



John Hanger
Official Biography

John Hanger, Democratic candidate for Pennsylvania Governor, is widely regarded as one of Pennsylvania's most insightful and best informed progressive public policy experts. He is a nationally recognized authority on public policy issues such as gas drilling, the green economy, environment, climate-readiness and energy.

John has extensive experience as a government official and regulator, as well as in the private and not-for-profit sectors. His perspective on major issues is often sought by journalists and he has been interviewed frequently by leading media outlets, including CNN, NBC Evening News, BBC, and the CBS Evening News.

John served two Pennsylvania Governors, Bob Casey and Ed Rendell, in senior positions. He was Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection in the Rendell Administration from 2008 to 2011. As the head of DEP, John had the leading role in developing and implementing new and significantly tougher gas drilling regulations. He more than doubled the size of the gas drilling oversight and enforcement force by adding 122 new inspectors.

In the Casey Administration, John served as Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission from 1993 to 1998. He was the architect of Pennsylvania's successful law that ended electric generation monopolies and allowed consumers to choose their electric generation suppliers or build their own power supply. This program has saved Pennsylvania ratepayers billions of dollars since its creation.

In the years between his government service, John launched and led Citizens of Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture), Pennsylvania's leading public interest organization working to improve the environment and economy. His advocacy and organizational skills often played a central role in passing important legislation,

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including the \$625 million Growing Greener environmental stewardship program, Pennsylvania's pioneering net-metering legislation, the 2004 Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act and Pennsylvania's Climate Action Plan.

John began his career as a public-interest lawyer working on behalf of low-income families for the Energy Project at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia. He was the appointed Public Advocate representing customers of the Philadelphia Gas Works and the Philadelphia Water Department in rate cases and other proceedings. John graduated from Duke University in 1979 and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1984. He is married to Luanne Thorndyke, a physician.

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For more information, contact:

Roger J Cohen

973 632 4694

rcohen@hangerforgovernor.com

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