

## Milliron & Goodman LLC Government Relations PSACF Board Meeting Report

### Elections

2014 is a gubernatorial election year for Pennsylvania. Governor Corbett is running for re-election (which is fantastic for PSACF because he has been very supportive of County Fairs) and will know his Democratic opponent soon. Earlier this year there were 10 Democrats competing to be the next Governor of the Commonwealth. Now, 3 months later, the list has been narrowed down to 4: Tom W. Wolf, Rob M. McCord, Kathleen A. McGinty, and Allyson Schwartz.

- Tom Wolf is a well established businessman from York; the President and CEO of the Wolf Organization (a company that distributes building products) and a past PA Secretary of Revenue. Poll numbers have “Wolf” leading the Democratic Primary race.
- Rob McCord is the current Treasurer of Pennsylvania and has been since 2009. He is well known to the people of the Commonwealth and has a strong grasp on how politics in this state work. “McCord” has won statewide elections twice.
- Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz is a United States Representative serving parts of Montgomery County and Northeast Philadelphia for 9 years.
- Katie McGinty is a former PA Department of Environmental Protection Secretary. She also served as an advisor to Vice President Al Gore, and a key environmental advisor to President Bill Clinton.

The Primary Election is on May 20<sup>th</sup> and will clarify who the Democratic candidate will be in the General Election. November 4<sup>th</sup> will confirm who Pennsylvania’s next Governor will be.

In addition to the election for Governor, half of the Senate (those in even number districts) and the entire House are up for re-election. There are a large majority of legislators that have made retirement announcements and, statements that they are running for various different offices. The following is the list of who is retiring or running for a new position

- Senator Mike Brubaker (R - Lancaster)
- Senator Mike Waugh (R - York) - resigned from the Senate 1/12/2014 and is now the Executive Director of the state Farm Show
- Senator Ted Erickson (R - Delaware)
- Rep. Jerry Stern (R - Blair)
- Senator Jim Ferlo (D - Allegheny)
- Rep. Chris Ross (R - Chester)
- Rep. Phyllis Mundy (D - Luzerne)
- Rep. Dick Stevenson (R - Mercer)
- Rep. Ryan Aument (R - Lancaster) - running for District 36 Senate Seat
- Rep. Gordon Denlinger (R - Lancaster) - running for District 36 Senate Seat
- Rep. Mike McGeehan (D - Philadelphia)
- Senator Bob Robbins (R - Mercer)

- Rep. RoseMarie Swanger (R - Lebanon)
- Rep. Mario Scavello (R - Monroe) - running for the newly created Monroe County Senate Seat
- Rep. Todd Rock (R - Franklin)
- Rep. Paul Clymer (R - Bucks)
- Rep. Nick Micozzie (R - Delaware)
- Rep. Sam Smith (R - Jefferson) \*current Speaker of the House
- Rep. Gary Haluska (D - Sambria)
- Rep. Ron Miller (R - York)
- Rep. Ed Neilson (D - Philadelphia)
- Senator Richard Kasunic (D - Fayette)
- Rep. Greg Lucas (R - Erie) - running for District 50 Senate Seat
- Rep. Deberah Kula (D - Fayette) - running for District 32 Senate Seat
- Rep. Michele Brooks (R - Mercer) - running for District 50 Senate Seat

For the past 3 years, the entire General Assembly has been controlled by the Republican party. After November 4th the tallies of D's to R's will declare their new leaders. Our firm suspects that the House ratio will be closer but that the Republicans will continue to be the majority party within the House of Representatives. In the Senate, there is a very good chance that the Republicans could be in a difficult fight because the Democrats are eager to close the gap. Nonetheless, the numbers will close. 2014 will be a good year to get out to the polls and exercise our civic duty of voting.

### **Budget**

The 2013 PA budget, thanks to Tom Corbett and the General Assembly, included \$3 million dollars to Pennsylvania County Fairs. We exceeded our goal of \$2.5 million which was a huge victory and a testament of the commitment of our members. As the 2014 budget conversations are heating up, Milliron and Goodman LLC has been very pleased with all of the preliminary documents that we have seen. These documents have shown that County Fairs will be funded by the Race Horse Development Fund, like it has been previously. This coincides with the Lieutenant Governor's remarks at the Convention; "fairs will be funded."

Milliron & Goodman has been meeting with several legislators that are instrumental to the budget process and have had good results. We ask that you continue to contact your legislators and talk to them about the importance of our fairs; a key industry in PA, including agriculture, education and tourism. The legislators take the Governor's proposal and negotiate to come up with the final budget. PSACF needs to continue to advocate for budget dollars.

### **Contact**

If you have any questions regarding our report, do not hesitate to contact our office at 717.232.5322. We have an open door policy and are always willing to provide advice or any information that you may require.