

# Hasay

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he said of the first couple of years. "I'm now at a position in seniority that I can bring more people in. I know who to talk to, when to talk to them and when to not talk to them more than a freshman representative coming in," he explained.

"I enjoy serving the people. It makes you feel good when you accomplish something," said Hasay when asked what keeps him coming back every two years. In the last few months he has been campaigning grassroots style, meeting and greeting and eating. He has been to church

*"I enjoy serving the people. It makes you feel good when you accomplish something."*

**Rep. George Hasay, R**  
117th District incumbent

suppers, volunteer fire company fundraisers and other events.

Hasay said he is proud of many accomplishments he has made during his tenure. In particular, in 1980 he was involved with giving citizens the right to defend themselves in their own home from intruders.

Also, he has been involved in

encouraging PennDOT to move more quickly on many small bridge projects and making sure the rural highway system is improved and maintained.

Hasay is proud that he helped to keep the state health centers public, maintaining free and low-cost medical care for many of the working poor.

"I was the first one to establish the wildlife license plate for Pennsylvania. We were trying to figure out how to raise money for the PA Wildlife Resources Conservation Fund. I came up with putting an owl on the plates and we sold 220,000," explained Hasay, who said his critics did not believe the plates would sell 500.

When asked if he would run again if he won this time, Hasay gave an easy smile and simply said, "We'll see what happens. Never say never."

He lives in Shickshinny with his wife and daughter.

# Conyngham

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tion day. If I win I know there will again be a choice on election day. The system wants to provide choices."

School property tax and the quality of public school education are among Conyngham's prominent concerns. "School property taxes are high and getting higher. The state and school districts were in a 50/50 relationship. Now they have about a 63/37 relationship," said Conyngham.

Conyngham supports a revision of the allocation of taxes that come from local property taxes versus the earned income tax. He does not see the Homestead Act, which won on the ballot last year, as a realistic approach to tax reform.

"(With the Homestead Act) school districts are given the right to come up with a new formula which allows them to lean more on earned income rather than nuisance taxes. Perhaps that would reduce school property tax," he explained, but the process is cumbersome.

In order for a school board to enact a new formula, it must put it up for public referendum and Conyngham does not think school boards will want to give that power to the electorate because he be-

*"He's been there 26 years and I don't think he's going to show us anything new."*

**Will C. Conyngham, D**  
117th District challenger

lieves it binds their hands.

"People will vote with their pocket books. If it is property tax reform we should see that it will be broadly utilized. My guess is it won't be. I don't think it's a solution," said Conyngham.

As far as the quality of education, he believes that "people in leadership positions should take leadership. Provision of the quality of public school education is a principal responsibility."

Conyngham said if he is elected he will hit the ground running. "I want to do an outstanding job because I know I'll be up for reelection. It's been a long time since Hasay knew he'd have an opponent and I think his job performance shows it. He's been there 26 years and I don't think he's going to show us anything new," he said.

## Candidates' positions on jobs, health care, open land

*Editor's Note: The Dallas Post asked each candidate to respond to three questions of our choosing. Their responses follow.*

### What could you do to improve employment in the 117th District?

**CONYNGHAM:** "To me it's very simple. Talk to potential employers and ask them what it would take to bring them here. Ask them what the obstacles are," he said.

Conyngham said because the district surrounds an old developed area, it makes sense to take a more regional approach to employment, rather than only focusing on the district.

"I cannot just ask what I can do for the district, but what I can do for the district and region. It makes sense to bring jobs to a place where industry is already built. Since the district surrounds the Valley, where all the jobs are, we should concentrate on that area and not disrupt the rural areas. My intention is to work closely with other state representatives from the region to bring better jobs to the region that would benefit everybody," he said.

**HASAY:** "I've been working with Industrial Resource Centers, which aid various industries in loan and grant expansion money so they can stay in northeastern Pennsylvania," he said.

Recently, Hasay said he worked with the governor's action team which helped Harris Semiconductor stay in Mountaintop. "We got them a loan (with a 4.2 percent interest rate) so they would not have to move to Florida. Also, the local governments gave tax deferments," said Hasay.

