



PENNSYLVANIA NOW TIMES

Pennsylvania NOW Inc.

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What are They Thinking!?

Here's what the federal and state legislators are saying:

"Cut the state budget and funding for education. Oh, & yea, to make sure we really cut education, take more funding out of public schools & send it to private & parochial schools." (Governor' Corbett's 2011-2012 budget proposal (education cuts) and PA SB 1 (school vouchers)).

"Defund Planned Parenthood" (US HR 1 and US HR 3).

"Let's shut down all abortion clinics" (PA HB 574 and SB 3).

"Taxes? We can't tax Marcellus Shale. Why should we? The oil and gas industry keeps us in office." (Governor's 2011-12 budget proposal)

"Kids? Their parents can't show me their papers. Why should they be fed? Keep 'em out of the food banks and domestic violence shelters." (PA HB 41 and SB 9)

These are just some of the messages being sent to women and children this year by the Tea Party and the Republicans who control the US House of Representatives, the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Governor's office in Harrisburg.

What are you thinking!?

It appears as if these conservative legislators believe that women, children, people of color, and internationals are threatening the power of rich white men.

Terry O'Neill, President of National NOW has called these attacks a "war" on women. She says that all of these bills should have new names that more clearly reflect what they actually intend to do. Titles like:

- **"Let the Women Die Act,"** for a federal bill that allows public hospitals to let a pregnant woman die rather than perform a life-saving abortion;
- **"Public Health Nightmare Act,"** that permanently eliminates funding for Title X family planning programs; and
- **"Stupak on Steroids,"** for another bill that permanently outlaws public funding for abortion care and imposes tax penalties

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on companies and employees whose insurance covers abortion.

To that we'd add,

- **"Let's Starve the Kids"** for the state bill that denies women and children access to WIC and food banks if they do not have the paperwork to prove that they are citizens of PA; and
- **"Take Us Back to the Early 19th Century"** for the state budget and vouchers bill that gut public education funding from Kindergarten through college.

We need to stand up and be heard. These attacks must stop. Check out PA NOW's legislative summary starting on p. 5. Pick an issue you are passionate about. And let your legislators know that you are watching. Tell them they need to stop this war on women NOW!

Contact information for your PA legislators can be found at <http://bit.ly/PAGenAssem>.

How to contact Pennsylvania NOW

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PA NOW PAC Voters' Guide

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 17, 2011. The following recommendations by the state NOW Political Action Committee (PA NOW PAC) are presented here for your information. These endorsements are current as of April 20. Any additional endorsements made between now and the May 17 Primary will be posted on our PAC Endorsement page at <http://www.panow.org>. Click on "PA NOW PAC" and then on "PAC Endorsements.."

Pennsylvania NOW PAC Endorsements

The Pennsylvania NOW PAC makes endorsements for statewide and local races. At the State level, there is one opening for Justice on the PA Superior Court and one openings for Justice on the PA Commonwealth Court. At the County level, all County Commissioners or County Executive (Allegheny County) plus all Row Offices are up for election. In addition, some counties have openings for the county-level Court of Common Pleas. At the local and district level, people are running for District Court Justice, Borough and City Councils, Township Supervisors, and Mayors.

The PA NOW PAC has two levels of approval for candidates. "**Endorsement**" is the highest level of endorsement and is given only to those candidates who support all of our issues and will take a leadership position on those issues if elected. "**Support**" is given to those candidates who are good on most of our issues but have a problem with one or two and we believe that these candidates are significantly better than their opposition. As of April 24, all of the listed candidate have received full endorsement. Any additional **endorsements** or **supports** will be posted on our webpage at <http://www.panow.org/pacendorsements.htm> as they are made.

