

# Marcellus Drilling News

Helping People & Businesses Profit from Northeast Shale Drilling



## Republican Candidate for PA Gov. Pledges Repeal of Wolf Carbon Tax

August 23, 2021 | Electrical Generation, Industrywide Issues, Pennsylvania, Regulation, Statewide PA



*Jason Richey*

+  
Bookmark

The long, drawn-out (exhausting) failed tenure of Tom Wolf as governor in Pennsylvania will be over at the end of 2022 (limited to two terms, thank God). On Nov. 8, 2022, Pennsylvanians will elect a new governor. We've been telling you for years that PA's corrupt Attorney General, Josh Shapiro, will run for the Democrat nomination. Shapiro is anti-shale energy. What about on the Republican side? We had hoped former PA

House Speaker Mike Turzai would run, but he left for greener pastures last year (see [Sad Day: PA House Speaker Mike Turzai Quitting Next Monday](#)). An early favorite on the Republican side recently sprang up—Jason Richey, a self-described blue-collar resident of Allegheny County and a Pittsburgh law firm partner. Richey has promised to overturn the RGGI carbon tax on Day One if he's elected governor.

We became aware of Richey's candidacy a few months ago when an industry friend told us about Richey. We've been impressed with what we have seen and heard.

A few weeks ago Richey penned the following op-ed to make a promise to overturn the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), an obscene carbon tax, if he gets elected. Let's hope he doesn't have to overturn it—that the legislature can somehow block it from taking effect. But *\*if\** it does take effect, Richie will undo the great damage Wolf is attempting to do to the fossil fuel industry with RGGI.

The future of Pennsylvania's economic growth has the potential to be fueled by two resources that go hand-in-hand: Energy and hard-working people.

Blessed with an abundance of energy resources — including coal and natural gas — Pennsylvania is also blessed with reliable, low-cost, abundant electricity generation that is bolstered by one of the most diverse energy portfolios in the United States. Two-thirds of our state's generation capacity comes from coal and natural gas, supporting tens of thousands of families who rely upon the production and generation of that energy for their livelihoods.

Despite this, Governor Tom Wolf is set to have Pennsylvania join 11 states like New York in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The RGGI is a multi-state agreement that ultimately will

^

place a tax on Pennsylvania's electricity generation — and eventually our energy industry as a whole.

Wolf's own economic modeling projects this leakage of jobs and investment to other states. Nonetheless, he is moving forward with his subscription to a New York City-designed plan to realign the economy of our commonwealth. Unfortunately, New York City decided our neighbors would be the winners in that plan — and made Pennsylvania the loser.

And our leaders in Harrisburg should be honest about who would actually be paying Governor Wolf's new electricity tax. The residents of the commonwealth would foot the bill.

Pennsylvanians will have to pay an additional \$2.6 billion for electricity, including annual rate increases as high as 18%.

Because low-income Pennsylvanians' energy burden as a percentage of household income can be twice as much as the median, our low-income citizens will disproportionately bear the burden of Governor Wolf's new energy tax. Make no mistake, the RGGI is a tax — and a regressive one at that.

RGGI amounts to an all-out attack on Pennsylvania's potential to be a leader in the energy sector. The end-result will be the loss of investments — and the blue-collar jobs that support those investments — in our state's energy industry as those companies leave our commonwealth for neighboring states like Ohio and West Virginia where these restrictions aren't in place.

I stand with the men and women of the building trade unions, the millions of local consumers who will see higher electricity bills, blue collar communities, and the vast majority of Pennsylvania voters who oppose Governor Wolf's unconstitutional, unilateral and illegal attempt to impose this job-crushing, price-increasing electricity tax.

^

Unfortunately, very little can halt this action. Should Wolf's plan proceed further, there is one person who can stop its implementation. Attorney General Josh Shapiro must reject the RGGI electricity tax when it comes to his office. A decision to stand with low-income Pennsylvanians, blue collar communities, and the working men and women of Pennsylvania over the special interests of central planners in New York City should be an easy one for any Pennsylvania elected official.

If the Attorney General fails to take a stand to protect Pennsylvanians and Governor Wolf succeeds in implementing his RGGI electricity tax, then I vow to repeal the RGGI electricity tax on Day 1 of my administration. For me, Pennsylvanians will always come first, and I will never advance policies that send our jobs to other states — thus breaking up the families and communities that are the backbone of this great commonwealth.

(1)

Richey visited Williamsport last week and made a positive impression on local residents:

Jason Richey, a self-described blue-collar resident of Allegheny County and a Pittsburgh law firm partner, sought to knock it out of the park Thursday as he runs for the Republican nomination for governor.

