

**Forum for a Better Pennsylvania
PA Gubernatorial Candidates' Issues Questionnaire**

1. Statewide urban-focused job creation program. In the midst of a national and statewide African-American unemployment crisis, Pennsylvania's urban centers, such as Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Erie, are suffering from disproportionately high joblessness. That situation creates economic and social hardship for Pennsylvanians and negatively impacts the statewide economy. To address that challenge, we believe the next governor should support an urban-focused job creation program. If elected governor, would you support such an initiative?

YES

As a Montgomery County commissioner, I created the county's first-ever economic development fund, which is revitalizing older communities and downtowns, and is attracting well-paying local jobs. I will apply that urban-focused approach to job creation statewide as governor.

2. Among other things, House Bills 2140-2149 and companion legislation, Senate Bills 1210-1218, would ensure that small businesses and minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged-owned businesses across the state have fair access to contracts let by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; create a cabinet-level secretary for minority and women business development; and facilitate timely payments to subcontractors on state projects. Does your campaign support passage of these bills through the House and Senate?

YES

3. Disclosure of diversity profile of gubernatorial campaigns, especially at senior levels. A critical indicator for ascertaining the projected accessibility and support that the Commonwealth's 1.3 million black Pennsylvanians will have in the next Governor's Office is the degree to which African Americans are currently included at senior staff or consultancy levels in the candidates' campaigns. Please indicate whether your campaign includes such input and describe that involvement?

YES

My campaign's small yet diverse senior staff includes men and women, young and old; white, black, and Asian people; and representation from the LGBT community. I respect and hire qualified, hard-working people, and my administration's staff and advisors will be similarly diverse.

4. Commitment to an accountable and credible diversity initiative for statewide procurement, to include recommended goals of 4, 6, 8, and 10 percent, respectively in the first four years of the new governor's term. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has not demonstrated a stellar track record in the area of supplier diversity. In fact, it is estimated that contracts let to African Americans stand at less than 3 percent of annual total procurement. Will your Administration commit to more reasonable levels of African-American vendor inclusion at the recommended levels?

YES

5. A focus on the appointment of representative levels of meaningful, senior-level staff members and board, agency and commission members, wherever feasible and appropriate. According to a March 2003 report by the General Assembly's Joint State Government Commission, the Governor's Office has the authority to appoint nearly 900 Senate-approved nominees to key statewide boards, agencies and commissions. The rate of such appointments among African-American candidates -- especially at chairmanship levels -- has been disappointingly low. Will your administration commit to an initiative that would produce more representative levels of inclusion in such posts?

YES

6. A commitment to continue to provide adequate levels of funding to the Commonwealth's public schools and charter schools. Given the demographic profile of the School District of Philadelphia and other school districts in high-density, African-American-populated urban centers, we are seeking a commitment to a continuation of adequate levels of funding for those districts. We are also seeking a commitment that the composition of the School Reform Commission (SRC), and other such school district governance/fiduciary bodies, will fairly reflect that demography. Given the critical role that school board chairpersons play in these school districts, we are also interested in the retention of the current SRC chairperson. Will your administration make such commitments?

I am committed to fully funding the state's education funding formula, by shifting Pennsylvania to a graduated income tax and by shifting a greater proportion of education funding to the state (and away from local property tax). I believe all public money should be spent on public schools, and I strongly oppose using any public money for non-public school vouchers.

7. The Pennsylvania Convention Center. We are seeking a commitment that board appointees, executive and senior-level leadership and procurement activities at the expanded facility be appropriately inclusive of African Americans -- as managers, trustees and vendors. There has been no regular, ongoing disclosure of operations-based supplier diversity or management composition at that facility, to date. Will you make such commitments and disclosures, if elected governor?

YES

8. We are seeking executive-level elected official support for review of race-based inequities in sentencing across the Commonwealth, and the development of a credible, statewide re-entry initiative. Will you make such commitments?

YES

In Montgomery County we have a successful re-entry program operating as a public-private partnership providing job training, job counseling, drug and alcohol programs, mental health services, anger management, and family counseling, which is projected to reduce recidivism by almost 50%. I will work to develop a statewide program on this successful model.

9. We are seeking a commitment to an enhanced focus on preparing young Pennsylvanians for careers in three of the Commonwealth's anticipated economic growth areas -- education, healthcare and the sciences. Such a program should include a discrete focus on underrepresented African-American and minority students. Will you make such a commitment, should you be elected?

YES

Campaign: **Joe Hoeffel 2010**
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