

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY

Chapter 6.1



GOVERNOR TOM CORBETT

THE FIRST TWO YEARS

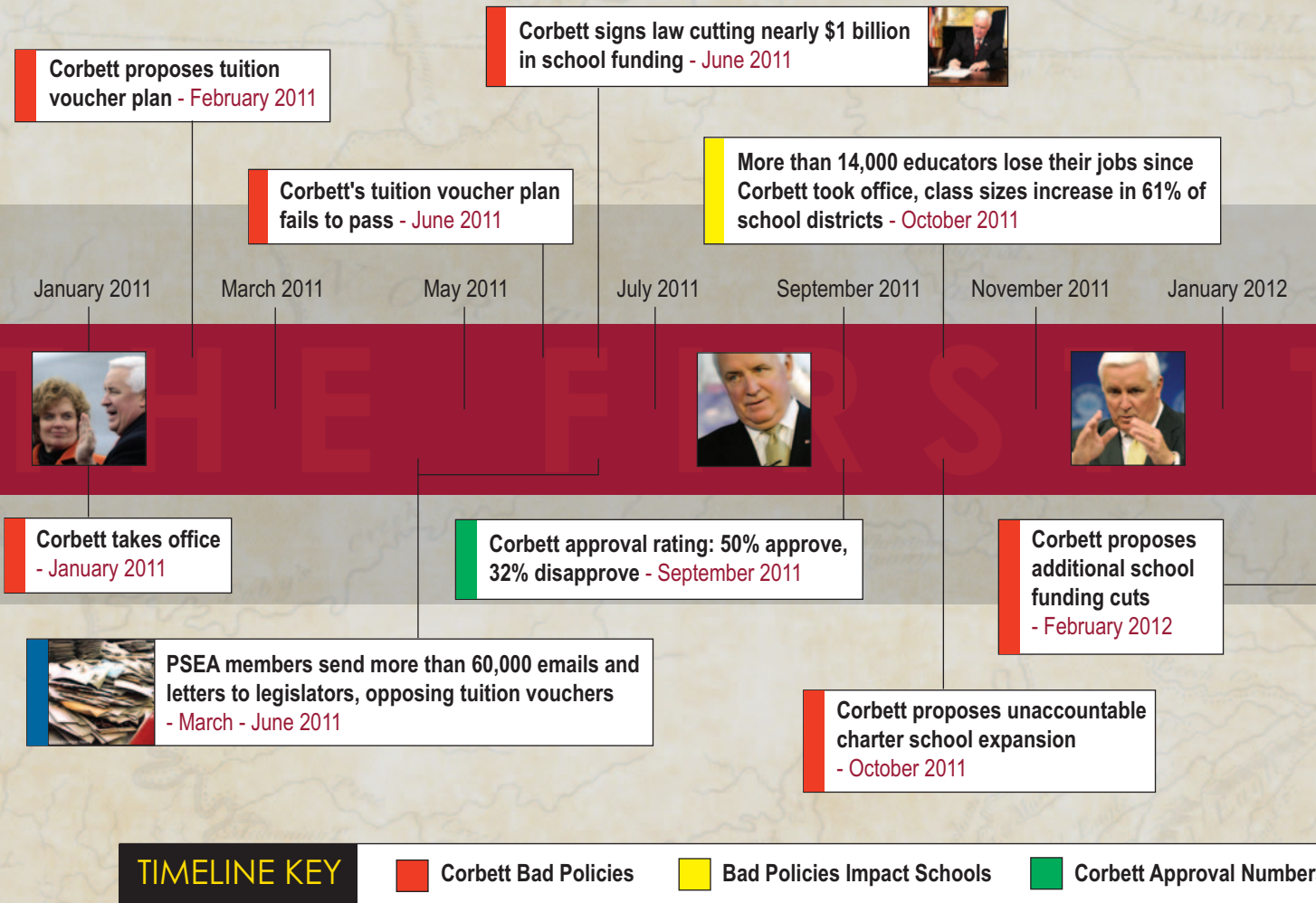
CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

- Funding Cuts Crush Schools
- PSEA Defeats Bad Policies
- PSEA Members Speak Out
- 2013-2014 Budget Plan:
Cut Pension Benefits
- Approval Sinks to Historic
Lows





Governor Corbett's First Two Years in



Bad Policies, Public Disapproval, Unrivaled PSEA Advocacy

Funding Cuts Crush Schools



In his first year in office, Gov. Corbett championed the deepest school funding cuts in Pennsylvania history, resulting in nearly \$1 billion in cuts to public schools.

