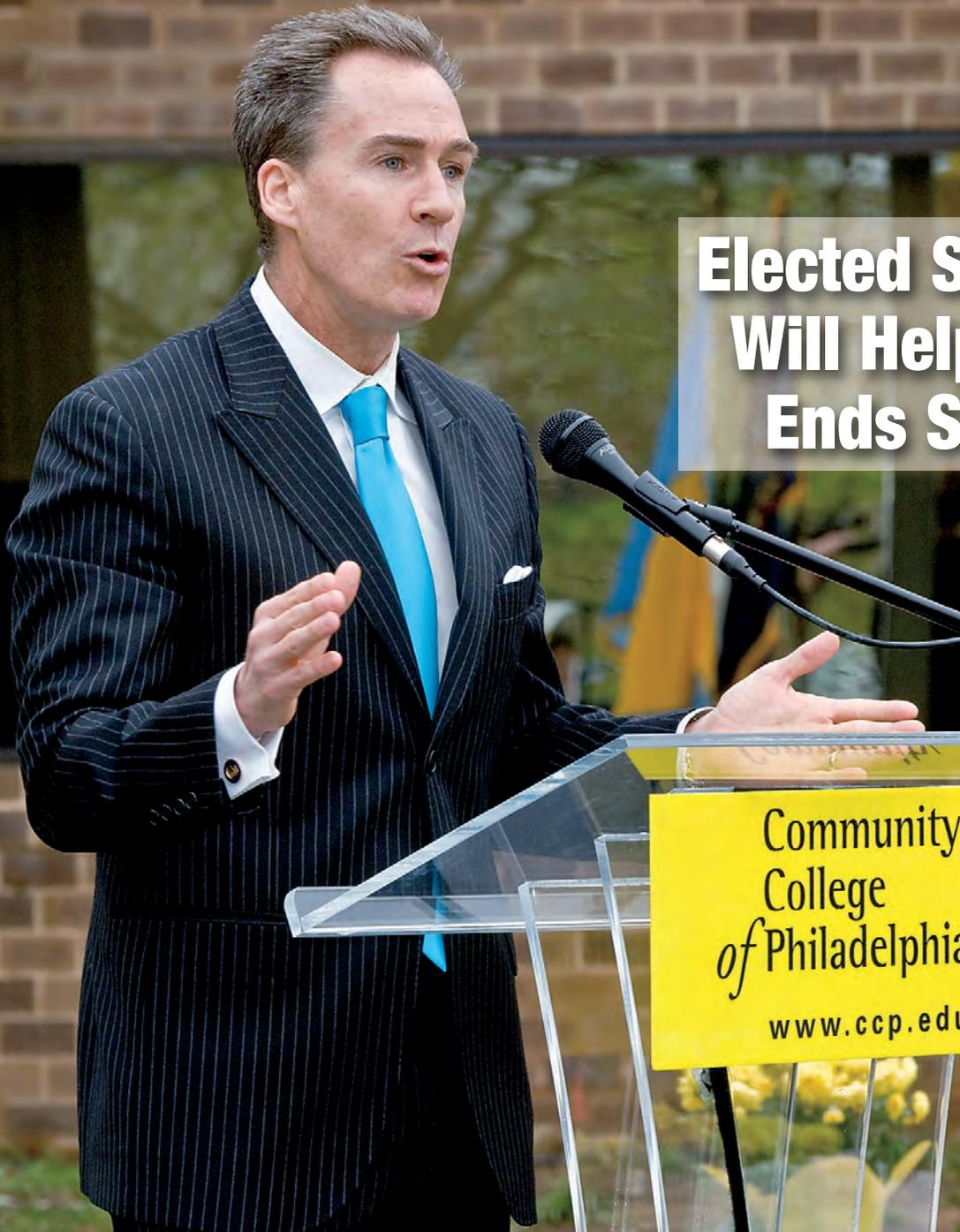




Elected School Board Will Help Students, Ends SRC Drama



FIGHTING TERRORISM

Mike Stack

INSIDE:

- Working Pennsylvanians Need Affordable Health Care
- Standing Up for Public Safety
- Helping Our Seniors

Creating Jobs by Fixing Dangerous Roads and Bridges



SENATOR STACK ANNOUNCES 400 JOBS with Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz and TEVA CEO Bill Marth.

Structurally sound highways and bridges are crucial to our safety, our economy, our tourism and our prosperity.

—Sen. Mike Stack

Good roads attract good jobs. A recent example is Teva Pharmaceuticals' groundbreaking for a new distribution facility in Northeast Philadelphia.

Teva Pharmaceuticals, which develops and sells prescription drugs, received \$4.7 million in state funds and tax credits to build a new facility on the site of the former Island Green Golf Course on Red Lion Road.

