

THE KIDS ARE ALL LEFT

The four Democrats in this race are all starkly different from incumbent Republican Tom Corbett, but share a lot of similarities with one another. They all skew to the left, and all pledge to reverse cuts to education under Corbett's tenure. But there are some differences that help distinguish them.

(COMPILED BY CHARLIE DEITCH)

CANDIDATE	ROB MCCORD	KATE MCGINTY	ALLYSON SCHWARTZ	TOM WOLF
BIOGRAPHY	Educated at Harvard and the Wharton School of Business, McCord co-founded two firms that invested in technology. In 2008, he was elected state treasurer, making him the only Dem to have won a statewide contest. He boasts of streamlining the office, and used his post to fight Corbett's attempt to privatize the state lottery.	One of 10 siblings from northeast Philadelphia, McGinty was the first in her family to graduate from college, ultimately getting a law degree from Columbia University. She has worked on environmental policy for then-Sen. Al Gore and President Bill Clinton, later heading the Pa. Department of Environmental Protection under Gov. Ed Rendell.	Schwartz served as executive director of a Philadelphia women's clinic for 13 years before her election to the state Senate in 1990, where she helped to establish CHIP, which offers health insurance to low-income kids. A Philly-area congresswoman since 2004, she's touting her support of the Affordable Care Act, though she previously faulted some provisions of it.	Born and raised in York, Pa., Wolf joined the Peace Corps at 19, attending Dartmouth and the University of London before getting a Ph.D. from MIT. Along with two cousins, he bought the family kitchen-cabinet business; after retiring to serve as state revenue secretary under Gov. Ed Rendell, he repurchased the struggling operation in 2010.
ECONOMY	McCord says he'd seek to raise the minimum wage to \$10.70 an hour with annual 10-cent increases; wages for tipped workers would rise to \$5 from \$2.83, at the same rate. McCord favors tightening tax loopholes that businesses can enjoy by incorporating out of state.	McGinty is the only candidate proposing the same minimum wage for both hourly and tipped workers: \$10.10 an hour for each. She'd also increase the income threshold for receiving forgiveness on state income taxes, helping lower-income families by granting a \$12,000 exemption for each child.	Schwartz argues the minimum wage should be increased to \$10.10 an hour, and \$7 for tipped workers. She'd also seek to establish a "\$30 million capitalized loan pool to provide manufacturers and other businesses with access to growth capital."	Wolf supports a minimum-wage hike to \$10.10 per hour, \$7 for tipped workers. He also favors "shift[ing] the tax burden to wealthier Pennsylvanians": Much like a homestead exemption for real-estate taxes, he'd provide personal exemptions to the state's income tax, excluding a portion of earnings while raising the rate overall.
EDUCATION	McCord says he'd seek to increase funding for pre-K and restore full-day kindergarten in all districts. He's also a critic of standardized testing, saying students should not be "marching to the drummer of the testing industry." As for the Keystone Exams students need for graduation, "I'd scrap 'em."	McGinty favors earmarking revenue from her proposed drilling tax for education, and would increase funding for pre-K programs. Says there "may be some good things in Common Core" — a controversial effort to establish nationwide academic standards — but says "we should just get out of the way" of teachers.	Schwartz says standardized tests should not be the only factor in measuring achievement, but favors keeping the Keystone Exam; Common Core standards "should be given a chance to work." She says she'd also develop a fair-funding formula for all districts, though she has provided few details.	Wolf says education should be focused on the "cradle to the career" with private/public funding for expanded pre-K programs. He says he'd increase state funding to districts, both to provide property-tax relief, and to help institute a fair-funding formula that would help "disadvantaged schools."
MARCELLUS SHALE	McCord favors a 10 percent severance tax on drillers and would eliminate the current impact fee; he's against fracking in state forests. He'd seek to repeal and replace Act 13, the state drilling law found flawed by the state Supreme Court, and he'd bar the DEP from issuing exceptions to environmental regulations.	McGinty backs a 5 percent severance tax on drillers, but would keep impact fee, which benefits local municipalities where drilling occurs. She opposes fracking in state forests, and would repeal a "gag order" on doctors who, under a currently challenged law, are constrained in speaking about issues relations to fracking-chemical exposure.	Schwartz favors a 5 percent severance tax on drillers while keeping the current impact fee, earmarking the new revenue for education, transportation and clean energy. She opposes fracking on state lands, and favors an independent office to handle citizen complaints about fracking. Still, she'd encourage training veterans to hold jobs in the shale industry.	Wolf would swap the current impact fee on drillers for a 5 percent severance tax. Like the other candidates, he opposes fracking in state forest lands, while pledging to increase funding of DEP to increase enforcement. Wolf says he'd leverage the shale industry to bring spin-off manufacturing jobs to spur job creation.
FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS	McCord is backed heavily by unions, from trade locals to the state teachers union. Local supporters include City Controller Michael Lamb, the 14 th Ward Independent Democrats and LGBT advocates Steel City Stonewall Democrats. He also boasts some big donors like Al Lord, a former Sallie Mae head and Penn State trustee, who gave \$500,000.	McGinty is endorsed by former Vice President Al Gore and the union representing Allegheny County transit workers. Some of McGinty's contributions come from energy companies — not just those dealing in renewables, but also coal, oil and gas and electricity. She returned \$40,000 from an exec tied to a West Virginia chemical spill.	Schwartz is backed by women's rights groups Planned Parenthood of Pennsylvania and Emily's List, which has donated more than \$350,000. Supported by labor from Teamsters locals, several trade unions and the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers. Among local supporters are state Sen. Jay Costa and former Mayor Tom Murphy.	Wolf is a favorite of local politicians, including the Peduto-Fitzgerald alliance and some of its foes, like state Sen. Jim Ferlo and state Rep. Jake Wheatley. Wolf self-funded his campaign with \$10 million — \$4.5 million of that from a bank loan, but has also received help from the likes of York businessman Thomas Grumbacher, who contributed \$1 million.