

The Update

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

February 2011

Fellow Republicans

While Republican victories in 2010 were celebrated, the clear sentiment from the Republican Party of Pennsylvania's winter meeting was that there is still great and difficult work to be done. I would like to take this opportunity to focus on what I believe to be our top three priorities of this year. First of all, there is a responsibility that comes with being in the majority. We must encourage our public servants as they make the tough decisions that will be necessary to put our commonwealth and our country back on the right track. Second, we must take the momentum from the last two election cycles and deliver victory for our candidates in the local and municipal elections throughout Pennsylvania. Finally, we have two statewide judicial races that are extremely important and it is critical that we elect two conservative judges to fill those seats. In the words of Lt. Governor Jim Cawley, "Do not let up!"



In November's general election, Pennsylvania sent five new members to the United States House of Representatives making us the number one state in seats won from incumbent Democrats. We secured the majority in the State House with a 112-91 advantage and continue to hold a strong 30-20 majority in the State Senate. We also elected Tom Corbett as our Governor and Pat Toomey as one of our U.S. Senators. Not too bad for a "blue" state, right? However, our efforts on behalf of these men and women must not end with their election to office. Now the governing begins, and our leaders will need our support in the community while they make difficult decisions, especially regarding spending and the budget process. Many good organizations will feel the pain from these necessary cuts and that pain could turn into resentment and anger toward our leaders. However, the future of our children depends on the serious reduction of the size and scope of government at every level and it is up to us to not only hold our public servants accountable, but also to offer our support when they stand their ground and do what's right in the face of political consequences. So let's stand with Carl Metzgar, Dick Hess, John Eichelberger, Bill Shuster, Pat Toomey, and Tom Corbett as they represent us in these challenging times.

As to the second point, let me remind you that there are no "off-year" elections. These local elections will have more of a direct impact on our everyday lives than our statewide and federal elections. Educate yourself on the races and candidates who will appear on the May 17th Primary ballot and make an informed decision when you cast your vote. I also wish to

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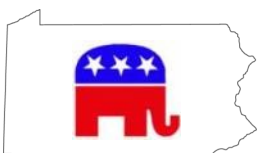
Fellow Republicans

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say that local primaries are always difficult for local parties. Republicans are running against fellow Republicans and that has the ability to cause hurt feelings, bitterness, and distrust. We must not allow that to happen! Each one of us has candidates who we will support and support vigorously, but when the primary is over, unity must and will be achieved. Lincoln stated that, "A house divided against itself cannot stand" and I agree with that statement. I encourage you to work hard for your candidates, as I will, but also realize that these are men and woman who are simply trying to make their community better and we should not make this election personal in any way.

Lastly, I would encourage you to become involved in the election for Superior Court and Commonwealth Court. There was lively debate as to whether or not the State Committee should endorse in this race and a vote not to endorse was won in the Central Caucus. However, on the floor of the general meeting, the vote to endorse was won by a two to one margin. The Republican Party of Pennsylvania has endorsed Vic Stabile for the Superior Court seat and Anne Covey for the Commonwealth Court seat. I respect both of these individuals and I believe them both to be conservatives who will represent us well on the bench. If you would like information on these races or have any questions regarding the endorsement process, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss these issues with you. As always, I would be glad to speak with any group or organization that has questions about candidates, the statewide campaign process, or anything else with which I might be able to assist. You may e-mail me at jtopper@jessetopper.com or call me at 814-285-1113.

In service,



The Lincoln Day Dinner

On Friday, February 11th, the Republican Party of Pennsylvania hosted its annual Lincoln Day Dinner. State Committee members and guests heard from Lt. Governor Jim Cawley as he reported on the tremendous progress being made by the Corbett/Cawley administration. The keynote speaker for the evening was U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions of Texas who spoke of the work being done by the newly elected Republican majority in the House of Representatives. Most of the members of the Pennsylvania House Delegation were in attendance, including our Congressman Bill Shuster who presented the Committee with the U.S. House report the next day.



**U.S. Congressman Sessions with Jesse
at the Lincoln Day Dinner**

Thoughts from Tonya PA State Committeewoman

I must say that when planning to attend the Republican State Committee meeting a few weeks ago, I anticipated a time of celebration, basking in the glory of victory, being patted on the back for the hard work that we committee members had put forth to garner such election victories.

Although this was a portion of the meeting, the primary message was one that was most soundly delivered by Lt. Governor Jim Cawley, "DO NOT LET UP NOW!" The election was won, but the work is yet to be done. The budget cuts are coming, some we will like and some we won't, but they are necessary. Local government elections are upon us and he stressed the importance of keeping our Republican values in place locally.



And of course, the name Ronald Reagan was on everyone's lips, as we celebrate what would have been his 100th birthday on Feb. 6th of this year. This prompted me to do some reading, refreshing myself on Reagan's' accomplishments. I found this quote from his inaugural address in 1981:

"For decades, we have piled deficit upon deficit, mortgaging our future and our children's future for the temporary convenience of the present. To continue this long trend is to guarantee tremendous social, cultural, political, and economic upheavals. You and I, as individuals, can, by borrowing, live beyond our means, but for only a limited period of time. Why, then, should we think that collectively, as a nation, we are not bound by that same limitation?" —Inaugural address, Jan. 20, 1981

So as the budget cuts come, remember that we all must make some sacrifice in order to preserve this great nation.

Tonya Clark

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Important Dates

March 8th – Last Day to circulate and file nomination petitions

April 18th – Last day to REGISTER before the primary

April 28th – The Reagan Dinner (Bedford County Republican Party Spring Dinner)

May 10th – Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot

May 13th – Last day for County Board of Elections to receive civilian absentee ballots

May 17th – Primary Election Day

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A Positive Voice for Bedford County

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