The facility will be used to store and distribute pharmaceuticals. It will create 200 jobs and retain 200 other jobs when it opens in 2013.

This global company is utilizing local workers and our transportation infrastructure to expand its business and boost our economy at the same time.

Philadelphia — and all of Pennsylvania — is a key player in the global market. But if we want to keep companies like Teva Pharmaceuticals here and attract other corporations, we must make sure they can transport their goods and their workers safely.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania's transportation system is falling apart right under our tires. We need \$3.5 billion to meet our transportation needs. We are home to the third greatest number of bridges in the nation. We also have the distinction of the largest percentage of "structurally deficient" bridges. Each of those structures is a ticking time bomb.

Structurally sound highways and bridges are crucial to our safety, our economy, our tourism and our prosperity.

The time for talk is over and the time for action is now. We need a comprehensive, long-term funding solution.

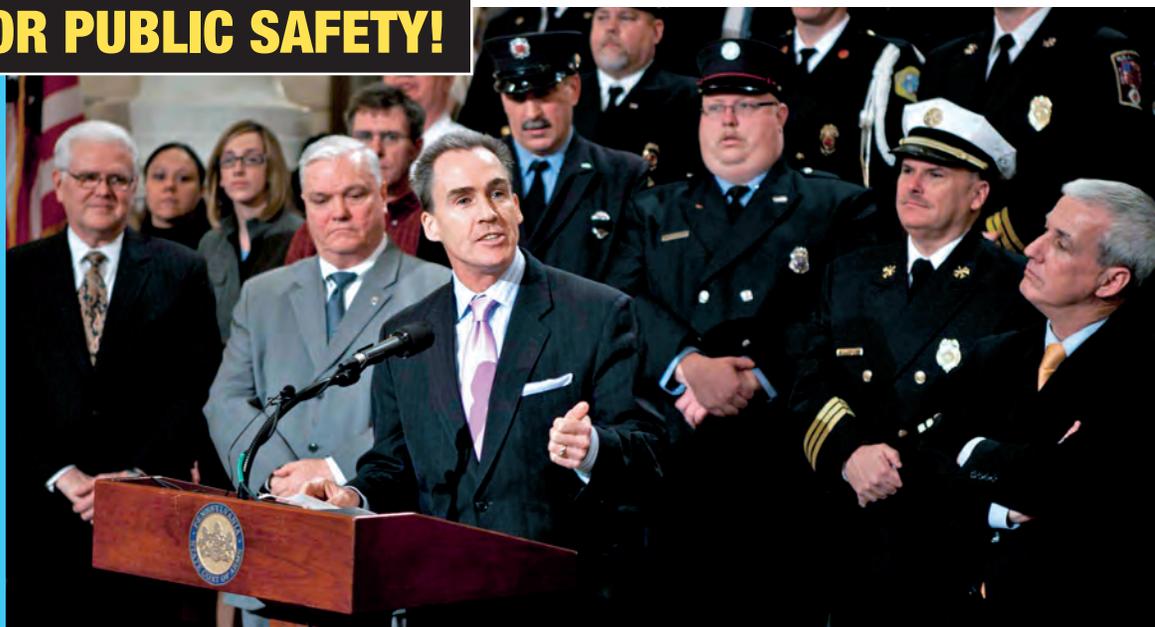
For every \$100 we invest in our highways and bridges, \$350 is pumped back into our economy. A \$1 billion investment in infrastructure improvements supports 30,000 jobs. Imagine putting 30,000 Pennsylvanians to work.

We can fund our transportation infrastructure but we need to act now.

There are several proposals in the General Assembly — I will work to pass a comprehensive transportation funding solution. ■

STANDING UP FOR PUBLIC SAFETY!

I JOINED FIREFIGHTERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE IN A FIGHT TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION repealing the residential fire sprinkler requirement in the International Residential Code, which had required all newly constructed one- and two-family homes built in Pennsylvania to have a fire sprinkler system installed. Unfortunately, the repeal was the first bill signed into law by Gov. Tom Corbett. The new law is a slap in the face to firefighters and homeowners and sends a bad message to our first responders, who put their lives on the line every day to protect us. ■





