

EMPOWERPA

a project of CITIZENS ALLIANCE of PA

2010 Candidate Survey

1. Annual increases in spending by state, county and local governments, including school districts, should be constitutionally limited to the rate of population growth plus inflation, or a similar index - except during declared emergencies or when the voters, via referendum, approve of the limit being exceeded.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

2. Since 2002, state debt has increased 78 percent, to more than \$41 billion. In 2009, total state and local debt stood at \$116 billion - over \$36,000 per family of four. Pennsylvania should not incur additional taxpayer debt.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

3. All expenditures of taxpayer money should be put online for easy viewing by the citizens.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

5. Voter approval, via referendum, should be required for all state and local tax and fee increases, similar to taxpayer provisions in other states.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

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6. Tax dollars for education should follow children to the school of their choice – public or private – just like higher education.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

7. Labor unions should be legally prohibited from forcing workers to pay dues or fees as a condition of employment.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

8. Pennsylvania should repeal prevailing wage laws for taxpayer-funded construction projects because they increase labor costs upward of 30% more than the average Market Wage in a community.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

9. Government employees, including public school teachers, should be prohibited from striking, and lose a day and one-half of pay for each day they do so - similar to New York State's Taylor Law.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

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10. Pennsylvania should limit non-economic damages ("pain and suffering") awarded in a lawsuit, while protecting the rights of victims to recover all economic damages; and a defendant's liability should be proportionate to his share of fault.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

11. Pennsylvania's Constitution should be amended to empower citizens with initiative, referendum and recall - similar to 24 other states.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

12. Pennsylvania should return to a part-time legislature with a limited number of legislative days - similar to 46 other states.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

13. The number of terms someone can serve in either house of the state legislature should be limited - similar to 15 other states.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

14. Pension and healthcare benefits for government employees should reflect private sector practices, including 401(k)-style defined contribution plans for new hires and healthcare cost-sharing.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

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15. State and local government should privatize liquor stores and other services that can be performed by the private sector, such as golf courses, hotels, fitness centers and parking garages.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

16. Pennsylvanians should be allowed to waive health insurance mandates, and health insurers should be allowed to offer to offer mandate-free policies to reduce costs for consumers.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

17. Health insurers should not be forced to use "community rating" to determine the cost of premiums and should be allowed to use "experiential rating," similar to how auto insurance premiums are determined.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

18. Pennsylvania should establish a "high-risk pool" that guarantees adequate health insurance for citizens with pre-existing conditions, rather than forcing healthy and low-income citizens to subsidize the premiums of unhealthy and high-income citizens.

AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDED

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19. Pennsylvania's tax code should be flat and simple, without loopholes and exemptions; and the burden on all taxpayers – including businesses – should be reduced.

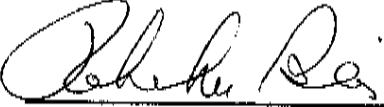
AGREE DISAGREE UNDECIDE

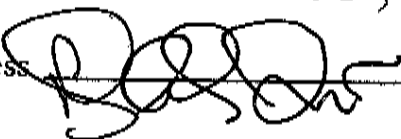
As a Legislator, my highest priorities to the taxpayers and citizens of Pennsylvania will be:

1. PUBLIC SERVICE, TRANSPARENCY, & ACCOUNTABILITY
2. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
3. LIMITED GOVERNMENT

Taxpayer Protection Pledge

I will oppose and vote against the following: (1) Any and all efforts to increase total annual state spending by an amount that exceeds the previous fiscal year's spending adjusted by the percentage rates of inflation and population growth, except in any fiscal year in which a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor or the President; (2) Any increase in state spending which requires an increase in any state tax or fee which is not offset, dollar for dollar, by a reduction in other state taxes or fees; and (3) Any increase in any state tax or fee which is not offset dollar for dollar by a reduction in other state taxes or fees.

Sign  Date 4/13/2010
ROBERTA BIROS, INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE, STATE SENATE
(50th DISTRICT)

Witness  Date 4/13/10