

Toomey Will Not Run for Re-election, Governor in 2022

BY: [JUSTIN SWEITZER](#) OCTOBER 5, 2020

With two years left to go in his current term, U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey announced Monday that he will not be running for re-election in 2022, nor will he be running for governor when the term-limited Gov. Tom Wolf leaves office that same year.

Toomey, who had been rumored to be mulling a run for governor, said in a press conference Monday that he will instead turn his sights to the private sector after he serves out the rest of his current term.

"I will not be running for re-election in 2022 and I will not be running for governor," Toomey, a Republican, said while joined by his family at a press conference. "I will serve out the remainder of my term for a little over two years that are left to the current term."

"And after that, my plan is to go back to the private sector," he added.

Toomey was first elected to the Senate in 2010, defeating former Congressman Joe Sestak to win the seat. He previously served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Pennsylvania's former 15th District for three terms.

The Republican senator said Monday that serving in the House and Senate have been the highlight of his professional career.

"I want to say very clearly that representing the people of Pennsylvania — this big, beautiful, complicated, diverse state — has been an extraordinary, amazing honor. It still is," he said.

Toomey highlighted his contributions to Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 as one of the crowning achievements of his legislative career. He also cited regulatory reform and trade as policy areas he was proud to have worked on.

Lawrence Tabas, the chairman of the Pennsylvania Republican Party, said Toomey was a lawmaker who will be known for living up to his word.

"Unlike so many elected officials before him, Senator Toomey changed Washington D.C., not the other way around," Tabas said in a statement. "He never forgot the promises he made to his constituents. Whether keeping to his term limit pledge while in Congress, or delivering on the historic Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, he has been a man of his word."

Terry Madonna, the director of the Center for Politics and Public Affairs at Franklin and Marshall College, said Toomey would be remembered as a "measured" politician and "thoughtful conservative who had his points of view and expressed them, but not in a vituperative, name-calling way."

Toomey noted that his decision to step away from elected office is personal, not political. He added that he does not have specific plans for after he leaves the Senate, but said he looks forward to spending more time with his family.

Toomey's departure leaves openings for Republican candidates in both the race to replace him in the Senate, as well as the 2020 gubernatorial race.

Madonna said Toomey's decision not to run for governor came as a bit of surprise since he was rumored to have an interest in succeeding Wolf.

“It was rumored that Toomey would not seek re-election to a third term but would run for the governor’s office,” Madonna said. “Of all the potential Republicans, I think there would be a consensus that he would be the most high-profile.”

With Toomey out of the picture, however, Madonna said both the Senate and gubernatorial races, at least on the Republican side, are up for grabs. Both offices, he said, could be successfully won by a member of Congress, state legislator or someone from the private sector.

“This opens up the whole deal,” Madonna said. “I would say, unless you tell me otherwise, that it’s wide open.”

The full video of Toomey’s press conference can be viewed below.

*Justin Sweitzer is a State Government Reporter for The PLS Reporter. Have a question, comment or tip?
Email: justinsweitzer@mypls.com.*