As a result, nearly 20,000 educators lost their jobs, class sizes increased in 70 percent of school districts, and 35 percent of districts were forced to eliminate student tutoring programs.

PSEA Defeats Bad Policies

Corbett's defeats on key issues were largely due to opposition from PSEA members.

Gov. Corbett failed to pass his tuition voucher, unaccountable expansion of charter schools, and school funding "block grant" initiatives, even though they were centerpieces of his legislative agenda.

PSEA Members Speak Out

PSEA members became known for sending so many emails on these issues that legislators' email systems overloaded and crashed. Since January 2011, PSEA members sent 548,533 emails opposing Gov. Corbett's bad policies.



Rally held in the Capitol rotunda on June 13, 2012

A PSEA rally held in the Capitol rotunda on June 13, 2012, to protest school funding cuts was described as "one of the largest and loudest of the season." Educators jammed the state Capitol, lobbied legislators, and made certain that their voices were heard.

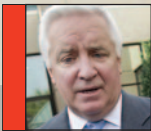
Office - A TIMELINE



Corbett approval rating: 33% approve, 58% disapprove - March 2013



PSEA members send more than 30,000 emails in 12 hours, opposing Corbett's unaccountable charter school expansion proposal - June 2012



Corbett's unaccountable charter school expansion proposal fails to pass - June 2012

Nearly 20,000 educators lose their jobs since Corbett took office, class sizes increase in 70% of school districts - October 2012

March 2012

May 2012

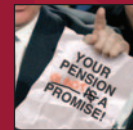
July 2012

September 2012

November 2012

January 2013

March 2013



Corbett's additional school funding cuts fail to pass - June 2012

Corbett approval rating: 33% approve, 44% disapprove - November 2012

Corbett attacks state and school employee pension systems - February 2013

PSEA members send more than 42,000 emails and letters to legislators, opposing additional school funding cuts - February - June 2012



PSEA members send more than 130,000 postcards, 40,000 emails, opposing his attacks on the pension systems - December 2012 - March 2013

Slide

PSEA Member Advocacy

2013-2014 Budget Plan: Cut Pension Benefits



Gov. Corbett's 2013-2014 budget plan centers around cuts to public employee pensions. For the average PSEA member, Corbett's pension proposal will result in a 26 percent, or \$16,166, cut in annual pension benefits.

While he publicly stated that the goal of his pension proposal was to save money, it would actually cost taxpayers more in the long run.

In fact, Corbett's plan will cost taxpayers nearly twice as much, while providing education professionals with smaller pensions.

Approval Sinks to Historic Lows

Gov. Corbett's popularity reached historic lows in 2013, with just 33 percent of Pennsylvanians approving of his job performance, and 58 percent disapproving, largely due to his unprecedented school funding cuts.

QUIZ: Please answer the following questions

1. How many PA educators have lost their jobs since Gov. Corbett took office?

2. How much state funding has Gov. Corbett cut from public schools since he took office?

3. How many emails have PSEA members sent to legislators, opposing Corbett initiatives, since he took office?

4. How much in annual pension benefits would the average PSEA member lose if Gov. Corbett's pension plan passes?

5. What is Gov. Corbett's current approval rating?

(Answers: 1. Nearly 20,000 2. Nearly \$1 billion 3. 548,533 4. \$16,166 5. 33%)

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For Further Discussion

Based on what you have learned in this chapter, please consider the following questions.

1. Have PSEA members' emails, letters, phone calls, and personal conversations with legislators helped to defeat some of Gov. Tom Corbett's bad policies?
2. Has Gov. Tom Corbett's public education agenda – cutting state funding for public schools, increasing class sizes, slashing tutoring programs, and attacking school employee pensions – met public approval?
3. Can PSEA members help to elect a new governor in 2014?



It's Time to Write The Next Chapter of Our History **Speak Out TODAY**

For Your Profession and Public Education

- See How School Funding Cuts Impact Your District.
Go to www.psea.org/schoolcuts
- Send Your Legislator an Email.
Go to www.psea.org/takeaction
- Write Your Legislator a Letter.
Go to www.psea.org/writeletters
- Give to PSEA-PACE.
Go to www.psea.org/pace

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