

TO: Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Martin Michael Schmotzer
DATE: June 20, 2012
SUBJECT: Constitutional Amendment to Establish and Increase Age Qualifications for Public Office

In the near future, I will be introducing a legislative package of three bills proposing to amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the purpose of establishing age qualifications for the Office of Auditor General and State Treasurer and increasing age qualifications for members of the General Assembly and the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Although I am loath to equate youth with imprudence and immaturity, I do fully subscribe to the philosophy that with age usually follows experience, understanding and the ability to effectively govern as a result of judiciously applying an accumulated wealth of knowledge and life experiences. Therefore, it is for reason articulated above that I am proposing to establish and increase age qualifications for the aforementioned public offices. The first measure of this legislative package would establish age qualifications for the Office of Auditor General and State Treasurer in the following manner:

- Auditor General – 40 years of age (Currently, there is no age qualification for this office)
- State Treasurer – 40 years of age (Currently, there is no age qualification for this office)

The second measure would increase age qualifications for members of the General Assembly in the following manner:

- Representatives in the General Assembly – From 21 to 30 years of age
- Senators in the General Assembly – From 30 to 40 years of age

The third measure of this legislative package would increase age qualifications for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General in the following manner:

- Governor – From 30 to 50 years of age
- Lieutenant Governor – From 30 to 50 years of age
- Attorney General – From 30 to 40 years of age

It is important that we as legislators remain cognizant of the fact that the goal of government should always be to strive to provide the citizens of this Commonwealth with stellar public service. As such, I believe that an effective step in this direction would be to ensure that only the most experienced and knowledgeable individuals are representing their interests.

If you would wish to join me as a co-sponsor of any of these measures, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Maria Halkias at (717) 772-9902 or MHalkias@pahouse.net.