"I plan to continue working with different agencies, increasing the Industrial Resource Center appropriations each year."

Hasay said the PA Industrial Developmental Authority (PIDA) "has been successful in getting more funds available for indus-

tries that want to locate in Pennsylvania."

Hasay recently served as chairman of a House Commerce Committee that invited CEO's of local business agencies to talk with them about how to improve the workings of PIDA to encourage them to increase productivity and increase jobs. He found the hearings to be successful.

### What could be done to improve access to health care in the district?

**CONYNGHAM:** "Traditionally insurance companies paid for medical care. Then they moved toward managed care programs which removed some power of the patients and doctors. I think there needs to be a patient's bill of rights letting them know the rules. There needs to be some way to find out limitations of the health care program. We need to prevent abuse of the system," he said.

**HASAY:** "There are state health centers in each county that provide free immunizations (and other health care)," said Hasay, who fought to keep the centers from being privatized three years ago. "I'd like to help expand the services of the health centers," he said.

Hasay said he has been an active supporter of Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). With CHIP the state provides health care at a "reasonable price" for families that make \$35,000 or less and have children.

### How do you stand on farm preservation and similar programs to preserve open land?

**CONYNGHAM:** "I've been involved with land conservation efforts for six years in an apolitical way. I was part of the original group that started the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust. Due to

our success I was appointed to the PA Land Trust Alliance.

Because of that interest I came to realize that Luzerne and Wyoming counties were involved in these programs," said Conyngham, who feels the Luzerne County Commissioners squandered an opportunity to participate in the PA Farmland Preservation Program.

The commissioners enrolled in the program, but will not be eligible until 2000 because they did not push it and therefore missed this year's deadline.

The program is set up so counties purchase the development rights from farmers. Lackawanna County earns \$350,000 each year from the program.

"They (the county commissioners) said they would do all of the necessary preparation to get enrolled in 1998 in April and they didn't. I'm not happy about it," said Conyngham. "This is money being collected throughout the state from cigarette tax. If coun-

ties enroll in the program they are eligible to make applications for some of this money. There is a group of people quite ready to do the legwork for them (Luzerne County Commissioners). The farm vote is apparently not important to them."

**HASAY:** "I've gotten endorsed by the PA Farmers Association because I've worked with them in trying to support farming and keeping farms operating. I was involved in passing a law which gives farmers immunity from civil suits in the area of farming (i.e. suits regarding odor from livestock or noise from tractors)."

"I think every farmer should make his own decision as to what to do with his own land. I think we need to move in the farmland preservation (direction)."

Hasay said he supported the Homestead Act and believes it helps farmers because property taxes could be reduced, not just on the home, but other buildings.

### The candidates in brief

**William H. Conyngham, Democrat**

**AGE:** 50

**HOME:** Lehman Township

**OCCUPATION:** Co-owner of Hillside Farms Dairy Store

**BACKGROUND:** BA from New York University, two years communications graduate program. Married with four children.

**PROFESSIONAL CLUBS/SERVICE ORGS.:** BMT Regional Land Trust, PA Land Trust Alliance, chairman of Lehman Township Zoning Board, president of Georgetown Settlement Foundation, and secretary of Osterhout Free Library

**George C. Hasay, Republican**

**AGE:** 50

**HOME:** Shickshinny

**OCCUPATION:** State representative of 117th District

**BACKGROUND:** Graduate of Wilkes-Barre Business College. Married with one child.

**PROFESSIONAL CLUBS/SERVICE ORGS.:** 26 years as state representative of 117th District, honorary lifetime member of Shickshinny Volunteer Fire Company and honorary lifetime member of American Legion Post 495.

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A reception to honor Will Conyngham, candidate for state representative, will be held on Tues., Oct. 27 at Damiens, Harveys Lake. The reception will be held from 7 - 9 p.m. Tickets are available by calling Ray Boyle at 639-1435.

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