



Citizen Education Fund **NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE**

PRIMARY ELECTION

APRIL 23, 2024

Polls open 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.

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(Information obtained from Vote411.org and from candidates.)

CAMPAIGN 2024 “A STEP AHEAD OF THE VOTE”

FOR ELECTION INFORMATION

Contact your county Board of Elections or visit www.VotesPA.com. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Information Center also provides election information. Call 717-234-1576 with any questions or go to www.Vote411.org.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The material in this Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund. This material may not be altered or reprinted without the permission of the League. Each candidate's reply has been printed as submitted. Candidates were invited to participate in the Vote411 online voters guide sponsored by the LWVPA-CEF and Patriot-News/PennLive via email. All reasonable efforts were made to encourage candidates to participate.

The candidates listed are those whose names appear on the ballot as of March 18, 2024. They are listed according to their party and then alphabetically.

Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement or non-endorsement of any candidate, party, or initiative by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund.

PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE LEAGUE

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan: it neither supports nor opposes any political parties or candidates.

US PRESIDENT

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

DUTIES: The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

TERM: Four years. Limit of two terms.

BASE SALARY: \$400,000 per year.

NOTE: All candidates who will appear on your state's ballot are listed below but only those that meet the following criteria were invited to respond to the League's questions in this guide.

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party's nomination for President; and,
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.

DEMOCRAT

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

What steps should be taken to address the high cost of living and depressed wages in America, including for families, people with disabilities, and people that are economically disadvantaged?

President Biden and Vice President Harris will continue to invest in the American people and fight to lower costs for families. They will continue working to eliminate junk fees and call on corporations with higher markups to pass savings onto consumers. President Biden

and Vice President Harris are also pushing Congress to lower the cost of housing, lower prescription drug prices for more Americans, expand access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care, extend the enhanced Child Tax Credit, ensure access to paid family and medical leave for every American, make preK free and college more affordable, and more. Additional information can be found in this letter: <http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

What steps will you take to ensure all Americans have access to quality and affordable health care, including reproductive care and prescription drug coverage?

The Biden Administration is lowering prescription drug prices – President Biden was the first president to take on Big Pharma and win. He has capped the cost of insulin at \$35 for seniors and finally allowed Medicare to negotiate drug prices — starting with some of the costliest, most widely used drugs used to treat blood clots, cancers, diabetes and more. The Biden-Harris Administration is also defending in court a woman's ability to access medication abortion, fighting to ensure that women receive the medical care they need in emergencies including miscarriages, working to protect the right to travel across state lines to access care, and strengthening privacy protections for patients and doctors. <http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

What will you do to support an economy and job market that are strong and inclusive of all people?

President Biden and Vice President Harris came into office with a vision to grow the economy from the middle out and the bottom up—not the top down. They're focused on an economy that builds more in America, invests in American workers, and promotes competition to lower costs – and their economic vision is working. Additional information can be found in this letter: <http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

What are the most important steps you will take to create an accessible path to citizenship, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients?

President Biden and Vice President Harris

are also using all the tools at their disposal to build a safe, orderly, and humane immigration system. While Donald Trump has repeatedly said that immigrants are poisoning the nation's blood and is calling for an extreme immigration plan that would wreak havoc across communities while doing nothing to keep us safe, the Biden-Harris Administration has both increased legal pathways for migration and increased border enforcement. And, since Day One, President Biden has called on Congress to take action to build an orderly and humane immigration system. Additional information can be found in this letter: <http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

What measures do you support to expand voter access and restore trust in our elections?

As president, Joe Biden has made the defense, protection, and preservation of American democracy the central cause of his administration. This starts with strengthening and fighting for our democratic institutions and free and fair elections and President Biden is using every tool at his disposal to do so – including through an Executive Order directing all agencies to promote voting and voter registration, calling on Congress to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act to establish national baseline standards for access to the ballot. Additional information can be found in this letter: <http://tinyurl.com/BidenHarrisLetter>

REPUBLICAN

DONALD J. TRUMP

What steps should be taken to address the high cost of living and depressed wages in America, including for families, people with disabilities, and people that are economically disadvantaged?
The candidate has not yet responded.