Statewide

Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court (note: you can only vote for one person in this race)

Kathryn Boockvar (D)

<http://www.boockvar.com>

Barbara Behrend Ernsberger (D)

<http://www.ernsbergerforjudge.com>

Allegheny County

Controller

Valerie McDonald Roberts (D)

<http://allieswithvalerie.com>

County Executive

Rich Fitzgerald(D)

<http://www.voterichfitzgerald.com>

Pittsburgh City Council, District 9

Phyllis Copeland-Mitchell (D)

<http://mitchell4citycouncil.org>

Wilksburg Borough Council, 1st Ward

Paige Trice (D)

Wilksburg Borough Council, 2nd Ward

Beverly McCoy (D)

Bucks County

Commissioners (vote for two)

Det Ansinn (D)

<http://www.bucksvictory.com>

Diane Marseglia (D)

<http://www.bucksvictory.com>

Dauphin County

Clerk of Courts

Shamaine Daniels (D)

<http://www.shamainedaniels.com>

<http://espanol.shamainedaniels.com>

Register of Wills & Clerk of the Orphans' Court

Rogette Harris (D)

www.voterogette.com

Lancaster County

Manheim Township Commissioner

Doreen Kreiner (D)

<http://www.kreinerforcommissioner.com>

Montgomery County

Clerk of Courts

Ann Thornburg Weiss

<http://voteweiss.com>

Controller

Diane B. Morgan (D)

<http://dianemorgancontroller.com>

Recorder of Deeds

Linda M. Hee (D)

<http://heefordeeds.com>

The PA NOW PAC needs your help.

In order to put out a voter's guide and to assist NOW endorsed candidates for statewide and local office, we need funds donated directly to the PA NOW PAC. If you are interested in electing public officials who support full equality of women, then please consider donating to the PA NOW PAC. Mail your donation to the **PA NOW PAC, P.O. Box 8614, Wilksburg, PA 15221**. You can also donate online to the PAC via credit card at http://panow.org/PAC_file/PANOWPAC.htm. Thank you!



Proposed Bylaws Amendment

Philadelphia NOW Chapter is proposing an amendment to the Pennsylvania NOW Bylaws to increase the number of chapter delegates on the Pennsylvania NOW State Board based on the number of members in each chapter.

The process for amending the by-laws is as follows (quoting from the bylaws):

The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Convention, State Conference or a special membership meeting called for purposes of amending the bylaws, provided:

A That the amendment has been proposed by the State Executive Committee, State Board or by petition of five (5) per cent of the membership at large or by a Chapter, and

B. That a written notice of the proposed amendment has been mailed to all members in good standing at least thirty (30) days before the meeting of the State Convention, State Conference, or at

special membership meeting called for the purpose of amending the bylaws.

The following presents the proposed change and Philadelphia NOW's rationale for making this change. The vote on this proposal will occur at the PA NOW Convention on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza—Bucks County in Trevese, PA (see article on the Convention on page 3 for further detail).

Proposed Bylaws Change

The rules governing representation at state board meetings were devised 40 years ago.

The current by laws state:

Section IV Structure; C. The State Board; 1. Composition. *The State Board shall be composed of one (1) representative from each chapter having at least ten (10) members and two representatives from each chapter having at least fifty (50) members.*

Philadelphia NOW proposes to change this clause to read:

Proposed change:

Section IV Structure; C. The State Board; 1. Composition. *The State Board shall be composed of one (1)*

representative for chapters with 10-50 members, two (2) representatives for chapters with 51-150 members, three (3) representatives for chapters with 151-250 members, four (4) representatives for chapters with 251-400 members, and five (5) representatives for chapter with 400 members.

Rationale

The following is the rationale given by Philadelphia NOW for proposing this change.

The various units of NOW have different formulas for representation. For example, at the national convention when voting for national officers, a chapter with 300 members has 11 times as many votes as a small chapter with 10 members.

Current rules for representation on state board treat a chapter with 50 members as equivalent to a chapter with 300 members. Both have 2 votes.

The proposed change would mean that a chapter with 300 members would have 4 votes and thus 4 times as many votes as a chapter with 10 members. This is significantly less than the national formula, but would move the state organization in the

direction of a more democratic formula.