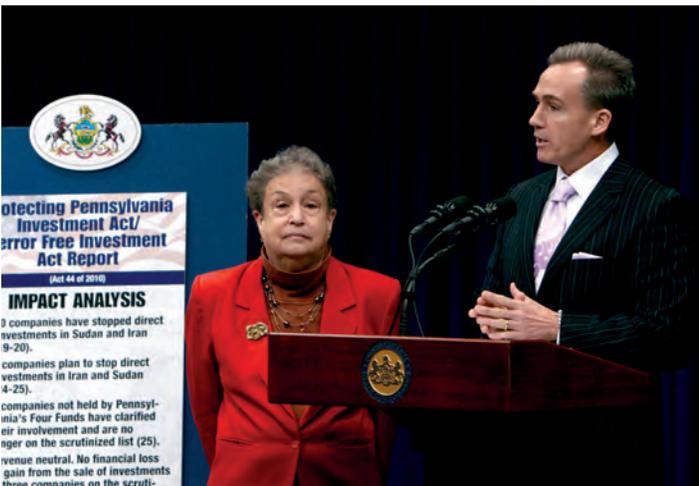
▶ **'NO WAY' TO THE HEALING WAY.**

Standing outside the site of a controversial proposed methadone treatment facility in Holmesburg, I recently announced legislation that would tighten loose regulations currently in place for these facilities. We as a community were blindsided by the Healing Way's plans to open a methadone clinic at 7900 Frankford Ave. My legislation, Senate Bill 1277 would require a public hearing for all proposed narcotics treatment facilities, require approval from the local district attorney, and ensure the proposed facility has adequate parking before it could be approved by the Department of Health. The community has legitimate concerns with the Healing Way, including its proximity to an elementary school, daycare and church and the lack of parking. They are most concerned, however, that the Healing Way did not reveal its true intentions. I will monitor this situation and continue to update the community.

SERVING THE 5TH DISTRICT

▶ **FIGHTING FOR VETERANS IN HARRISBURG.**

Senator Stack greets a veteran at his annual Senior Expo which provided hundreds of older adults with valuable resources to state and city programs and services.



▶ **FIGHTING TERRORISM AND PROTECTING OUR TROOPS.** Senator Mike Stack discusses the impact of his legislation that cuts funding for countries sponsoring terrorism and genocide. The law requires the state's pension funds to divest from companies with business activities in Iran and Sudan. With him is state Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Philadelphia).



Mike Stack

Pandering to Gas Corporations Hurts Working Pennsylvanians



The failure to pass a natural gas drilling tax is one of the worst public policy fiascos I have seen in my entire Senate career.

The Republican-led General Assembly and the governor are bending over backwards to give out-of-state and foreign companies free reign to pillage our state's natural resources.

Philadelphia does not have natural gas drilling, but a hefty portion of Pennsylvania does. The potential revenue generated by imposing an extraction tax would give Pennsylvania a huge boost. Right now, the gas drilling companies are cashing in without fairly contributing back to the state by way of an extraction tax. Nor are we using a drilling tax to fund road repairs or environmental remediation.

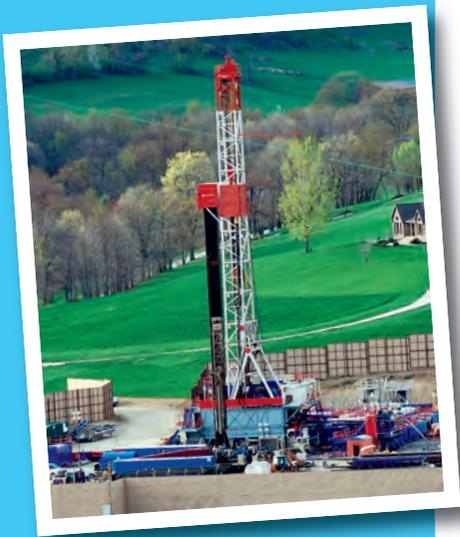
SEN. STACK DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF USING MARCELLUS SHALE DRILLING AS A REVENUE SOURCE THAT BENEFITS ALL PENNSYLVANIANS. Behind him is Sen. John Blake (D-22).

Instead, we have seen weak attempts to impose a fee that would only be given to communities where the companies are drilling. Philadelphia would not see a penny in revenue.

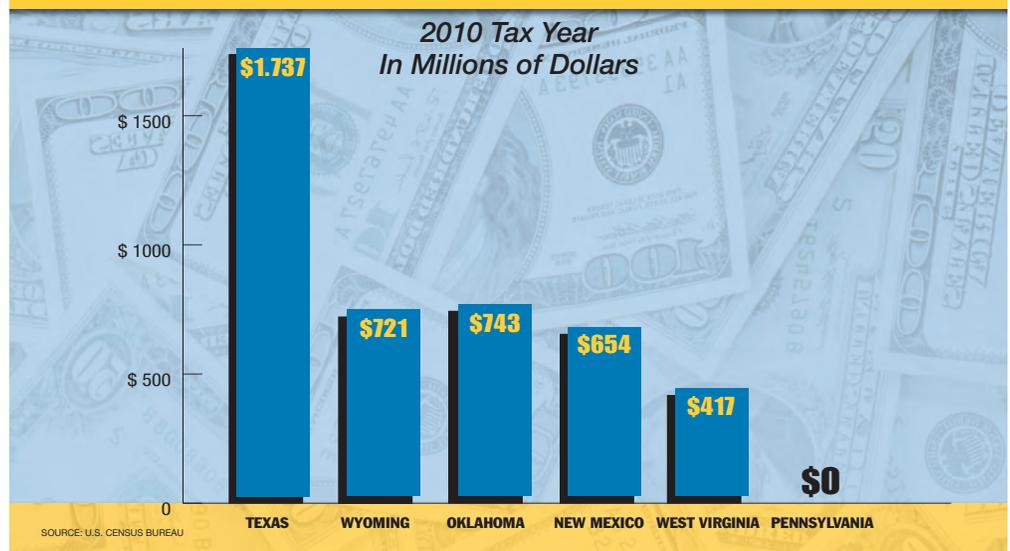
Natural gas drilling impacts every Pennsylvanian. Our water is starting to show signs of pollution from the drilling. Pipelines and roads will carry gas to our ports to be exported worldwide, yet we will not be compensated for this impact.

