

## Voters' feelings about Corbett could affect Pa. attorney general race

**PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW:** David Freed hopes to become the fifth consecutive Republican attorney general since the post became an elected position three decades ago. Democrat Kathleen Kane wants to break that dominance.

Their powerful allies have weighed in on the race, in which the Jerry Sandusky child-sex scandal at Penn State University continues to serve as a debate theme. Political strategists say voters' feelings for Gov. Tom Corbett, who as attorney general started

the Sandusky investigation, could play a role in the Nov. 6 election.

People disappointed with the Republican governor might "*register their discontent and vote for Kane,*" said Tom Baldino, a political science professor at Wilkes University. A Quinnipiac University poll this week showed voters disapprove of Corbett's job performance by a 42 percent to 38 percent margin...

## Penn State panel: NCAA action "a rush to judgment"

On October 3, former PSU Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA Scott Kretchmar read a prepared statement accusing the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as "*too heavy-handed with Penn State sanctions.*" Kretchmar's address [is available on YouTube](#).

Professor Kretchmar characterized the NCAA action as a "*rush to judgment... draconian penalties issued on insufficient evidence... lack of due process, an organization that does not stay focus on its primary duties... making sweeping accusations about a corrupt culture which is at odds with the facts.*"

He also was implicitly critical of Penn State President Rodney Erickson for agreeing to the punishments....

According to the *Centre Daily* in an article titled "**Panel: NCAA too heavy-handed with Penn State sanctions**" went on to report:

*"Five panelists, including Kretchmar, discussed the duties of the NCAA and relationships with its*

*member schools. The panelists included two former NCAA presidents, the Knight Commission's executive director and USA Today's assistant managing editor for sports...*

*"Cedric Dempsey, NCAA president from 1994 through 2002, said Penn State should not have agreed to the consent package that NCAA President Mark Emmert presented...*

*"Gene Corrigan, former commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference and NCAA president, said he did not agree with the NCAA's handling of the scandal within the first few days.*

*"I would have come to the school and found every detail I could find about it (the scandal), 'Corrigan said.'..."*

Not addressed by the panel were the influences and pressures that caused Erickson to accept so unfair and "*draconian*" a settlement. That story has yet to be written. But we are working on it!

## New Jersey Finds Syringe Exchange Works

**CHRONICLE:** In a report released Tuesday, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has found that the state's needle exchange program has provided clean needles to nearly 10,000 drug users and gotten more than 2,000 of them into drug treatment. In the report, Health Commissioner Mary O'Dowd concluded that the program is a success and should be continued.

The goal of needle exchange programs is to reduce harm to injection drug users and the community at large by reducing the spread of blood-borne

diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. According to the report, injection drug users accounted for nearly 40% of new HIV/AIDS cases in the state through 2010.

*“Sterile syringe access programs (SAPs) which include drug treatment and behavioral interventions are one model proven to significantly prevent/reduce the transmission of these diseases,”* the report noted. *“These programs have also been shown to facilitate enrollment of IDUs into drug rehabilitation programs.”*

## Opponents say Gov. Corbett giving Lancaster Waste special treatment

**HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS:** Gov. Tom Corbett met with the Lancaster County agency interested in buying Harrisburg's incinerator months before the burner was officially offered for sale.

Some Harrisburg officials and community leaders say they are troubled by that meeting — and its timing.

At that meeting with the governor on Sept. 12, 2011, the Lancaster County Solid Waste Authority discussed its plan to offer \$124 million to buy Harrisburg's burner, according to that agency's minutes of the meeting. There also was discussion about the state's agreement to pay \$8 million to help cover improvements to the facility, the minutes stated...

**INTELL** Editorial **“The hotel tax”** states: *“When Luzerne County enacted a 5 percent hotel tax, hoteliers were not pleased. They argued that the levy — the first in Northeast Pennsylvania — would hurt business and drive away visitors.*

*“They were wrong. That tax was established in 1996. Since then, Luzerne County has used \$25 million of that amount to pay off the debt of the Mohegan Sun Arena.”*

**WATCHDOG:** Yes, the tax helped pay for the Arena. But, contrary to the *Intell* assertion for which we bet they did no research, it was

devastating for the profits of the local hotels, of which one of them was built and is managed by a sister entity to *NewsLanc.*

In the first year after the imposition of the room sales tax, the profits were reduced by approximately the amount of room sales tax paid to the county. So much for shifting the cost to hotel customers!

At least in the Wilkes-Barre area due to the arena location just off of I-81, the majority of the hotels in the region are able to benefit from what small amount of business is generated.

The above items have been excerpted from [www.NewsLanc.com](http://www.NewsLanc.com). Visit the website daily for news, commentary, letters, and other features. Suggestions and letters can be sent anonymously through the home page.