

Money Saving Suggestions for Pennsylvania

It is common knowledge that the state is facing a dire economic situation, but I believe with some creative government streamlining, we can get Pennsylvania back on the right track without increasing taxes or sacrificing important programs. Following are some suggestions I have to save taxpayer dollars:

- **Cut unnecessary and inefficient programs.** For example, the state spent more than \$1.3 million on free postage for prisoners last year. We could have used this money to offset a portion of the rise in medical costs to treat prisoners.
- **Reduce Medicaid fraud.** A recent audit of Medicaid indicated that more than \$3.3 million in improper payments were made for people who were not even eligible. Read more about Medicaid fraud [here](#). You can also read more of the Auditor General's suggestion [here](#).
- **Increase competitive bidding for state contracts and end pay to play.** More than \$4 billion in procurement contracts were not competitively bid, adding to the project costs footed by taxpayers. Read more about the hidden costs of contracts that are not competitively bid [here](#).
- **Increase oversight into welfare programs.** The Special Allowance Program under the Department of Public Welfare contained \$565,000 in misappropriated funds for questionable charges and items. Read more about the program [here](#).
- **Implement an income verification system for welfare programs.** An audit into LIHEAP found more than \$500,000 in misappropriated funds by employees of the state and City of Philadelphia. These public employees stole money from poor people who needed help with their heating bills. Read more about LIHEAP fraud [here](#).
- **Follow up on programs to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness.** The Opportunity Grant program is supposed to create jobs, but it has not been studied to see if companies actually create the jobs promised in exchange for the grant. There has been \$215 million distributed through this program with very little follow up by the Department of Community and Economic Development. Read more about this program [here](#).
- **Stop taxpayer-funded bonuses to state and state-related employees.** Read more about these bonuses [here](#).
- **Prohibit unnecessary taxpayer-funded travel by state employees.** Read more about efforts to stop such travel [here](#).
- **Return the Legislature to a part-time body to save millions of dollars on staff salaries and benefits.** Read my legislation to accomplish this [here](#).
- **Require all state employees, including legislators, to contribute more of their own health care costs.**
- **Reduce the generous public employee pensions and reform the trouble public pension system.** It will cost billions of dollars in taxpayer money to fund public pensions.
- **Return all money in legislative surplus accounts.**