

RESPONSE OF JACK WAGNER

April 14, 2010

AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

1.) Do you support the right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms?

Yes.

2.) Would you support a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman?

I voted for Act 124 of 1996 as a State Senator.

3.) Do you support human relations laws which include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression?

Yes.

4.) Do you support strengthening enforcement of the state's obscenity laws?

I share your concern and want to review the details of such a proposal.

5.) Do you support the legalization of the medical use of marijuana?

Yes, but with strict controls to prevent abuse. In situations when an individual is dying of cancer or other terminal illness, this may be the only effective alternative.

6.) Please state your position on each of the following: (a.) parental consent before a minor can get an abortion, (b) informed consent before any abortion can be performed, (c) health inspection of abortion facilities.

Support.

7.) Do you support development/taxation of the recently found Marcellus shale natural gas deposits?

Yes. The new Marcellus Shale energy resources give the Commonwealth an unparalleled opportunity in the coming years to create tens of thousands of good paying, high quality jobs to our communities, reduce the cost of natural gas, and bring in much-needed revenues to state government. However, while I am committed to maximizing these new

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resources, I am equally committed to ensuring that it is done in an environmentally responsible way. As Governor, I will make sure that the industry understands that these resources belong to all Pennsylvanians, that we – not outsiders – intend to reap the benefits, and that we will not tolerate any harm to our precious environment. I oppose drilling on state park lands.

I will also insist that the costs of the increased government oversight necessary to build and monitor this new industry be borne by the industry itself. I support a reasonable severance tax, with a portion of the revenues dedicated to environmental restoration, preservation, enforcement, and oversight at the state and local levels. Pennsylvania cannot impose the highest tax in the country or else we will kill the new industry before it takes hold in the state and lose the energy and job creation benefits that it can bring.

8.) For years property tax relief has been sought by many Pennsylvania landowners. How can this become a reality?

Throughout my career, I have consistently supported moving away from property taxes to other forms of taxation. However, any such change must alleviate, not exacerbate, the funding inequities in public education. Furthermore, any such change must receive the support of all stakeholders.

I will also ensure that homeowners receive the property tax relief that they were promised from the legalization of casino gaming. My recent special report found that potentially hundreds of thousands of homeowners were interested in property tax relief from gaming revenues but had not applied for it because of the state's complicated, fragmented, and cumbersome application process. I will fix the process and place responsibility for it under a single state entity, such as the Department of Revenue.

9.) Do you support House Bill 1660, the Family and Business Health Security Act, and Senate Bill 400 - that would create a statewide, comprehensive health care system?

The new federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its impact on Pennsylvania have yet to be determined. We are anxious to make that determination and continue to enhance the quality of health care in the Commonwealth.

10.) Do you support requiring a photo ID to vote in all elections?

I support the use of a valid form of identification that is sufficient proof that individuals voting are who they say they are.

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On a scale of one to ten (one being very conservative and 10 being very liberal) how would you describe your political philosophy?

I try to avoid labels for myself and others. I can tell you this – I have always believed that government can be a positive force in citizens' lives, provided that it delivers quality service at market, or below-market, cost. My passion for public service is based in my desire to help people cope with the government that serves them. That's how I started – I decided to run for a seat on the Pittsburgh City Council after city government failed to provide adequate service to my neighborhood. When I took office as Auditor General five years ago, I introduced a mission statement that summarizes my philosophy – we are dedicated to improving the performance of government so that it improves the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians. I will continue to pursue that mission as Governor.

I want to add that the first priority of the next Governor must be to assess the fiscal condition of state government and develop a comprehensive plan to maintain vital government services without raising taxes. My experience as Auditor General makes me uniquely suited for this task. I know firsthand where the waste, fraud, and abuse are in government programs. Especially in these challenging economic times, we must work to reduce the cost of government by cutting it with a scalpel, so that critical services can still be provided.

The next Governor must also immediately begin to restore the public's faith in government. This requires a record of integrity and a commitment to reform. I was the first statewide official to condemn bonuses in state government and propose banning them. I have long fought to reduce the size of the General Assembly and to hold a constitutional convention. Being Auditor General is about leading the fight for transparency, accountability, and reform in all areas of state government. I will continue to do so as Governor.

CONTACT INFO:

Jack Wagner for Governor
P.O. Box 99995
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233
Ph: (412) 388-1100
Fax: (412) 388-1102
jack@jackwagner.org
www.jackwagner.org

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/Jack-Wagner-for-Governor/177726492504?ref=mf>

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/WagnerGov2010>

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