



Alternative Energy Report

Corbett VS. Wolf This Fall

Pennsylvania's primary elections set the stage for the fall gubernatorial election as tens of millions of dollars were spent by the four remaining Democratic candidates for governor, and in the end, if there was much doubt, money walked and talked. With a very low turnout, the four candidates spent more than \$31 million combined to win the nomination.

Tom Wolf spent at least \$12.9 million, including \$10 million of his own and borrowed money, following a plan of major advertising buys early in the campaign that boosted him out of the pack and into a 25 point lead in the polls. On Tuesday, he expanded that separation from the other candidates, and will lead his "Wolf Pack" and the Democratic ticket against Governor Tom Corbett this fall.

The relatively poor showings by early predicted frontrunners Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz and State Treasurer Rob McCord are striking. Schwartz had been expected to be a front running favorite by many, but her campaign was surprisingly late to get into statewide television markets, and she never established a statewide persona. McCord, who himself borrowed \$2.2 million, ran third behind Wolf and Schwartz, despite large media buys and support from AFSCME, the PA State Education Association, State Store Clerks (UCFW Local 1776) and Utility Workers Unions. McCord in the last three weeks became something of a lightning rod, for his attacks on Wolf related to racism, which apparently backfired.

Lt. Governor Jim Cawley ran unopposed in the GOP primary. But a five way Democratic primary for Lt. Governor resulted in the nomination of State Sen. Mike Stack of Philadelphia as the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor in Pennsylvania.

Stack defeated former U.S. Rep. Mark Critz of Johnstown, Harrisburg City Councilman Brad Koplinski, state Rep. Brandon Neuman of Washington County and Bradford County Commissioner Mark Smith. No clear front-runner seemed to emerge during the campaign, but Stack raised more than \$1 million and appears to have benefitted from his southeastern PA location and strong union support.

Despite the Governor's low poll standings and weak position in early 2014 polls vs. various Democratic candidates, we caution against assuming that the fall election will be an easy Democratic victory. In their final pre-primary campaign finance reports, Wolf had shown just \$1.6 million on hand - down from a high of more than \$13 million. Governor Corbett, on the other hand, had more than \$6 million and continues to raise money without the need to spend on significant television advertising this spring. And too many slips can happen in the six months leading up to the November general election.

PA Congressional Delegation

Two years ago, two PA Congressmen lost their primaries due to reapportionment. This year, incumbents appear to have weathered any major storms. Congressman Bob Shuster was winning his primary easily with more than 52% of the vote in a three way primary.

In the 13th district, vacated by Allyson Schwartz, a contentious four way primary which included the former Congresswoman, a State Senator, a State Representative and a physician ended up with State Rep. Brendan Boyle (D, Philadelphia) managing a 2-1 lead over his closest opponent, former Congresswoman Marjorie Margolies, who was supported by both Bill and Hilary Clinton. Margolies' son is married to Chelsea Clinton. Boyle was the only Philadelphian on the ballot against three candidates from Montgomery County. He will be running against Dee Adcock, a businessman from Abington in this largely Democratic district.

In Pittsburgh, Congressman Mike Doyle easily handled a primary opponent, getting 84% of the vote.

State Senate

In the state Senate, 2012's elections reduced the GOP edge to 27-23. Democrats entered 2014 hoping to reverse that split.

Only three State Senators faced primary opponents. In Philadelphia, Sen. Leanna Washington (D), who is already dealing with two opponents, felony corruption charges and a lawsuit from her former chief of staff, also lost her primary race. Montgomery County attorney and Cheltenham Twp. Supervisor Art Haywood won the primary, with Brian Granlick finishing third. Haywood will face Republican Robin Gilchrist this fall.

Philadelphia Senator Christine Tartaglione won her primary with 50% of the vote in an ugly brawl with a former City Councilman and the husband of a current Councilwoman. This became something of a union vs. union battle, as John "Johnny Doc" Dougherty had endorsed former Councilman Savage and the IBEW had put more than \$100,000 into the race. Dozens of complaints of election violations were filed in the district, with a number of complaints forwarded to the District Attorney's Office.

York County's newly elected Sen. Scott Wagner easily won his primary with 85% of the vote against challenger Zach Hearn.

Two Senate primaries involved battles between sitting State Representatives. In Lancaster County, Rep. Ryan Aument (R, Landisville) defeated Rep. Gordon Denlinger with 60 percent of the voter. The 36th District seat is being vacated by the retirement of Sen. Mike Brubaker.

In northwestern Pennsylvania, Rep. Michele Brooks easily won the Republican nomination for 50th District state Senate being vacated by the retirement of Sen. Bob Robbins. Brooks was a 7,000 vote winner over Rep. Greg Lucas and Jane MacPherson of Mercer County. Hermitage attorney Michael Muha won the Democratic nomination.

In the 32nd Senate District seat being vacated by the retirement of Sen. Rich Kasunic, state Rep. Deberah Kula won the Democratic nomination for the fall ballot. And in 40th Senatorial district, which moved from Pittsburgh to the Poconos with reapportionment, Rep. Mario Scavello was the winner of the GOP primary.

State House

In the House, reapportionment resulted in four Democrats facing off against each other in the primary. In Allegheny County's 36th District, Rep. Harry Readshaw handily defeated the more progressive Rep. Erin Molchany. In Lackawanna County's 112th District, Rep. Frank Farina appears to have slipped by in a race with Rep. Kevin Haggerty and a third Democrat, attorney Bob Munley.

In other notable House races, Democratic State Rep. JP Miranda of Philadelphia, already under indictment was defeated in the primary by Leslie Acosta, a professor at Eastern University. And in a surprise, Jason Dawkins, a young former legislative aide to a Philadelphia City Councilwoman, defeated state Rep. James Clay Jr. Another Philadelphia Democrat, Rep. Pam DeLissio, challenged by Army Captain Dave Henderson, a veteran of three tours in the Middle East, is locked in a battle that will certainly be subject to a recount and perhaps further legal scrutiny.

Rep. Mike Fleck of Centre County, the only openly gay Republican state Representative was facing a write in campaign by Richard Irvin, the Huntingdon County Treasurer. The Citizens Alliance for Pennsylvania attacked Fleck in political ads, essentially for being too moderate. At Unofficial counts show Fleck trailing all write-in votes by 292 out of 7,000 counted, with Mifflin County votes still unavailable online. Official results are expected on Friday afternoon.

In Butler County, Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, an outspoken ultraconservative Republican, appears to have successfully beaten back a write-in campaign by Gordon Marburger, who had been removed from the ballot for improper Ethics Commission

filings. Metcalfe was leading with 54% of the total vote, and had a 190 vote margin with 70% of the precincts reporting. The winner will face Democratic political newcomer Lisa Zucco, of Cranberry in November.

Several other incumbents narrowly avoided defeat on Tuesday, but most face no opposition in the fall.

PA Election Information

Final information on all Pennsylvania primary races can be found on the Department of State website under "[View Election Results](#)."

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