

- Gov. Corbett's proposed budget is full of **misguided policies, missed opportunities and failed promises.**
  - **Don't be fooled by the small funding increases peppered throughout his budget to appeal to special interests.** These **small increases do not come close to rectifying the draconian cuts** of his previous budgets.
  - **And don't be fooled by "flat-funding";** it's just another way of saying he is **"locking in" the harmful budget cuts** of his previous budgets.
- As policy makers, we should be concerned about: **Lottery Privatization.**
  - Especially the **generous compensation terms granted to British-based Camelot** that reduces money available to fund programs for our seniors. **Every dollar in Camelot's pocket is one less dollar for seniors.**
  - At first glance, an increase of \$58 million for senior programs may seem to be a winning ticket, until compared with the \$110 million increase for Lottery-funded senior programs in last year's budget.
  - **And he wants to spend 30 percent more on Lottery advertising to do it!**
- As policy makers, we should be concerned about: **Liquor Privatization.**
  - **Gov. Corbett's wants to sell off yet another very valuable state asset,** which will result in **banking on one-time funds from selling the stores** which may not come to fruition, **for temporary education funding over four years.**
  - Just two years ago, Gov. Corbett criticized using temporary federal money for public schools.
  - Instead of a quick sale for a short-term chunk of money, we can increase the profitability of the liquor stores adding to a recurring revenue stream, simply **by modernizing the liquor laws.**
- As policy makers, we should be concerned about: **Education Funding.**
  - **What are the long-term consequences of seriously underfunding our public schools?**
  - What will it mean to future generations and Pennsylvania's ability to compete in the global economic market place?
  - Gov. Corbett **increases the basic education subsidy by only \$90 million** (or about 1.7 percent) – and it's the largest appropriation in the education budget for our classrooms. This is a tiny increase after previous years of deep cuts. This so called increase only brings **total funding to \$5.49 billion, which is far less compared to the \$5.8 billion in 2010/11** - the last budget prior to Gov. Corbett taking office.
  - And for the **third year** in a row, **Gov. Corbett proposes to eliminate funding** to items impacting children in the classroom including the Reimbursement of Charter Schools; Education Assistance Program and Intermediate Units.
  - Only under this governor is **"flat-funding" something as important as higher education** worthy of a press conference. Support for public institutions of higher education remains **significantly LOWER** (5 to 19 percent) **than before Gov. Corbett took office.**
- As policy makers, we should be concerned about: **State Pensions.** Gov. Corbett's proposed pension solution involves:
  - **Tinkering with retirement plans for current employees and is sure to be mired in the courts.**
  - Basing his budget on these theoretical pension savings; savings that could well be overturned.
  - **Burdening our future generations with debt** by reducing the employer contribution requirement in the short-term.
  - Changing to a different style retirement plan will cost money in order **to run two types of retirement plans at the same time.**
  - **Breaking promises to our teachers and other public servants by creating false choices.** State employees have consistently paid their fair share into their retirement funds.
  - School districts could plan for their increased pension costs, but they were **blindsided by \$1 billion in cuts to education** funding.

- As policy makers, we should be concerned about: **Corporate Favors.**
  - Gov. Corbett continues to:
    - Fail to suspend the phase-out of the **capital stock and franchise tax**;
    - Fail to close the **Delaware loophole**;
    - Fail to enact a **real severance tax on Marcellus Shale**; and
    - Fail to enact a **tax on smokeless tobacco**.
  - Instead, Gov. Corbett proposes even **more corporate favors** by irresponsibly setting a plan in place to reduce corporate tax rates over 10 years, when he will no longer be in office and have to find a way to pay for it.
- As policy makers, we should be concerned about: **Health Care (Medicaid) Expansion.**
  - We are missing out on a **huge opportunity to provide health insurance to half a million uninsured Pennsylvanians** and have the **federal government pay 100 percent of the costs for the first three years**.
  - If you do the math, **it doesn't make sense for us not to do it**. A relatively **small state investment** equates to **tens of billions of federal dollars** infused into the state's economy.
  - The longer Gov. Corbett drags his feet, the more Pennsylvanians stand to lose.
  - In order to get three full years of 100 percent federal matching funds, we need to act now in the 2013/14 budget. He has left it out of his budget, and has yet to come to the table for a discussion. Don't let politics get in the way of doing what is right for the health of Pennsylvanians and what makes financial sense.
- And finally, as policy makers, we should be concerned about: **Transportation Funding.**
  - **Gov. Corbett's failure to adequately address Pennsylvania's crumbling transportation infrastructure** – highways, bridges and mass transit – **in a timely fashion**.
  - We've been waiting for a solution **since Corbett took office—nearly 800 days—**and today he presents a plan to us that is **woefully short of the \$4.5 billion need to "fuel" our economy**. His proposed solution doesn't even get us half-way there. *(It's the equivalent to an air ball, when we need a slam dunk!)*
  - Our crumbling infrastructure **requires a comprehensive, substantial and bi-partisan funding plan**.
  - Every day of inaction costs us another million dollars!
  - Finding a solution is critical for the safety and quality of life of all of our citizens.
- As I said at the beginning, Gov. Corbett's proposed budget is full of **misguided policies, missed opportunities and failed promises**.
  - Selling off valuable state assets.
  - Tiny increase in education funding, after previous years of deep cuts.
  - Tinkering with retirement plans for current employees sure to end up in court and burden our future generations with debt.
  - Continuing his corporate favors.
  - Missing out on a huge opportunity to provide health insurance to uninsured Pennsylvanians and have the federal government pay the costs.
  - Failing to adequately address Pennsylvania's crumbling transportation infrastructure.

###