Chapters pay dues to the national and state organizations in proportion to the number of their members. For **each** member 22.85 percent goes the chapter, 34.37 percent to the state, and 42.8 percent to the national organization. However, representation on state board is not in proportion to membership; thus there is a considerable gap between the financial contribution of members and their representation.

Philadelphia NOW is not proposing a proportional system. Under a proportional system, a chapter with approximately 300 members would have 30 votes as compared to a chapter with ten members which would have one vote.

The proposed by laws change would merely narrow the gap between a chapter's numbers/ financial contributions and its representation on the state board. It would be a step towards fairer, more democratic representation.



Legislation

PA NOW has been monitoring several pieces of legislation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. These bills have been introduced for possible passage by the General Assembly during this 2011-2012 term. Any bill not passing both houses by the last day of the legislative business in 2012 will have to be reintroduced. Some of these bills are good for women and children. Many of them are bad and reverse our steps towards equality.

The bills are listed by topic area along with a statement of where PA NOW stands on each bill.

Education

SB 1—PA NOW **opposes**. This bill removes funds for public education from struggling school districts by creating a voucher program to send taxpayer monies to private and parochial schools with little or no oversight as to the education provided in these schools. Pennsylvania NOW opposes school vouchers. For more details about why we oppose this bill and what has happened with it, see our series of blogs on SB 1 at <http://bit.ly/eP4AVL>.

Reproductive Justice

SB 3—PA NOW **opposes**

this bill or any similar bill. This bill bans private insurance plans sold in Pennsylvania's state exchange, created under health care reform, from covering even medically necessary abortion procedures. If a person wants to have abortions covered, they will have to seek separate insurance coverage completely outside of the exchange. Passed out of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee on January 25, 2011 by a vote of 12-2 and re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee on March 1, 2011. For more details, read about our opposition on our blog at <http://bit.ly/SB3Jan2011>.

HR 574—PA NOW **opposes** this bill. This bill requires freestanding abortion providers to comply with ambulatory surgical facilities regulations. This bill does not improve patient safety and will force safe providers to close, increase the cost of an abortion by as much as \$1,000, force women to seek care in other states or from marginal or illegal practitioners, and create two overlapping sets of regulations that are in conflict with each other and in violation of the Abortion Control Act. It will have the harshes impact on the poor and

rural women of Pennsylvania. Passed out of the House Health Committee on April 11, 2011 by a vote of 19-4. For more details, read our January press statement at <http://bit.ly/HR574Apr2011>.

Health Care

HB 42—PA NOW **opposes** this bill. "An Act providing for the rights of individuals to purchase private health care insurance; and prohibiting certain governmental action." This bill guts the federal health care insurance law by eliminating penalties for any employer or individual who decides not to be covered by health insurance. Voted out of House Insurance Committee on February 7, 2011 14-9 strictly along party line with 2 non-voting (1D & 1 R). Recommitted to House Appropriations February 8, 2011.

Lesbian Rights

HB 708—PA NOW **supports** this bill. This act creates civil unions in PA for LGBT couples. It does not require clergy to perform services against their religious tenants. Introduced and referred to House Judiciary Committee on February 16, 2011.

SB 586—PA NOW **supports** this bill. An act to add actual or perceived ancestry, disability, gender, gender identity, and sexual

orientation to the Ethnic Intimidation Act (hate crimes). This is the bill that would return these protected classes to the hate crimes bill that were purged by the Supreme Court in 2008 due to the way the legislature passed the original bill. Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee February 18, 2011.

Promoting Diversity & Ending Racial Discrimination

Immigration

HB 41 and SB 9—PA NOW **opposes**. Both bills require identification for "lawful presence" in the United States as a prerequisite to the receipt of public benefits. Among the restrictions are denial of any benefit that the state or local government provides including, in the case of HB 41, access to any local food banks and "services provided to women, infants, and children through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children" (WIC). (Let's starve the kids!). Both also require that the identification be verified through the flawed federal Homeland Security's "Systematic Alien Verification of Entitlement (SAVE)"

(Continued on page 6)

Legislation (cont'd)

database. HB 41 was referred to the House State Government Committee on January 19, 2011. SB 9 was voted out of the Senate State Government Committee on February 8, 2011 by a vote of 8-3 & referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 1, 2011.

