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Position Statements

Support for Working-Class Businesses

Much of the focus on “small business” by the current legislature ignores or defies true small businesses. For example: self-employed tradesmen and women, middle-class rental property owners, freelancers, and young people whose employment is based in “gig” culture. These businesses are often a silent presence in our communities and have been left behind and even exploited by the politics of the state. I believe in promoting significant tax cuts and assistance for these important workers in our community.

Fact: The current state legislature had funds specifically earmarked to help this group of workers and chose to instead stash the cash away in a bank “like a retirement account.”

Equitable School Funding

York County has the most state-underfunded schools in Pennsylvania. For example, Dallastown is underfunded at least \$8 million per year; York City schools are underfunded roughly \$54 million per year. All but one school district in York County is underfunded by the state. Our own representatives in York County are actually working against our schools.

Fact: Because of this inequality and antiquated way of funding public schools, your school taxes and your school’s cut programs are subsidizing over-funded schools in wealthier neighborhoods in the state.

Stewardship & Sustainability

Pennsylvania must take the initiative to care for our greatest gift, which is our land. Too often this conversation begins and ends with rehearsed debates about taxing natural gas extraction. We need to do more, and it requires an all-hands-on-deck approach to the issue. What I mean by this is connecting our hunting, gaming, and farming culture to secondary and higher education, manufacturing, the department of health, and the promotion of innovative new businesses to build and stay in Pennsylvania.

Fact: Fracking is always argued to be necessary for economic vitality in Pennsylvania. Less than 10% of the revenue generated by fracking in the state stays in the state—before factoring any health-related costs. 20% of all Pennsylvanians live within 2 miles of a well associated with fracking.

Prioritizing the Opioid Crisis

When I asked the current representative what was being done with the opioid crisis now that the governor's emergency order had ended, he told me I was the only one talking about this in the district and in Harrisburg. The answer was, and remains, "nothing." This exchange demonstrates a disconnect between the lived realities of residents and our leadership. Most or all of the previous emergency declarations must be reinstated legislatively and strategized from the perspective of the crisis in 2022 rather than in 2018. These expired programs affect local community organizations, the cost of Naloxone, access to treatment for the homeless, and veterans' programs. This crisis requires leadership that remains vigilant in being informed and to have open dialogue with the community and health officials. We are in desperate need of voices at the state level willing to take the risk of considering data and the medical science behind addiction and recovery.

Fact: While legislators have had little agreement on how to replace or restore these programs, or address new problems, Pennsylvania's opioid death toll skyrocketed to become the fifth highest in the nation.

Cannabis Legalization

Whether one likes it or not, cannabis legalization is coming. We will not be the first state to legalize, but we should be the first state to do it right. By this I mean that the needs of our small and family-owned farms must be an absolute first and non-negotiable first priority. Other priorities include criminal justice reform, ensuring access for veterans, and smart engagement with law enforcement. Revenue generation should not be the first concern of this issue.

Fact: Because of corporate competition, prohibitive regulations, and obstruction by county-level officials, four years after legalization in California, most small farms have been priced out or shut out from entering the industry.

Real-World Election Reform

As an elected Judge of Election, I have watched with frustration our local leaders create conspiracy theories and spread misinformation about our voting process and security. They are not wrong to say we need election reform; however, the changes they propose are mostly addressing problems that don't exist. To these ends, I believe in establishing reasonable donation limits to campaigns; revising archaic laws regarding qualifications for public office; training and retaining good poll workers; expansion of voter education and registration access; practical approaches to assist people with physical disabilities to vote; creating a non-partisan re-districting process removed from the legislature, and establishing an ongoing, non-partisan audit and study to examine and improve mail voting security.

Fact: No study has ever shown ID cards to have any impact upon voter fraud, and PA ID card information categories are not the same as the relevant verification information contained in PA voter registration records.

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