

**PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

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Candidate for PA House District 161
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10:45 am

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

I would like to pick up the bar where Brian Lentz has left it. Since last September, I have been working very hard to see what I can do to solve problems for people in the 161st. Real estate taxes are one of my main concerns. I am also very concerned with funding for our public education. Currently we are 15-16th in the world with people with a college education. We need to give young people the best opportunities. Those are two very big concerns for me.

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

The big issue in the 161st is jobs. The way the district is configured, it is almost one hundred percent small business. The way the economy has been, small business owners tend to retract and go into protect mode. Providing them with the tools to hire new employees and expand their business is a must.

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?

Making the transfer tax flexible during this difficult economic situation will aid people in buying a house. Anything we can do to ease the burden and encourage home ownership, we should do. As far as the sales tax on services, it gets very complicated. It creates situations where you have services that will be taxed multiple times. It adds a difficult burden to many businesses.

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?

There a number things that we can do to provide relief. We need to put the extraction tax in place on the Marcellus Shale natural gas. Everything that I know about it, the tax does not hinder jobs. The gas companies are happy to pay it. It is my understanding that the revenue from the wells would be \$100-200 million dollars, and that would present some much needed solutions for us. The trick is that everyone with have their own places where they want money to go. I believe that money needs to go to public education and tax relief.

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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?

The local authorities know their areas the best, so they should be able to decide what happens in their communities. I believe that the local municipalities should be able to control their communities.

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?

That all comes down to code enforcement, and the inspection of properties. Local governments know their communities the best. They should be aware of these properties, and they should follow up with that. If they ignore these issues, then that is a pass for decline. It is something local communities need to stay on top of.

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?

Affordable housing is a must. Because most of the 161st is made up of hard working blue collar employees, there has to be larger numbers of affordable housing for people. A great number of our blue collar workers are unemployed or working at low paying jobs. We are getting into situations where people cannot afford their housing. We need to maintain a level of affordable housing for everyone. It is something that we have to do.

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

It comes back to local communities and they are in a better position to make these decisions. People should be able to use their properties and make those decisions.

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?

The way that campaigns are funded...anybody can receive a check from anyone for any amount. We have seen some serious issues with the financing of campaigns. We need to look at the ethics involved and look at the rules. I am in favor of making the rules more clear and more unified so that we can eliminate any of the issues that we have seen.

10. What are your views of the REALTOR® profession and the role of your local

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REALTORS® in this community?

We have used a REALTOR. It is an indication of what the other REALTORS are like...I am right there. My overall experience has been great. The result has been exceptional.

11. Please outline your campaign's grassroots efforts.

Phone banks, getting the message out anyway we can. I am going to committee meetings. Swarthmore College has a number of student volunteers on the campaigns. Our campaign is using all the tools we can to get the message out. The best thing is knocking on doors and talking to people.

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

Currently, we have endorsements from State Representatives Bryan Lentz and Greg Vitali. We also have endorsements from APSCUF and Steelworkers Local 10-1. We are also working very hard to add to our list of endorsements.