

From Crisis to Cure: Revitalizing America's Healthcare System

Geisinger invited the greatest minds to participate in a powerful conversation about the future of health in America. The invitation-only event held Nov. 8, 9 and 10 on the Danville, Pennsylvania campus of Geisinger Medical Center brings together a panel of the nation's leading healthcare experts on policy, patient experience, wellness and technology.

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Tom Wolf

Governor of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf has been governor of Pennsylvania since January 2015.

He grew up in a small south central Pennsylvania town in York County before attending college at Dartmouth. He interrupted his studies to join the Peace Corps and served two years in a small village in India before returning to finish his undergraduate degree. He later earned graduate degrees from the University of London and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



While finishing his PhD, Tom worked as a forklift operator and warehouse worker in the family business, the Wolf Organization, a distributor of lumber and other building products based in York, Pennsylvania. After graduating, his first full-time job was running a Tru-Value hardware store in Manchester, Pennsylvania.

Later, with two cousins, Tom took a risk by securing a loan to buy the family business. Over the course of 25 years, Tom and his cousins grew the Wolf Organization — eventually more than quintupling the business in size — before selling the company in 2006.

Then in 2007, Tom took the job of secretary of revenue in Governor Ed Rendell's cabinet, where he instituted reforms that grew and strengthened the state lottery and laid the foundation for millions of dollars in additional benefits for Pennsylvania's seniors.

In early 2009, Tom returned to The Wolf Organization when it was on the brink of bankruptcy. Tom immediately ended his gubernatorial campaign, bought back the business, and got to work reinventing the company.

He changed the Wolf Organization's business model, transforming it from solely a supplier of other businesses' products into a company that sources its own American-made cabinets and competes directly with overseas manufacturers. At a time when many businesses were cutting benefits, Tom continued to provide his employees comprehensive health and retirement benefits and continued returning 20 to 30 percent of the company's profits back to workers.

In addition to serving on and leading the boards of numerous organizations dedicated to education, health, welfare, economic development, culture, and the arts, Tom has helped build a Little League baseball field in his community, volunteered in soup kitchens, and painted a local school. Tom and Frances, his wife of 39 years, still live in York County and have two grown daughters, Sarah and Katie.

As Pennsylvania governor, Tom is focused on three simple goals: jobs that pay, schools that teach, and government that works.

Since Tom took office, nearly 100,000 more Pennsylvanians are employed than before. Last year, Tom's economic development team completed 58 relocation and expansion projects like the creation of an eBay office in Northeast Pennsylvania, a major Fedex expansion in the Lehigh Valley, a large Amazon expansion across Pennsylvania, the investments in the Philadelphia port, and the Shell Cracker plant in Western Pennsylvania. He also created a tax credit for manufacturers who create jobs in Pennsylvania.

Tom is fighting to increase funding for our schools by nearly \$840 million, to reverse the \$1 billion in cuts made to schools five years ago that led to larger class sizes, soaring property taxes, educator layoffs, and the elimination or reduction of programs. He has fought to restore critical education funding cuts, provide unprecedented support to high-quality pre-k programs, ensure students are college and career ready, and making sure funding is distributed fairly.

Tom has made fighting the opioid crisis a top priority of his administration and is continuing to work across the aisle to address this looming public health issue. He provided funding to implement 45 treatment centers throughout the commonwealth and has expanded access to treatment for nearly 125,000 people with substance use disorder. Under his leadership, Pennsylvania also recently launched a prescription drug monitoring program that will allow prescribers and dispensers to query and report information regarding the number of opioids prescribed, and to whom and recently announced new prescribing guidelines for the safe and effective use of opioids.

Tom expanded health care access to nearly 715,000 Pennsylvanians, keeping them from either not seeking care or going to the emergency room, which raises costs for insured residents. The governor's action has dropped the commonwealth's uninsured population from 14 percent in 2013 to 5.6 percent today. Tom also saved 3,600 children from losing Children's health insurance, and he fought to save 180,000 seniors from losing their Medicare Advantage.

In two years, Tom has made government more efficient and responsive while saving hundreds of millions. He signed an executive order establishing the Governor's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management, and Efficiency (GO-TIME). GO-TIME will leverage inter-agency coordination and collaboration to maximize efficiency, modernize state government operations, and provide the highest quality services. State agencies saved over \$156 million. With his first savings goal of \$150 million exceeded, Tom is now challenging GO-TIME to build upon this success by achieving \$500 million in savings by 2020.

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