HB 857 the "Commonwealth Citizenship Act—PA NOW **opposes** this bill. This bill that is part of Rep. Metcalfe's anti-immigration "National Security Begins at Home" package. This bill seeks to prevent automatic citizenship for children born in the US to illegal aliens. It denies citizenship rights within the border of Pennsylvania to any child born anywhere in the US whose parents aren't either citizens of the US or who are legal resident aliens and who now reside in PA. Referred to House Judiciary on March 1, 2011.

HB 858-PA NOW **opposes**. This is another bill that is part of Rep. Daryl Metcalfe's anti-immigration "National Security Begins at Home" package. This bill requires all PA employers to enroll in the federal E-Verify

program to confirm employee Social Security numbers, and to deny any form of registration (including driver's licenses) to individuals who can not prove that they are legal residents of the US. This bill could cause serious problems for victims fleeing Domestic Violence situations without any identification. Referred to House Labor & Industry Committee on March 1, 2011.

Stopping Violence Against Women

Protection from Abuse

SB 58—PA NOW **supports** this bill. This bill creates a "Sexual Violence Victim Protection Order" for sexual violence victims. Basically, this is a Protection From Abuse law for victims of sexual assault. Voted unanimously out of Senate Judiciary Committee on February 8, 2011 and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee, where it was also voted unanimously out of committee on April 11, 2011.

Human Trafficking

HB 235 & SB 1227 —PA NOW **supports** this bill. This bill mandates the posting of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline, in key locations

throughout the state to provide assistance, tip reporting and training on human trafficking to victims, community members and law enforcement. Posting of signs would be required in airports, train stations and bus stations; welcome centers and rest areas; massage parlors and spas; adult entertainment enterprises featuring nude or partially nude dancing or providing live adult entertainment; hotels & restaurants, bars, taverns, hotels or clubs that have a valid liquor or malt or brewed beverage license; hotels or motels found to be a drug-related nuisance; and truck stops that cater to long-haul truck drivers. Bill is supported by the Tavern Association & the Tourism & Lodging Association. HB 235 referred to House Judiciary Committee on January 26, 2011; SB

1227 not yet introduced.

TSA Airport Screenings

HR 16—PA NOW **supports**. House Resolution calling on Congress to limit the use of advanced imaging technology and enhanced pat downs to those people under arrest and with a search warrant for probable cause as well as exercising greater oversight upon the TSA to place greater restriction on the use of these search techniques taking into concern the issue of personal privacy. Once passed in House, the resolution is sent directly to Congress (no votes in Senate or signature by the Governor are needed). Referred to State House Government Committee January 20, 2011.



Informal discussion of local NOW chapter leaders at the April 2011 board meeting in Wilkensburg (l to r): Jasmin Rakestraw and Michele Hamilton, Co-Presidents, Ni-Ta-Nea NOW; Kathleen Wilson, Co-President, East End NOW; & Susan Woodland, NW PA NOW.



Pennsylvania voters stayed home last November. Our mothers, sisters, children & brothers are now suffering from State & Federal selected budget cuts that are undermine the fabric of our Democracy. Governor Corbett & the Pennsylvania Legislature are gutting our public school and higher education programs with up to & over a 50% cut in different parts of the education budget.

We must stand up and fight. If not NOW when?

The Tea Party, The Right, and Supreme Court Attack Women's Rights:

- ◆ Right to a legal, safe abortion
- ◆ Right to have birth control
- ◆ Right to equal pay
- ◆ Right to privacy and self determination
- ◆ Right to freedom from discrimination
- ◆ Right to disability rights
- ◆ Right to freedom from sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking
- ◆ Right to Social Security & Medicare
- ◆ Right to healthcare
- ◆ Right to quality public education
- ◆ Right to organize

What can we do? More than ever help yourself and your families please: Send your tax deduction deductible donation to our *Pennsylvania NOW Education Fund, P.O. Box 8614, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221* or online at <http://panow.org/edfund.htm>. And if you can commit to a sustaining donation of \$10 or \$20 per month, please email pmacfish@aol.com. Our Education Fund is a not-for-profit organization, that focuses on raising the consciousness of people on women's issues.

