



Blueprint for a Stronger Pennsylvania



www.RyanAument.com





Ryan Aument

At the beginning of my campaign for State Senator, I promised that I would not “play it safe.” I promised that I would put forth ideas to address the challenges that face our state and its citizens. This document is a fulfillment of that promise, as well as a plan of action for how to make Pennsylvania stronger for today and the future.

Some will agree with the ideas I put forth in this “Blueprint for a Stronger Pennsylvania.” Some will not. But I believe that active leadership requires looking ahead, presenting ideas to meet the future, and then working with others to make those ideas better and turn them into reality.

This has been the basis of how I have worked as a State Representative. It will be the basis of how I will work as State Senator as well.

Please know that this blueprint in no way presents every opportunity we have to make a positive change for the future. Instead it is an overview of the type of initiatives I will lead on in the Pennsylvania Senate. Further, while categorized for presentation in this blueprint, many of these ideas will make a positive impact across several categories.

I hope that you will take the time to read through my “Blueprint for a Stronger Pennsylvania” and offer me not only feedback on what is presented, but any ideas you may have as well.

I am committed to providing strong, active leadership in the State Senate to meet the challenges we face — because results matter for our families, our neighbors, our communities, and our children. I hope that I can count on your support to help me do just that.

Sincerely,

Ryan P. Aument

To find out more
about Ryan and his
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“I believe in a free market approach to economic growth that allows our families to reach economic stability and a brighter future. Government must stop being a roadblock to this growth, and instead promote policies that support the private sector.”

— Ryan Aument



ECONOMIC GROWTH

- **Spur economic development through tax cuts and tax reform** that make Pennsylvania’s business tax structure more attractive for new employers and less burdensome for current employers.
- **Streamline laws and regulations to reduce the cost of doing business** in Pennsylvania and ensure that businesses face fair, predictable and consistent oversight.
- **Get government out of private sector businesses** such as liquor sales, hotels, and more to allow business growth across the state.
- **Leverage our educational system**, particularly our colleges and universities, in the development of new technologies and ideas to drive future economic expansion.
- **Pass strong lawsuit abuse reforms that help end costly frivolous lawsuits** such as “loser pays,” and create a business specialty court to ensure job creators and plaintiffs are afforded a fair and speedy resolution to complex litigation issues.
- **Free the entrepreneurial spirit of Pennsylvanians** by reducing regulation and other roadblocks for start-up businesses.
- **Partner with the private sector** by bringing together elected officials, business leaders, educational leaders and community organizations to advance the best ideas and most successful economic growth policies.

The Aument Record

- Reduced Pennsylvania’s onerous business taxes
- Supported tort and regulatory reforms to make Pennsylvania more fair to employers
- Fostered growth in Pennsylvania’s emerging industries and the new jobs they are bringing to our state
- Supported common sense changes like increasing the Net Operating Loss Carryforward and implementing a Single Sales Factor for tax purposes



“Government officials must always remember it is not their money, it is the people’s money. Then they need to treat it that way. I always have.”

— Ryan Aument

TAXPAYER PROTECTION

- **Reform the public pension system** by placing all new hires into a defined contribution system like the private sector receives and encouraging current enrollees to switch to the same.
- **Limit the growth of government spending** through Constitutional Amendment or by statute to prohibit increases above the rate of wage growth, inflation or population.
- **Pass school property tax reform and reform the current school funding formula** to provide relief to all homeowners while still ensuring quality schools for our children.
- **Repeal prevailing wage requirements** at the state, county and municipal level to provide an even playing field for all Pennsylvania businesses and save tax dollars.
- **Cap school property taxes** for all seniors age 65 and older with a means test to income.
- **Require a super-majority for any tax increase** that requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers.
- **Eliminate unfunded mandates** to reduce costs for municipal governments and school districts.
- **Utilize public-private partnerships** to more effectively manage public assets such as the Pennsylvania Turnpike.
- **Investigate further changes to the welfare system** to ensure recipients are looking for work, end abuse, and maintain time limits on how long someone can receive benefits.

The Aument Record

- ➔ Strong and consistent supporter of property tax relief legislation
- ➔ Voted to reduce our state’s debt ceiling by \$2.5 billion and for a stringent new review process for RACP projects
- ➔ Provided stronger protections for property taxpayers by further limiting the Act 1 exemptions school districts may claim when considering tax increases
- ➔ Implemented significant changes to the welfare system including random drug testing of past drug users and implementing a new electronic welfare eligibility confirmation system to end fraud
- ➔ Voted to ensure that illegal aliens or non-legal residents can not receive public benefits paid by taxpayers

“I pledged to never take the taxpayer paid per diems or mileage for just driving to work in Harrisburg, and that is a pledge I’ve kept. More importantly, I have supported and will continue to advance a reform agenda.”

