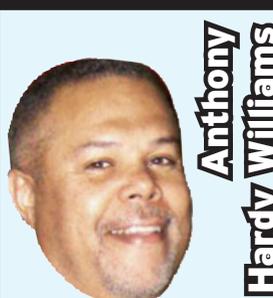




Show Me the Guv

Having a hard time telling the Democratic gubernatorial candidates apart? Here's a handy chart to show you how.

CANDIDATES	 <p>Joe Hoeffel</p>	 <p>Dan Onorato</p>	 <p>Jack Wagner</p>	 <p>Anthony Hardy Williams</p>
CLAIM TO FAME	<p>The most liberal of the Democrats, Hoeffel is a commissioner from Montgomery County, and a former Congressman and state representative. He's run statewide before, having challenged Arlen Specter as the Democratic nominee in 2004.</p>	<p>Allegheny County's chief executive boasts of being the only "single executive" to head a large government, the state's second largest. And Allegheny has weathered the economic downturn better than most parts of the state.</p>	<p>A former Pittsburgh city councilor and state senator, the state auditor general boasts his office has conducted 25,000 audits. In his 2008 re-election bid, he won more votes than any other candidate on the ballot — even Barack Obama.</p>	<p>The lone black candidate, Williams touts his work as Philadelphia-area state senator on fighting gun violence. He's recently made news backing a "parental accountability" bill to hold parents responsible if their kids skip school or have run-ins with the law.</p>
IT'S A SHAME ...	<p>... that Hoeffel has almost no money (\$100,000 on hand to Onorato's \$6.7 million as of March), and little name recognition. And there are electability concerns: In an era where Tea Parties loom large, will voters accept a candidate who wants to raise fuel and other taxes?</p>	<p>... that his campaign claims credit for economic successes that were well underway before he took office. And while he's presided over a relatively scandal-free government, he boasts of consolidating row offices like it was his idea. In fact, voters initiated the change in a 2005 referendum.</p>	<p>... that most voters couldn't pick Wagner out of a lineup. And Wagner's hard line in some audits — like one on state contracting procedures — have prompted grumbling in Harrisburg that there's some political showboating going on.</p>	<p>... that he has so little name recognition outside Philadelphia, and is not a terribly visible figure even there. Without contributions from school-voucher backers (see below), which has allowed him to buy TV time, you'd never have heard of him at all.</p>
EDUCATION INITIATIVES	<p>To fund and improve schools, especially early-childhood initiatives, Hoeffel proposes moving from a property tax toward a graduated income tax — a federal-type system in which higher wage earners would pay at a higher rate.</p>	<p>Onorato wants the state to take a larger role in funding public education, to offset local property taxes, and wants to expand early-childhood education programs.</p>	<p>Supports creating a scholarship program in which the state would pay tuition costs for any Pennsylvania student who gets a 3.0 GPA and attends a college in the state.</p>	<p>Williams fervently supports school vouchers, which he says offer families in poor districts the best chance at a quality education. He'd also tie proceeds from a tax on natural-gas drilling to community colleges.</p>
GUNS	<p>Received "A" rating from CeaseFirePa, a gun-control advocacy group. Supports giving local officials power to pass their own gun laws, mandatory safety training for gun owners and a raft of other proposals.</p>	<p>Broadly supportive of gun control, though his CeaseFirePa questionnaire does not take positions on mandatory safety training and one-gun-a-month limits. Supports local governments being able to pass their own gun laws.</p>	<p>Broadly supportive of gun control, but is the Democrat most friendly to gun owners. Opposes giving local governments power to craft their own gun laws, as well as restrictions on how many guns can be purchased at a time.</p>	<p>Very supportive of gun-control efforts — and touts his own work on a gun-violence task force — but wary of more stringent laws on trigger locks, for fear they'll punish parents who've already lost a child to accidental shooting.</p>
SOCIAL ISSUES	<p>Hoeffel is the lone candidate who supports gay marriage, as opposed to civil unions. He's also the only candidate to strongly argue that the current abortion law is too strict.</p>	<p>While widely regarded as "pro life," Onorato pledges to veto any change to the state's abortion law. He supports civil unions for same-sex couples, but not marriage.</p>	<p>Wagner describes himself as a "pro-life Democrat" who nevertheless "support[s] the current state law" on abortion. He too supports civil unions for same-sex couples, but voted for the state's "Defense of Marriage" law outlawing gay marriage.</p>	<p>Williams describes his pro-choice position — where adult women are concerned — as "clear, direct and without ambiguity." He supports civil unions for same-sex couples, but not marriage.</p>
SUPPORTED BY ...	<p>Women's groups and those supporting reproductive choice; gay-rights groups; and progressives around the state — including organizations like the 14th Ward Independent Democratic Committee, a Squirrel Hill-based liberal bastion.</p>	<p>County commissioners in Southwest PA and elsewhere, as well unions representing steelworkers, teachers and the building trades. Onorato has received large sums, thanks partly to donors tied to Gov. Ed Rendell.</p>	<p>A range of local officials and party committees, especially in rural areas. Wagner also has support from a broad base of unions, including those representing workers in the state-store system and elsewhere in government.</p>	<p>Prominent Philly Democrats including Mayor Michael Nutter, state Rep. Dwight Evans and Congressman Bob Brady. But his campaign is largely being financed with a reported \$1.5 million provided by a handful of school-voucher supporters.</p>