

The Update

Provided by **Jesse W. Topper**, PA State Committeeman

February 2009

Fellow Republicans

While our party suffered many defeats throughout the Commonwealth during the last election cycle, bright rays of optimism could be found shining on the Winter Meeting of the Pennsylvania Republican State Committee. Attorney General Tom Corbett won re-election in an extremely difficult year for Republicans and the State Senate actually increased its majority by one seat, making it the only GOP controlled chamber in the entire Northeastern United States. Locally, Carl Walker Metzgar won the House seat in the 69th District that was vacated by Bob Bastian and Dick Hess was again elected to serve the 78th District. However,



make no mistake, following many stinging statewide defeats, our party must re-organize, re-focus, and re-energize Republicans as we seek to put forth an agenda that will lay the groundwork for future victory. Fox News personality and Weekly Standard Editor Fred Barnes spoke at our Lincoln Day Dinner and reminded us that "...the political landscape can change in a week. We have to be ready to take advantage of that opportunity." Even though the situation looks bleak today, we must look toward the opportunities of tomorrow.

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Judicial Nominees

One of the ways that we will be able to turn the tide in this political climate is by electing conservative judges to the bench. Our primary focus of this meeting was to endorse candidates for Pennsylvania judicial positions. There will be a seat open on the Supreme Court, three on the Superior Court, and two on the Commonwealth

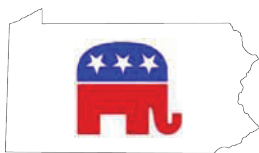
Court. The following press release provides the details of those endorsements.

HARRISBURG - Today, the Republican Party of Pennsylvania gathered in Harrisburg to endorse six outstanding candidates for Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth Courts. Chairman Rob Gleason is proud the Party has cho-

sen such a qualified field of judicial candidates.

"Our Party is excited about our chances to do well in these critically important judicial elections, and I believe we endorsed six great candidates," said Chairman Gleason. "We are very fortunate to have talented and qualified candidates ready to serve in these offices.

"Republicans understand the importance of electing strong judges. In many



cases, important legislation will make their way into the appellate system. It is critically important that we make a serious commitment to elect judges with the philosophy, judicial temperament, and experience that reflect the will of the people.”

Members of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania met in Harrisburg for their Annual Winter Meeting and chose to endorse the following candidates for statewide judicial office: Judge Joan Oriemelvin for Supreme Court, Judge Judy Olson, Sallie Updyke Mundy and Temp

Smith to run for the three vacancies on the Superior Court, Kevin Brobson and Al Frioni to run for the two vacancies on the Commonwealth Court. Members also voted to endorse the Superior Court Judge Maureen Lally-Green for retention this November.

Leadership

The Republican National Committee has elected Michael Steele as Chairman and I believe that this is a very positive step for our party. Lt. Governor Steele will provide the spark and drive that is needed as the GOP moves forward in these difficult times. At the State level, we also elected our leadership team for the next four years. The Republican Party of Pennsylvania has re-elected Chairman Rob Gleason and Vice Chair Joyce

Haas to serve another term leading the Party. Joseph “Skip” Brion of Chester County was elected to the position of Treasurer, John

McNally of Dauphin County was elected to serve as Party Secretary and Peg Ferraro of Northampton County was re-elected to serve as Assistant Secretary.

In addition to endorsing judicial candidates and electing our leadership team, the State Committee also passed the 2009 budget with a projected income of \$5,020,000 and projected expenses of \$4,541,200.



Michael Steele
National GOP Chairman

Upcoming Events

- ▶ Bedford County Republican Spring Dinner at Heartland Hall, April 16th

Contact Jesse or any Bedford County Committee member for tickets

- ▶ Primary Elections May 19th

Contact Information

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The Update

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Jesse W. Topper, PA State Committeeman

A Positive Voice for Bedford County