— Ryan Aument



GOVERNMENT REFORM

- **Reduce the size of the legislature** to help save tax dollars and improve efficiency.
- **End legislative per diems** and require all legislators to submit for legitimate expenses only by following I.R.S. guidelines.
- **End government programs, fees or taxes which no longer meet their original mandate** after independent review by a Sunset Commission.
- **Make Pennsylvania a Right-to-Work state** that stops the forced unionization — and increased costs associated with it — on our state’s citizens and employers.
- **Reform the legislative pension system** by placing all current and future legislators into a defined contribution system.
- **Create a Pennsylvania Accountability Commission** to oversee the completion of audits of every state department and agency, as well as identify and eliminate duplicate programs, regulations, etc.
- **End taxpayer-funded collection of public sector union dues and political monies.**
- **Ensure timely passage of the state budget** and create a temporary “default state budget” if an agreement is not reached by the June 30 deadline; prohibit action on non-budget related legislation after June 15 if no budget is enacted by that time.
- **Utilize the power of the technology to make more documents available to the public in a shorter time frame** including proposed legislation, campaign finance reports and more.

The Aument Record

- Refuses the taxpayer-paid per diems and mileage reimbursements for his work in Harrisburg
- Sponsored and voted for legislation to reduce the size of the legislature
- Voted to create PennWatch, an online database of all state spending that allows taxpayers to see how their money is being utilized
- Supported new rules that force legislators to pay for a portion of their own healthcare as those in the private sector must do
- Posted his legislative office and personal expenses on-line from day one



“I’ve fought for the things that we know result in a quality education: effective teachers, accountability and transparency, high standards that meet local needs, and academic choice and competition.”

— Ryan Aument

EDUCATION

- **Increase educational choice and competition** to provide parents and students greater opportunity for educational achievement.
- **Embrace new technology and innovation** to provide students with such things as online learning, AP courses, courses not available at their local schools, SAT preparation, tutoring and more.
- **Ensure Pennsylvania’s school curricula are driven by Pennsylvania’s parents, teachers, students and communities** by continuing to oppose federal Common Core standards.
- **Reform the teacher tenure system** to ensure we are keeping teachers for their abilities, not their time served in schools; allow school districts to remove ineffective teachers regardless of tenure status.
- **Utilize public-private partnerships** to create innovative after-school programs, as well as provide classroom construction, leasing, maintenance and other services.
- **Pass economic furlough reform** to allow schools to keep the best teachers in times of economic need rather than those who have simply served longer.
- **Open school administrator positions to those outside the teaching structure** to harness the skills and abilities of those proven at management in the private sector.
- **Implement a merit pay system for teachers and administrators** to incentivize those in our schools to provide a better education for our children.
- **Reform the current school funding formula** to ensure all school districts are treated fairly.

The Aument Record

- Author of the law that created Pennsylvania’s new Teacher Effectiveness Program and the state’s first School Performance Profiles
- Stood up against federal Common Core standards to preserve local control of curriculum
- Voted for an improved EITC program that lets the private sector help provide educational choice
- Standing up to the powerful teachers’ union to advance tenure and furlough reform legislation
- Co-sponsored SchoolWATCH to increase transparency for taxpayers

“I share the conservative values of our community and have fought for them in Harrisburg. I am pro-life, pro-2nd Amendment, and support the continued success of our family farms and preservation of our open spaces.”

— Ryan Aument



OUR COMMUNITY

- **Continue to oppose ObamaCare’s federal mandates** that are hurting local businesses and families, and increasing healthcare costs.
- **Provide flexibility to family owned farms** to expand their operations into non-traditional areas to help them survive and grow in today’s economy.
- **Oppose new gun control proposals** that infringe on the rights of law abiding gun owners.
- **Protect the right of parents to educate their children how they choose** be it through public, private, charter or home schooling.
- **Protect the unborn** by opposing any weakening of Pennsylvania’s Abortion Control Act, as well as supporting organizations whose goal is to prevent abortions.
- **Ensure the safety of our community’s roads and bridges** through strong oversight of the new transportation funding mechanism.
- **Protect private property rights through eminent domain reform** that makes it harder for governments to seize land from its owners.
- **Support faith based initiatives** that help provide funding and services for the disadvantaged.
- **Ensure the safety of our neighborhoods** by bringing together law enforcement, community leaders, residents and the legislature to design and implement cost effective programs which help reduce crime and deal with the proliferation of illegal drugs.

The Aument Record

- Authoring a “Freedom Protection Initiative” legislative package to protect freedom of conscience and protect citizens from the over-reach of ObamaCare
- Passed strong, new regulations for any medical facility that provides abortion services to prevent a repeat of Philadelphia’s abortion “house of horrors”
- Passed the Castle Doctrine to provide greater legal protections for gun owners protecting their families and property
- Co-sponsored the Marriage Protection Amendment
- Authored an amendment to make the proposed “Ultrasound Bill” stronger

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