On a day when the Little League World Series started in South Williamsport, Richey, 50, took a hammering swing at Gov. Tom Wolf's policies, as he dined at the Mulberry Street Cafe on Market Street with Lycoming County Commissioner Scott Metzger among others.

"I'm a working-class guy who admires that in people," said Richey, adding that the city and county were ripe for a rebirth.

^

He then dove into his 12-part plan that was slugged — “It’s Time for Pennsylvania’s Comeback,” a slogan he is using as he campaigns.

Asked what he would do for Greater Williamsport as governor, Richey started out touting one of his priority economic drivers – a proposed zero-percent income tax, an economic incentive, he said, has worked in cities in Tennessee and Florida, which are experiencing financial comebacks and windfalls.

“You do not want to penalize someone for working,” he said. “We want to reward people that get off their butts and go out there and earn a living,” he said.

Asked how that would help this city and region, Richey noted how Lycoming County has lost 5 percent of its population, based on the latest Census.

“That’s not good,” he said, adding “this is a beautiful area that should be a thriving place and thriving town. The zero-percent tax formula is proven to help businesses and help communities to grow economically,” he said.

To implement it, as governor, he said, he will eliminate both the state business and personal income taxes, establishing, instead, the zero-percent tax rate to incentivize, not penalize, participation in the workforce and encourage new residents and businesses to come here.

Secondly, to counter the losses from the tax rate change, Richey said more emphasis must be placed on taking full advantage of the overabundance of natural resources, including natural gas, especially that derived in the Marcellus Shale play.



"I'm for an 'all-of-the-above' strategy of an energy policy promoting growth in development of natural gas, oil, clean coal, wind, solar, nuclear, and geothermal forms. That would produce lower energy costs and prioritize environmental compliance," he said.

In terms of improving public safety, Richey, minutes before the interview, met with District Attorney Ryan Gardner and they went over ways to keep the county and city safe.

"We talked about utilizing the sheriff's department, which, unfortunately, under the current law, does not have the ability to arrest," Richey said. "We could give them such power and, suddenly, have more trained people out on the streets."

Richey said public safety also can be improved with educational incentives.

When 18-year-olds are trained or go to a college or trade school, they get jobs and become productive taxpayers and, for the most part, contribute positively to society and the economy, he noted. As such, Richey said he would advocate to expand school choice, college preparatory and vocational education.

His educational platform includes improving compensation for the state's teachers, and encouraging better school administration through voluntary district consolidations when appropriate.

A fiscal conservative, Richey said the state can no longer have the second highest gasoline and business income taxes in the nation.

He said these impediments are "stifling" opportunities for new business investment and costing residents much-needed job opportunities.

^

Once in office, Richey said he would seek to eliminate unnecessary regulations, be proactive with business leaders and advocate for and encourage investment to regain the state's once-heralded legacy as a leader in manufacturing.

Richey said that he wants to reduce the size of state government and the Legislature.

"Our government puts a huge burden on its constituents with the largest and most expensive state legislature in the country," he said.

Moreover, he said, he wants to rebuild state residents' trust in their state government.

One of Richey's immediate actions will be to repeal what's known as Act 77, to acquire modern voting machines with paper ballot backup, and mandate Voter ID to ensure election integrity.

Richey said he would prioritize transparency in hiring and spending at all levels of government, advocate for merit-based selection of judges and be a governor who delivers.

"We have to bring back manufacturing and reduce our energy dependence," he said summing up his ideas. "We need to shrink the size of state government and we also want to make local government more efficient," he said.

To do that, Richey said he would have a representative for rural counties, many of which are left out of the conversation when Philadelphia, Pittsburgh are in the room.

"We have to have expand broadband internet," he said. "Everyone must have access to it."



“We haven’t had a governor who delivers,” he said. “I want to provide all Pennsylvanians with a governor who delivers.” (2)

We’ll keep a sharp eye on Jason Richey. Whoever gets the Republican nomination, we MUST ensure they win. We can’t afford a third Democrat term for governor in PA, especially a Josh Shapiro (very corrupt) administration.

(1) York (PA) *Daily Record* (Aug 14, 2021) – Richey: I will repeal RGGI on day one

(2) Williamsport (PA) *Sun-Gazette* (Aug 20, 2021) – Republican nominee hopeful for 2022 governor race visits Williamsport

Share this:

 Twitter
  Facebook
  LinkedIn
  Print
  More

Related

Say It Ain't So! PA House Speaker Mike Turzai is Retiring  
 January 23, 2020  
 In "Pennsylvania"

Sad Day: PA House Speaker Mike Turzai Quitting Next Monday  
 June 11, 2020  
 In "Pennsylvania"

PA House Speaker Mike Turzai, Friend of O&G, Running for Governor  
 November 15, 2017  
 In "Pennsylvania"

