



# Friends of Dan Miller

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“A Financial Expert for a Financial Crisis”

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Statement from Controller Dan Miller announcing his campaign for Harrisburg Mayor**

#### **Harrisburg's Future Starts Now!**

As I walk around Harrisburg and talk with people in their homes or on the street, many tell me they have felt disappointed by their elected leaders for years. They believe too many politicians serve their own interest without consideration for people's best interest. Residents tell me politicians are out of touch, operate with impunity, and make deals behind closed doors and bend the rules. People believe that because much of it *has* been true and some is still true today. But that is changing!

We have a more assertive, active and forceful City Council. Voters spoke loud and clear last year and we have two new representatives, to represent Harrisburg in the legislature for the future. Those are good steps in the right direction. But, that is not enough.

We need a change in the Mayor's office. We need a change in substance and attitude. But most of all, we need a change in direction. We need a Mayor who will stand up for people who live in the city!

I am a lifelong Harrisburg area resident. I am a homeowner and run a small business in the city. But most importantly for the future of Harrisburg and for the confidence of its residents, I am a numbers guy who believes in playing by the rules and doing the right thing! And as everyone who has followed my career knows, I stand up for what I believe in.

Most of all, I believe Harrisburg can have a bright future under the proper leadership and that is why I am running for Mayor. I believe it will take a huge team effort to get Harrisburg back on track and Harrisburg can be a great city to live and work once again. I believe that City Council is an equal member of the team and they have an equal stake in Harrisburg's recovery. I believe that procedures are meant to be followed and that sunshine is the best disinfectant. That means transparency and accountability in everything government does.

My job right now is to watch the people's money and make sure it is spent in accordance to the rules. As everyone knows, the Mayor and I have a very different interpretation of those rules. I believe the city's budget, as passed by City Council, dictates who gets paid and how much they get paid. The Mayor argued otherwise. And I believe that City Council must approve the terms of the sale of the city's

artifacts before signing the contract that calls for a forty percent loss on every object. The Mayor strongly disagrees!

So, when former Receiver David Unkovic called for an investigation of the incinerator deals and side deals, I would have supported him loudly. The public deserves to know what went on, who knew what, and when they knew it. I think that since we are being forced to pay the bill we should at least be convinced that it is the correct amount that taxpayers are expected to pay. But, instead of standing up for the people of Harrisburg, Mayor Thompson sided with Senator Jeff Piccola and Governor Corbett.

Does anyone other than Linda Thompson really believe that Piccola, Corbett and their fellow Republicans have the best interest of the city in mind? Or doubt that the plan they have offered is targeted toward managing the city's decline instead of planning for its revival?

To that end, I also believe we should have made a better and stronger case for a commuter tax instead of accepting a doubling of the Earned Income Tax on Harrisburg's residents only. After all, it is a tool other municipalities across the Commonwealth have been allowed to use, but not us. And no municipality could use the extra money to provide basic city services—that would attract new residents, new businesses and new opportunities—more than Harrisburg can.

While it is true that Harrisburg's elected leaders certainly contributed to the city's budget woes, it is equally true that municipalities across the Commonwealth find themselves in the same boat. Clearly, the problem is systemic and in need of regional solutions. But instead of that, we got an unfair and short-sighted doubling of the Earned Income Tax on Harrisburg's residents only. It makes for attracting people and businesses to locate in Harrisburg that much more of a challenge. We have to change the city's operations, it's priorities, and it's image. I offer that change and I humbly appeal to the voters of Harrisburg for their support.

I understand the solutions to Harrisburg's many challenges have to be comprehensive, must consider the best interest of the city for the long run and the city needs more input from business leaders, community leaders, religious leaders, elected leaders, experts, and ordinary citizens. I will view the budget approved by City Council as the year's spending plan—not as a suggestion sheet.

I offer competent leadership with a clear vision of better days for the city of Harrisburg. Of all of the candidates running for Mayor, including the current Mayor, I am the only one with a breadth of financial experience, a deep understanding of the city's finances, and the management skills to turn the city's future around.

I promise to work with ALL stakeholders; listen to all sides of the argument and to give the job every ounce of my energy and ability. And, I demand and expect my Administration to do the same.

With that promise, I am officially launching my campaign for Harrisburg Mayor.

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