What can we do?

Educate ourselves on who is using their wealth to suppress our rights. Research how they make their money. Then spend our money wisely.

We may have to work a little harder, walk a little further, change our preferences; we know it can change peoples' behaviors!

What can we do?

Keep our favorite TV stations phone numbers by our side. Pick up the phone and call the station or corporation when we see or hear anti-female sexually explicit, violent, or degrading behavior or advertising to or about women. It works—thanks to us Glen Beck no longer has his show on the FOX network!

What can we do?

VOTE—Register citizens to vote. ◆ Call our friends and family to vote. ◆ SCREAM ◆ Write letters to local newspapers. ◆ Keep calling our state Reps and Senators and the talk radio shows.



PA NOW is now accepting camera-ready ads for our Spring & Fall PNTs with Voters guide & for the State Conference Program :

Page \$375 ◆ Half \$200
1/4th \$100 ◆ 1/8th \$50
Bus Card \$30 ◆ Contact:
Email: pmacfish@aol.com

YES — Make a Financial Commitment to your future

I will make a financial commitment to ensure Pennsylvania NOW is at the table with our friends to STOP the right wing agenda to eliminate women's rights and women's unity. See above left for ways you can make your donation. Thank you!



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**See the PA NOW
PAC Voter's
Guide on page 2.**

Chapter Exchange

Ni-Ta-Nee NOW

Public education programs. Lobbying efforts. Local housing issues. We've done them all!

The chapter hosted viewings of the video "I Had an Abortion" w/ guest speaker & National NOW VP for Action Erin Matson. We also showed "Training Rules," the documentary about homophobia in women's sports.

Several members attended the State Lobby Day on Jan 25 for the Human Trafficking Bills SB1127 & SB1128, & attended a State Senate meeting on SB3, the bill that bans abortion in the state health exchanges.

We traveled to Washington DC for the April 7 rally against HB1 (the federal

"Stupak on Steroids" bill) & cuts to Planned Parenthood.

Locally, we distributed flyers for Pay Equity Day (April 12), & have spoken out on three ordinances in State College: the creation of an inclusionary housing ordinance, a revision of the employment anti-discrimination ordinance, & the expansion of the fair housing ordinance to include public accommodations.

On April 18, State College passed the Fair Housing & Public Accommodations ordinance that includes protections for familial status, marital status, gender identity, & sexual orientation. At the same meeting, Michele Hamilton, Co-President of Ni-Ta-Nee NOW was appointed to the

State College Human Relations Commission! Yea!

We are also planning a media event in early May with Better Choices of Pennsylvania to promote alternatives to PA's Budget cuts in human services.

Philadelphia NOW

Our primary focus since the election has been to fight back against the legislative onslaught at the national & state levels against reproductive rights & also worker rights. We worked to halt the progress of SB 3, that bans abortion in the state exchanges. We spent a lot of time lobbying on that issue, as well as on SB 1, the school voucher bill.

As a member of the Raising Women's Voices coalition, we participated in several rally & visibility events for

women's reproductive rights. As a member of the Healthy Families, Healthy Workplaces Coalition, we participated in several rallies & press events to promote worker rights & an Earned Sick Time bill, so all workers in Philadelphia would have the ability to accrue sick time to be used in event of illness, or to care for a sick dependent. That bill has passed out of its committee. We hosted a Progressive Forum with local legislators in December, & have co-sponsored two forums dealing with our local elections. Our PAC has endorsed various pro-choice, feminist candidates for the upcoming election. We are planning a women's rights rally for May.

— Susan Woodland, NW PA NOW