

Judge Rendell, Governor Wolf, Speaker Turzai...

Distinguished guests, friends and family, colleagues old and new...

And, most of all, my fellow Pennsylvanians...

Thank you.

Today, I'm going to work on behalf of 12.8 million Pennsylvanians. I'm succeeding Tim Reese – a good man who did a good job in a tough time -- in an office almost as old as our Commonwealth itself. I will never stop being grateful to the people of this state for that enormously humbling privilege. And I'll never forget how so many worked so hard to make it possible.

I want to thank everyone who is here today, and everyone who was there during the campaign, but, most of all, I want to thank some people who have been there for me much longer than that: my big, beautiful, boisterous – and bipartisan! – family. My mom Pat, my sister Nicole and her family, my Minnesota in-laws, and, especially, my brilliant, strong and generous wife Carolyn and our four wonderful, and kind children: Grace, Joey, Kelly, and Travis.

I'm so lucky to have you. I love you all so very much.

Finally, I want to say a special thank-you to Superintendent Knight-Burney, Principal McClain and all the students, teachers, administrators, and support staff here at Camp Curtin Academy for hosting us today. There's a reason I chose to have my swearing-in here, and it wasn't just to get you out of your advisory period. It's because this place is all about the future.

I know the future can seem a long way off when you have a math test and band practice and, like, three hours of homework before you can even go to bed tonight. But there's a reason you do all of that. How many of you have started to think about college? How many of you have started to think about what kind of career you might choose?

That's what this is all about, right? Of course, you don't have to have it all figured out already. But like the sign in your hall says: "Begin with the end in mind."

And, by the way: It's not just you who's thinking about your future. Your parents are thinking about it. Your teachers are thinking about it. And 12.8 million Pennsylvanians are thinking about your future. That's why places like Camp Curtin Academy exist. We're all rooting for you guys. We're rooting for you to start businesses and make art and cure diseases because we're counting on you to help keep our state and our country strong and prosperous and free.

But it's more than just *rooting for* you. We all have a *responsibility to* you. A responsibility to give you, and every child in this Commonwealth, every opportunity to succeed, starting long before you come to a place like Camp Curtin Academy and continuing long after you graduate.

Your parents and your teachers wake up every morning with that responsibility in mind. And my promise to you is this: As your Treasurer, so will I.

The bible on which I just took the oath of office belonged to William Penn, the founder of our Commonwealth. Nearly a century before the United States Constitution was written, Penn imagined a place where people could be truly free to determine their own future – but also shared the responsibility of shaping that future *together*.

Penn called it a “holy experiment” in self-government. And what makes that experiment work is trust. Trust in each other, and, especially, trust in the leaders we choose to make decisions on our behalf.

“All public service is a trust, given in faith and accepted in honor.” Those words are carved into stone on the front of the Pennsylvania Finance Building. And if William Penn’s experiment is truly holy, then the trust it relies on must be sacred.

Above the doorway to Ms. Knouse’s classroom, a single word is painted: “Accountability.” Every student here knows what it means. It means you’re going to be measured by whether you do what you say you’re going to do.

Elected officials should be more accountable than anyone. So, as my first act as Treasurer, I’m calling for a new standard of accountability. Let’s use the power of technology to open up our state’s finances so that everyone can see how our money is being spent – and so that wrongdoing has nowhere to hide. Let’s put more watchdogs on the beat so we can be sure that those of us who take these oaths in public live by them in private, starting with me. And let’s make the office of Treasurer known for the very highest standards of integrity.

If we want to leave the next generation a state government worthy of William Penn’s vision, it starts with rebuilding the sacred trust that has been broken far too often in recent years.

Some of you in the audience today might be thinking about running for office someday. Although there are days when I’m not sure I’d recommend it.

But even if you don’t choose public service as a calling, you should see it as an honorable one, and you should be able to say with pride that the “holy experiment” is alive and well in your Commonwealth.

Now, it’s not enough just to leave the next generation a healthier tradition of public integrity. We should also leave our Commonwealth in better *fiscal* shape than we found it.