Meanwhile, our casinos generate revenue that benefits all Pennsylvanians through tax relief and other initiatives. Revenue from Philadelphia's red light camera fines is distributed statewide for transportation projects. Limiting the local impact fee to just municipalities with drilling sites is bad policy.

The legislation we are currently debating, Senate Bill 1100, is a weak attempt to impose a local impact fee. This fee would only benefit communities where the companies are drilling. It is a public policy travesty and puts the lucrative natural gas industry before the well-being of Pennsylvanians. ■



Natural Gas Severance Taxes Paid by the 4 Leading Natural Gas Producing States, West Virginia & Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania has chosen to give huge corporations a free pass. I am fighting to ensure we make sure they pay their fair share. The nation's top natural gas producing states all require an extraction tax that generates significant revenues. We can and should do the same thing here in Pennsylvania.

—Sen. Mike Stack

Elected School Board Will Give Taxpayers More Accountability

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHEAST TIMES



SEN. STACK INTRODUCES HIS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ABOLISH THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION and replace it with an elected school board during a press conference recently at the School District of Philadelphia headquarters. With him are (left to right) Sen. LeAnna Washington and Sen. Larry Farnese.

We need new leadership for our school district. The School Reform Commission (SRC) has had 10 years and billions of dollars to turn things around.

Students do not deserve to be caught in the middle of petty bickering and the SRC's inability to lead. Our schools need fundamental changes in place now.

Instead, the SRC has overseen several significant budget deficits, student test scores are not improving fast enough, and the high school dropout rate is 40 percent. Yet, taxpayers cannot hold the SRC accountable for this lack of production. The SRC is accountable to only the governor and mayor. Taxpayers have no input into school operations.

Despite an endless string of poor decisions, the all-appointed SRC remains unaccountable for its actions — and its inaction.

Students, their families and all Philadelphia taxpayers do not deserve to be caught up in the SRC's drama.

It's time to put the power back in the hands of the citizens whose tax dollars fund our public schools.

I have introduced legislation (Senate Bill 1210) that would abolish the School Reform Commission and replace it with an unpaid school board comprised of nine members elected by the citizens of Philadelphia.

The bill enhances accountability and fiscal decision making by giving the city controller and state auditor general the power to conduct performance audits. This would keep a school board in check when questionable contracts or financial decisions arise.

An elected school board would put Philadelphia in line with every other school district in Pennsylvania.

My legislation gives the voters the ability to choose the best men and women to tackle the tough issues, maintain fiscal responsibility and set a better course for 155,000 children and the teachers who educate them. Parents and taxpayers know what's best for our students. Let's give them the ability to help lead our schools. ■

▶ SEN. STACK CONGRATULATES one of the Presidential Idol contest winners, Edward Kahn. ■





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Fighting to Provide Affordable Health Insurance to Working Pennsylvanians



Exxon, Shell, and other mega-corporations may get tax breaks from Pennsylvania, but not hard working Pennsylvanians. The governor turned his back on 41,000 Pennsylvania workers who relied on adultBasic, but I will continue to fight for our workers and try to bring back this crucial health care program.

This low-cost health plan was terminated by Gov. Tom Corbett last year. He said the state could not afford it. The Governor was wrong.

I developed a workable plan, Senate Bill 420, to make changes to the program and to use the General Assembly's budget surplus to help Pennsylvanians — including nearly 1,500 from Northeast Philadelphia — retain their adultBasic insurance.

A recent study of former adultBasic enrollees found that 60 percent have not found health insurance coverage. They are flooding our already overburdened clinics and emergency rooms. This is bad for our health care system and our economy.

Individuals who have health coverage miss fewer days at work and take fewer trips to the hospital which, in turn, lessens the burden on taxpayers.

AdultBasic was a lifeline to thousands of working individuals. I will continue to fight for working Pennsylvanians. ■