

**PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Joe Hackett
Candidate for PA House District 161
July 22, 2010
12:00 pm

1. What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly?

The first thing, I am a career law enforcement guy and a coach. I am a uniter and I can bring people together. There is too much infighting. I look forward to working as a team with my good friends up there, Tom Killion, Bill Adolph, and Steve Barrar. I do not think that we should tax working Pennsylvanians. I think that we need to cut the fat. I think that my law enforcement background will help me with that. Building that team together, we will be able to get these goals accomplished.

2. What do you believe are the major problems facing the Commonwealth and your legislative district?

Fiscal irresponsibility is currently the major problem facing the Commonwealth. I do not have an accounting background. We all need to make sure that we are looking at what we are spending. I think that at the state and national level, you need to have that evaluation. People are fed up with how things are operating.

3. Would you support or oppose legislation which would increase taxes relative to the real estate transaction, such as the realty transfer tax and/or taxes on services?

I am not in favor of raising any taxes. I do not want to do anything that will stop small business or larger business from coming into this state. I would not be for any tax that would stifle the growth of business in Pennsylvania.

4. The property tax is the principal source of revenue for localities to fund schools, but is also a burden to the Commonwealth's citizens and reduces the affordability of home ownership. What do you believe is the best way to provide adequate funding to our schools while also supplying relief from property taxes?

I would like to look into gambling and the casinos. I think that we can get more out of that industry to help with our school situation. I do not know if our school districts are run as efficiently as they should be. It is something that we have to work with. I think that we need to have a better plan to move forward.

5. Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code provides local municipalities authority for comprehensive planning and zoning. What sort of authority do you believe local governments should have in this area?

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Locally it is a money maker. It is a revenue generator.

6. Many properties in Pennsylvania suffer from blight as a result of tenant neglect and/or absentee property management. What role do you believe government should play in this area?

Tenant neglect. I investigate fraud and abuse of the system. We need to police these issues. This is something that we should get involved in.

7. States are struggling with the issue of providing affordable housing to its residents. What do you feel are the necessary components to address this issue?

There are some needs to be a plan to provide for that in the Commonwealth.

8. Do you favor or oppose legislation that limits the right of individuals to use their private property?

It is a balancing act. I am a fan of less government, but you do have to keep an eye on these things. We do need some type of oversight.

9. What is your position on campaign finance reform in Pennsylvania and to what extent do you believe PAC's should be restricted in state legislative campaigns?

I do not think that they should be restricted as long as there is transparency. You should be able to stand up and support candidates. It costs money to run campaigns. I do not agree with everybody all of the time on every issue, but I will keep my door open.

10. What are your views of the REALTOR® profession and the role of your local REALTORS® in this community?

I have a great respect for REALTORS®. My brother is involved in the mortgage industry; my sister has been involved in Gerry Greisser's Trident Group.

11. Please outline your campaign's grassroots efforts.

Bill Adolph – Tier 1 for HRCC

Cheryl – door to door program, marketing program

Knocking on doors...good team setup

Mike Madrin, Ilene Bolter, Hackett volunteers

We have raised \$140,000 in the 08 campaign, we have a goal of \$200,000

We have \$48,000.

We will have a poll in late September.

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12. Has your campaign been endorsed by any other state or local organization?

Every building trade has endorsed me

Law enforcement

PA police

Chamber PAC - PA Chamber

Chester Firefighters