



Constituent Survey



From State Senator John C. Rafferty

WINTER 2007

Dear Friend:

In January, I took the oath of office in the State Capitol, beginning my second term representing the 44th district.

I am honored to represent my district and will continue to work hard for you at home and in Harrisburg. I want to find solutions to the serious issues facing our state and to make government more open and answerable to state residents.

As part of that commitment, I voted for a set of changes to the rules governing how the Senate operates.

These reforms will ensure that the Senate is more open and visible, make votes more available to the public, and help to restore trust and confidence in the legislative process.

As the new legislative session begins, I'd also like to get your

input on important issues facing the Commonwealth. Please take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire and return it to me. You can also fill it out online by visiting my website at www.senatorrafferty.com. The issues included are for informational purposes and do not reflect bills introduced. Your views are very important to me and will help me better represent you. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Senator John C. Rafferty

OFFICES TO SERVE YOU IN THE 44TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

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Please fold this page so that the address below is shown and mail.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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State _____ Zip _____

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PROPER
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U.S. Postal Service
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SENATOR JOHN C. RAFFERTY

Senate Box 203044

Harrisburg, PA 17120-3044

Tape or staple along this edge.

Healthcare Coverage

Would you support mandating private healthcare coverage for all individuals in the state by requiring ALL businesses and individuals to pay a portion thus spreading out the financial burden?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

a) If no, do you support a mandated state-run healthcare plan for all individuals, possibly paid for by tax dollars?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

Environment

Last year the state spent hundreds of millions to protect our state's environment, including preserving open space. Would you support the state borrowing more money to protect open space and preserving farmland?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

Public Smoking

Legislation has been introduced that would prohibit smoking in public places and workplaces. "Public place" would be defined as any enclosed area, including taverns or bars, retail stores, theatres and arenas.

a) Do you support totally prohibiting smoking in public places?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

b) If you do not support a total ban on smoking in all public places, do you support prohibiting smoking in any of the following?

- A restaurant
 A bar or tavern
 A retail store
 A waiting room or lobby
 A restroom
 A sports arena
 A shopping mall
 Other

Property Taxes

Legislation was introduced this last year that would give taxpayers the opportunity to decide, in a statewide referendum, to reduce real estate property taxes by raising the state sales tax by 1% and the state income tax by .43%.

a) If given the opportunity, would you vote to increase the state sales tax by 1% and the state income tax by .43% in order to reduce real estate property taxes?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

b) If you would not vote to increase both the state sales tax and the state income tax in order to reduce real estate property taxes, would you vote to?

- Increase only the state sales tax by 1% in order to reduce real estate property taxes
 Increase only the state income tax by .43% in order to reduce real estate property taxes
 Not increase either tax

c) To reduce or eliminate property taxes would you support expanding the base of the state sales tax to include all goods and services such as food, clothing, legal fees, etc. with the only exception being doctor fees and medical expenses?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

Public Safety

Would you favor stiffening penalties for driving under the influence (DUI) with a child (under 18 years of age) in the vehicle?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

Cell Phones

The use of cell phones while driving has been proven to distract a driver's attention, thereby increasing the risk of accident. Legislation was introduced last session that would prohibit the use of handheld mobile telephones while operating a motor vehicle.

a) Except in cases of emergency, which of the following do you support banning while driving?

- All cell phones
 Handheld cell phones only
 Neither
 Undecided

b) Do you believe that a driver should face a penalty if they are driving while operating a handheld cell phone?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

Size of the General Assembly

Currently, each of the 50 State Senators represents 248,000 people while each of the 203 Representatives of the House represents approximately 61,000 people. The Senate has scheduled a hearing to explore the feasibility and desirability of decreasing the size of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

a) Do you support reducing the size of the Senate and the House of Representatives?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

b) If so, do you support reducing it to which of the following sizes:

- Option #1: Reduce by 20%: Senate to 40 members and House to 163 members. Each Senator would represent 300,000 individuals and each Representative, 76,000 individuals.
 Option #2: Reduce by 40%: Senate to 30 members and House to 121. Each Senator would represent 413,300 individuals and each Representative, 102,500 individuals.

c) Do you favor having a study commissioned, free of political influence, to make recommendations on the size of the Legislature?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

Public Transportation

There has been a great deal of discussion regarding state funding for public transportation. Do you think the General Assembly should prohibit the Governor from diverting funding for roads and bridges to help pay for mass transit?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

a) If yes, do you support raising taxes to fund public transportation?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

Child Sex Offenders

Would you support legislation mandating the tracking of convicted child sex offenders by active Global Positioning Satellite (GPS)?

- Yes
 No
 Undecided

Priorities

Which of the following issue do you believe is the TOP PRIORITY for the Legislature? Pick one of the following:

- Property Tax Reform/Elimination
 Healthcare Coverage for More People
 Jobs/Business Expansion
 State Government Reform
 Crime Reduction
 Protecting the Environment
 Traffic Congestion/Public Transportation
 Education
 Reducing State Spending
 Other