I’m someone who believes that government can do big and important things to improve lives. But it can’t do any of those things if it spends more than it takes in, or if it loses the confidence of the taxpayers who support it.

As Treasurer, it's my job to pay the state's bills and safeguard \$100 billion of Pennsylvania's money. But I will never forget that every one of those dollars comes from the hard work of a Pennsylvanian somewhere.

When your dad pays a fee to renew his driver's license or your aunt pays taxes on the income from her small business, that money is supposed to be an investment in your future – in *our shared* future. And the budgets that get made here in Harrisburg, they're the blueprints for that future.

That's why, as Treasurer, I'm going to tell the truth about our fiscal challenges, even when the truth is hard to face. It's why I'm going to ask tough questions about how we're investing our resources, even when those questions are uncomfortable. And it's why I'll take a hard look at each and every expenditure of taxpayer money that comes across my desk. Because if we waste that money, what we're really wasting is the opportunity to build a road that helps people get to work, or the opportunity to help someone who's struggling to make ends meet, or the opportunity to invest in a school like this one.

That's what we're really talking about when we talk about the future, whether it's your future or Pennsylvania's future. Opportunity.

There isn't a single student here who doesn't have the talent to get a college or vocational degree after high school, a degree that will unlock limitless potential for your future and for the Commonwealth's.

And there probably isn't a single student here whose parents aren't already worried about how they're going to pay for that degree.

That's why I want to work toward a Pennsylvania where every kid born in this state has the opportunity to go to college. And one way to start is by giving every newborn a savings account with his or her name on it, so that every child in Pennsylvania can grow up saving for that degree.

If we make it easier for kids to go to college, we can give them the opportunity to earn as much as a million dollars more over the course of their lifetime. And that's just the beginning of what we can do to give more opportunities to more Pennsylvanians.

If we improve financial literacy, more Pennsylvanians will have the opportunity to make smart decisions about things buying a home.

If we find ways to invest in our infrastructure, or encourage the start-up and growth of small business, more Pennsylvanians will have the opportunity to find good jobs without leaving our state.

And if we create portable retirement accounts, more Pennsylvanians will have the opportunity to save for retirement regardless of how their career evolves.

I'm ready to partner with anyone on all these initiatives – initiatives, by the way, that have support from Republicans and Democrats alike, all over the country – and I'm ready to get to work. Because this job isn't just about improving Pennsylvania's finances. It's about improving *yours*. It's about building opportunity for every family, in every corner of this state.

William Penn's "holy experiment" in self-government was a truly radical notion. It was nearly a century later that the United States Constitution, rooted in the same ideas, was ratified. And it's no coincidence that it happened right here in Pennsylvania.

When we work together, devoting our common resources to growing our common wealth, acting in common purpose, working together to build our common future, we can lead the nation and the world. From the first library to the first hospital, from tunnels to turnpikes, from the Constitution to the computer, we've invented and reinvented America right here in Pennsylvania.

But we've never made the mistake of thinking we've perfected it. We've never thought we were done with the work of building our shared future. We've never stopped looking to the horizon.

I may be taking on the job of stewarding our state's finances, but our potential to shape the future can't be captured on a spreadsheet, because our real treasure isn't the money in our accounts. It's the talent and the energy and the brilliance of young Pennsylvanians like you. It's in the things you'll invent, and the books you'll write, the families you'll build, and the lives you'll touch.

Each generation finds its own way to renew and expand and enrich the legacy that William Penn started. You will have your chance, too. And sooner than you think.

My job as Treasurer will be to help give you every opportunity to make the biggest, boldest mark you can.

So let us begin with that end in mind.

Let's prove that we *can* have a government worthy of trust.

Let's prove that we *can* manage responsibly in tough times.

Let's prove that we *can* find common ground even in a divided era.

Let's prove that we *can* create opportunity for every family.

And, most of all, let's prove that, more than 300 years after William Penn's bible was printed, Pennsylvania *still* owns the future.

Thank you, and God Bless Pennsylvania.