Harrisburg.

As Attorney General, Tom Corbett has made protecting seniors a top priority. He created the Elder Abuse Unit to stop criminals who target and victimize Pennsylvania seniors. These con artists and thieves use telemarketing schemes, mail scams and internet fraud to commit their crimes, often leaving seniors in serious financial distress. Under Tom Corbett's leadership, the Elder Abuse Unit has protected thousands of seniors and returned millions of dollars to those who have been victimized. Some of the highlights of the Unit and the Attorney General's Office are:

- Tom Corbett's Senior Crime Prevention University was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Community Based Crime Prevention of the Year by the CA Crime Prevention Officers' Association.
- From January 2009 to date the Health Care Section dealt with more than 500 elderly cases and retrieved over \$800,000 for seniors.
- From January 2009 to date the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection received more than 8,900 complaints filed by seniors and saved them more than \$1 million.

As Governor, Tom Corbett will continue his commitment to protecting senior citizens. As the first baby boomers turn 65 next year, Pennsylvania must be "aging friendly" and work to make the commonwealth a better place for seniors and their families.

- ✓ Reduce property taxes. Tom Corbett will make property tax reduction a priority. He supports the reduction or elimination of property taxes and will work with the General Assembly to review best practices nationwide that would result in the greatest impact and savings for Pennsylvania property owners – especially our seniors.
- ✓ Retool Pennsylvania's long-term care system. Long-term care services traditionally have been utilized by senior citizens and citizens with disabilities. From facility-based care, such as nursing homes or personal care homes, to home-based support and services provided in the community, a strong long-term care system is critical for Pennsylvanians. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to put into place cost effective, consumer-focused, long-term care services that promote preventive care and support the well-being of older Pennsylvanians. *(See Corbett's Healthcare Policy for additional information.)*
- ✓ Protect senior citizens' pensions. Tom Corbett believes the pensions of senior citizens should be protected and not subjected to a tax. Having signed a pledge not to raise taxes, Tom Corbett will honor his commitment to protecting Pennsylvania seniors.
- ✓ Protect the Lottery Fund. As Governor, Tom Corbett will ensure that lottery funds are exclusively used for the benefits and rights of older Pennsylvanians. The lottery fund is a vital source of funding for important senior programs and initiatives, such as PACE, property tax and rent rebates, free and reduced fare rides, abuse protection, family caregiver support, congregate and home delivered meals, senior community centers and health and wellness programs.
- ✓ Enable seniors to make choices about their care. Tom Corbett knows that Pennsylvania seniors want to remain in their homes and community-based settings for as long as possible. As such, he believes that Pennsylvania should offer a myriad of care options that recognize consumer preference. Whether a senior requires a more intense level of medical care that can only be provided in a nursing home or chooses to receive needed services at their home, Pennsylvania needs a system that responds quickly with options and cost-effective solutions. As Governor, Tom Corbett will work to ensure that older Pennsylvanians get the care and services they need in the setting that is consistent with their needs and preference. He will look to rebalance Medicaid spending and consider using lottery fund surpluses to support home-based institutional care to provide access to safe and appropriate care and services. *(See Corbett's Healthcare Policy for additional information.)*
- ✓ Preserve the Department of Aging. As Governor, Tom Corbett will ensure that the Department of Aging will remain an independent, cabinet-level department as created in 1979. Tom Corbett does not support merging the Department of Aging with sub-agencies within the Department of Public Welfare as proposed by the current Administration.