

**How will your personal religious beliefs influence your public leadership?**

I think you can see how faith has already influenced the decisions I have had to make. I am a practicing Catholic. Growing up and attending a Catholic school, my faith is part of who I am. All of my decisions are truly made in what I think is in the best interest of Pennsylvanians as a whole, but my decision making is certainly grounded in the morals that I learned throughout my entire life. I never make any decisions lightly, particularly when it comes to moral issues.

**How should Pennsylvania address the needs of the poor and what about the elderly?**

Well, we have done quite a bit. Unfortunately, the need and requests for funding far exceeds what we can provide. Sometimes I wish we had loaves and fishes to multiply, like in the Gospels, but we don't. One of the things that I do look at is how efficiently we use the taxpayers' money to get as much done as we can with less, just like the Church does.

When it comes to the elderly in particular, as Attorney General, we established the Elder Abuse Task Force. In our 2013-2014 budget, we made the largest investment in programs for older adults in Pennsylvania history. I also created the Pennsylvania Long Term Care Commission to guide our policies, hear input from stakeholders, and to enhance and streamline our delivery of services. My Secretary of Aging, Brian Duke, is doing a great job working with the Area Agencies on Aging across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. One of the growing problems that we know about in this country, not just the state, is Alzheimer's disease. We created an Alzheimer's Disease State Planning Committee to develop a comprehensive state action plan to combat this disease. So rather than trying to put out fires we are asking how do we address the issue and provide support to the families.

One of the things that shocked me when I became governor was the number of physically and mentally disabled people who were on waiting lists to receive services - people who cannot care for themselves. Caretakers are often their elderly relatives, particularly parents. We have invested an additional \$68 million for older Pennsylvanians and persons with disabilities to get them off the waiting list and allow them to stay in their homes and communities.

**What is your view on expanding protection for unborn children in Pennsylvania?**

I have a very different perspective on this issue now than ever before. A few years ago, my daughter adopted a three-day-old baby boy. Liam is our grandson and he is the light of our life. His birth mother chose to take him to term and put him up for adoption. The birth father could not support him either. Liam's birth mother chose life so now he has a loving adoptive mother and loving grandparents, and he is the happiest kid around. I cannot help but think that God instilled this happiness because Liam realizes he is alive and is in an incredibly loving home. Now we know his birth parents are very tall. Even though he is 2 ½ years old, he looks like a 4-

year old. When he was recently baptized he touched the water being poured on his head and said, “What are you doing? ...what’s that for?” He is an affirmation of the value of life.

I have always been there for the unborn, we will continue following and upholding the law. The legislation that stemmed from the Gosnell case is probably the best example of what we have done to protect life. Now abortion facilities have to meet the same safety standards as other surgical facilities. I also signed the bill that allows Pennsylvania to opt out of insurance coverage of elective abortions in the health care exchanges under ObamaCare.

**The implementation of the Affordable Care Act is still in progress. What is your vision for fully implementing health care reform in Pennsylvania?**

We are still in negotiations with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We did not believe it was appropriate to just expand Medicaid; we wanted to make it responsive, responsible and affordable to taxpayers in Pennsylvania.

Right now Pennsylvania is number two in the nation for per capita cost of Medicaid at \$7,200 per person. Missouri is number one. We paid for a lot of options that we do not need. We have been negotiating with HHS to allow us to reform the entire system, lower those costs and let us save money. Under my plan, we will be able to save \$120- \$130 million and have a private-payer process that is more customer-driven. We have negotiated with many health insurance providers across the state. They are ready to provide choices to individuals who can use Medicaid money to purchase coverage from the private sector.

If you go to the doctor once a year showing that you are invested in your healthcare, we cut that premium in half. If you go look for a job, we will lower the premium. We want people to get jobs to get them off Medicaid and get healthcare for themselves. I think it is a much more holistic way than just to expand Medicaid. My concern with outright expansion is the federal government does not keep its promises. It is that simple.

**School choice. What is your opinion on School Choice?**

I support school choice. It has been hard to get school choice through the legislature. The best way we have been able to give some choice is through the EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) and the OSTC (Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit) programs. I think the OSTC – which my administration established – has to be tested a bit further before we will be in a position to expand it, but the foundation has been set in order to do that.

**Your position on the death penalty?**

As a prosecutor, I am going to follow the laws and when it is a very heinous crime I do not have difficulty supporting the death penalty. I pray about it all the time. Under the law in

Pennsylvania I am to sign any death warrant that comes to me. If I do not sign it, the Secretary of Corrections is going to sign it. So I have to follow the law and I do.

**Efforts have been made to mandate Catholic institutions to provide services that would be contrary to their moral teachings and religious values. Would you support legislation to provide conscience protection?**

If it gets to my desk I would support such legislation. I think *Hobby Lobby* was a very good decision. Government telling a religious institution what to do is not how I interpret the Constitution of the United States. Depending on the piece of legislation, I would more likely than not be supportive.

**How would you address illegal immigration?**

It is a federal issue. I am extremely disappointed that the federal government has not called any of the governors in states where they are sending people. It is a crisis that has been created by their failure to act in the past.

I am concerned about the current wave of children coming here and being moved far away from the border. They truly need to go home to their country of origin, in my opinion. I have the greatest confidence that they will be cared for, but if they are here for any length of time, we need to be sure the federal government lays out a long term plan. I do not trust the federal government. The president has not stepped up the way he should step up on this issue. He must make some decisions, but at least call the governors and let us know. I joined with many of my fellow governors in a letter to tell him he needs to do everything he can to take care of these young people, but get them back to their home country of origin. You cannot obviate the immigration laws at this point.

**What would you like the Catholic public to know about your candidacy? Is there is anything else you would like to say?**

The decisions I make are always made in what I consider to be the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I truly pray about the decisions I have to make. I believe that we are all where we are because God has a plan for us. When I pray I'm asking, "What's your plan?"

There is one thing I would like people to know: the truth about education spending. Today we spend more state dollars on education than any time in the history of Pennsylvania, over \$12 billion is budgeted for education.

The reason I say this is because I know many Catholic children go to public schools and every Catholic taxpayer helps to pay for education, whether it is public or private. I think it is

important for the people of Pennsylvania to know the truth. As the Bible says, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” I do greatly value education. I value the education I got at St. Mary’s. I value the education I got in Catholic law school.

We need to continue improving our education system, but at the same time we do have to start controlling the costs. One of the huge cost drivers in public education today is the pension system. If it continues to grow and we do not control it, we are not going to have any discretionary money for spending on education or anything else.

The increases in school district pensions over the last ten years are significant. People may not realize that 163 school districts have waivers from the referendum requirement for raising property taxes to pay for pensions. People are now paying attention when they write that check for their personal income taxes and the property tax on their homes or businesses. People are watching their taxes go up to meet this pension obligation. They are saying, “I have to dip into my pension to pay for somebody else’s pension? Is that fair?” We have to get the legislature to address this issue immediately.

The three main drivers of school district budgets are salaries and benefits, special education, and pensions. They are huge. When you add to that the pensions of state employees and the legislators, we have to find \$610 million new dollars every year. In 2017-2018, in order to make all the pension payments we need to make, it will be \$3.3 billion in new money. We cannot continue. It is unsustainable.