



AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY
PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA'S PATH TO PROSPERITY

The Path to Prosperity outlines the policies that will enable Pennsylvania to unleash its promise and help Keystone State residents enjoy greater economic opportunity and prosperity. We want to ensure that every Pennsylvanian is free to live their version of the American Dream, especially the least fortunate. In 2018, we will advocate for the following five policy goals:

1 A REFORMED STATE BUDGET THAT PRIORITIZES TAXPAYERS WITH A FAIR AND COMPETITIVE TAX SYSTEM

AFP and our grassroots network believe taxpayers are in the best position to determine how to spend the money they earn. Tax increases, fueled by wasteful spending, limits economic growth while making it more difficult for every Pennsylvanian to balance their own budget. Congress has implemented substantial tax reform, and Pennsylvania needs to be in a position to fully capitalize on the increased economic benefits that our citizens and business will have because of this reform.

In the state's 2017-18 budget, corporate welfare spending increased to nearly \$900 million, from just under \$800 million in the previous budget. Lawmakers in Harrisburg have cut deals with special interests that enrich a few while burdening taxpayers with wasteful spending, distracting legislators from the real work of lawmaking. One outrageous tax credit, which benefits filmmakers at the expense of moviegoers, was increased in the 2016-17 budget.

Pennsylvania's budget woes aren't new and for decades Harrisburg has ignored the ballooning costs of government programs and increased government spending. We support privatizing the state monopolized liquor system and other good-government reforms, like paycheck protection, that ensure the responsible and ethical use of taxpayer resources.

2 GOVERNMENT THAT ENCOURAGES AFFORDABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

AFP will seek opportunities to support pro-growth energy policies that increase economic opportunities in the commonwealth. We are opposed to an increase in the alternative energy portfolio standards, as well as Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas initiative. We oppose burdensome state and federal regulations, a severance tax that will threaten Pennsylvania jobs, as well as a bailout of any specific energy sector that would prevent access to affordable energy.

3 GOVERNMENT THAT PROTECTS WORKERS AND TAXPAYERS

AFP will advocate for meaningful pension reform that includes a defined contribution component, which gives state workers more control over their own retirement plan and slows the unsustainable growth of state pensions. Our state pension liability is currently estimated to be underfunded by anywhere from \$50-100 billion. Public employee pensions are guaranteed obligations they take priority over other spending, threatening the state budget for years to come if not resolved.

It isn't a surprise that public sector unions negotiate with the government for their wages in closed-door meetings. What is surprising is that every four years when the government approves contracts for state employees, they do so without any knowledge on the impact of those contracts to the state budget. More reforms are necessary to bring true transparency to this process.

Legislators should pass paycheck protection to ensure that unions use their own resources to collect political dues, not force taxpayers to do it for them. Current union members should be given the ability to vote to recertify their union. Finally, we need to ensure that the market, not government, sets prices for government construction projects by reforming or eliminating prevailing wage laws.

These are some of the commonsense ways we can give workers more choices and save our limited taxpayer dollars.

LOWER BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY SO EVERY CITIZEN CAN THRIVE

AFP will advocate for lowering unnecessarily high and discriminatory barriers to entry for all professions. It is important to balance public safety with access, ensuring regulations and certifications are not so high that lower-income individuals are unable to work in their dream profession. Pennsylvania residents who want to work as a cosmetologist are regulated by over 170 different sections of the Pennsylvania code. Entrepreneurs should not be regulated out of business by over-reaching state government.

Likewise, AFP supports legislation that reforms the current regulatory climate by enacting measures that reduce the size and scope of new regulations that pose a significant economic impact, and measures to increase legislative oversight over regulations as they are proposed by administrative departments.

AN EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT GIVES EVERY PARENT THE EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM THEY NEED TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN SUCCEED

AFP will support education reforms that give parents more direct choices about how their children are educated. We support an expanded EITC, Education Savings Accounts and Opportunity Scholarships. At \$14,000 annually, Pennsylvania spends \$3,000 more per student than the national average, but overall education funding is not leading to better outcomes. It is time to give parents more options to make the educational choices that work best for their children.



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Americans for Prosperity has a vision for an America where free markets allow for free and prosperous people. We use cutting-edge tools and technology to support a network of more than 3.2 million engaged citizens who are working to bring that vision to life.