

TOM CORBETT SUPPORTS PRIVATIZATION OF STATE LIQUOR STORE SYSTEM

October 19, 2010

HARRISBURG – Today Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett announced his support for the privatization of the state-run liquor store system, citing the state's need for additional revenues.

"It is no secret that Pennsylvania and the next governor of this commonwealth will be faced with massive economic challenges left behind by the current administration. As governor, I will present a plan for the privatization of the state liquor store system that helps to address the state's need for additional funds, insures ongoing revenues and minimizes the impact on current workers," said Corbett. "Given the current economic climate in Pennsylvania, state government can no longer be in the liquor store business. We need to move our state out of the 19th century and refocus state government on its core functions and services for our residents." www.TomCorbettforgovernor.com, October 19, 2010.
<http://web.archive.org/web/20101028222429/http://www.tomcorbettforgovernor.com/releases/91/tom-corbett-supports-privatization-of-state-liquor-store-system/>

OCTOBER 20, 2010

Corbett vows to privatize state liquor stores

Republican gubernatorial candidate wants to sell the liquor stores. Democrat Dan Onorato, his rival in the race, is not convinced it's a good idea.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Corbett wants to privatize Pennsylvania's state-run liquor stores during his first year as governor.

A spokesman for Democrat Dan Onorato, Corbett's opponent, said Wednesday that Onorato isn't rejecting selling the stores, but he would be hesitant to lose the revenue they generate for the state.

Privatizing state liquor stores is one of those ideas that comes up every year in Harrisburg, but never goes anywhere. Corbett argues Pennsylvania's dire financial circumstances will give the plan momentum, much like a multibillion-dollar deficit paved the way for legalized table games at casinos this year.

"You have to keep in mind that I don't think the last seven governors have faced an economic crisis the likes of which Pennsylvania is looking at right

now. I think there is a much greater willingness in the general populace, that wants it," said Corbett. "The voters, I think, want it."

A Republican lawmaker who's long pushed for privatization estimates Pennsylvania could generate \$2 billion by selling off state stores. Opponents of the idea, including Governor Ed Rendell, say the one-time profit isn't worth the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenue.

Both candidates oppose loosening Pennsylvania's restrictive beer sales laws.

WHYY Newsworks: <http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/the-latest/6954-corbett-vows-to-privatize-state-liquor-stores>