What steps will you take to ensure all Americans have access to quality and affordable health care, including reproductive care and prescription drug coverage?
The candidate has not yet responded.

What will you do to support an economy and job market that are strong and inclusive of all people?

The candidate has not yet responded.

What are the most important steps you will take to create an accessible path to citizenship, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients?

The candidate has not yet responded.

What measures do you support to expand voter access and restore trust in our elections?

The candidate has not yet responded.

UNITED STATES SENATOR

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The US Constitution prescribes that the Senate be composed of 100 members (two Senators from each state). One third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every two years. A Senator must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years and be a resident of the State from which s/he is chosen at the time of the election. Senators write and vote in favor of or against final bills and serve on various policy committees. The Senate has several exclusive powers not granted to the House including advice/consent on presidential nominations and treaties and conducting the trial of federal officials impeached by the House.

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$174,000

Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR. (DEM)

COUNTY: Lackawanna

OCCUPATION: U.S. Senator

EDUCATION: B.A. College of the Holy Cross and J.D. Catholic University of America

QUALIFICATIONS: Senator Bob Casey is one of Pennsylvania's two sitting senators and has a record of delivering for Pennsylvanians. He has helped create thousands of good-paying jobs in the Commonwealth, lowered costs for families and seniors, secured our rights, and fought for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable.

CAMPAIGN WEBSITE: bobcasey.com

FACEBOOK URL: facebook.com/BobCaseyJr

X HANDLE: @Bob_Casey

INSTAGRAM URL:

www.instagram.com/bobcaseyjr/

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the country, and how would you address them?

I'm fighting for our rights, lower costs for working families, economic freedom for workers, and our country's children, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. I see each of these fights as critical for our country. I've supported legislation to defend democracy, protect a woman's right to choose, and a worker's right to organize. I'm holding big corporations accountable for greedflation and raising prices on working people while they rake in record profits. I've helped pass legislation that will create tens of thousands of new jobs in Pennsylvania and saved pensions for tens of thousands of workers. I also helped pass the PACT to provide care to veterans who have suffered after being exposed to toxic burn pits.

What changes, if any, would you support that would help congress function more efficiently and effectively?

I support increasing ethical standards in Washington and reducing conflicts of interest to hold government officials to the high standards that Americans expect of them. I'm an original co-sponsor of the For the People Act, which would increase restrictions on coordination between Super PACs and candidates. I also co-sponsored and helped pass the Stock Act, which banned members of Congress from trading stocks

ON-LINE VOTERS GUIDE

The Vote411 Online Voters Guide is available at www.vote411.org. Links to this guide as well as links to Vote411 and other useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of the Wilkes-Barre area homepage: www.lwvwb.org.

based on non-public information and I back efforts to stop members from trading stocks entirely. I believe all of these steps aimed at increasing transparency and accountability will help make our Congress work better for Americans. I will continue to fight for greater transparency in politics.

What legislation would you support to protect voting rights and safeguard access to free and fair elections?

I am working hard to protect the fundamental right to vote from extreme MAGA Republicans across the country who are trying to erect new barriers to voting. I co-sponsored the Freedom to Vote Act to ensure every American can access the ballot box on an equal basis, including by setting minimum standards for early and mail voting, modernizing voter registration, and ending partisan gerrymandering. I am also an original co-sponsor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would ensure that voters in states with a history of voting rights violations have equal access to voting as all other Americans. In addition, I sponsored the Accessible Voting Act of 2021 to make it easier for seniors and those living with a disability to vote

How do you view the role of the US in responding to challenges facing the international community?

I believe we must protect our interests abroad with diplomatic engagement, working with allies, and foreign assistance, coupled with our national security apparatus. Our Nation is currently facing immense national security challenges, including competing with China, combating climate change alongside global allies, fighting terrorism, countering Russia's aggression, supporting our ally in Israel and providing humanitarian aid in Gaza, and combating the threat of nuclear terrorism. I have worked to address these challenges as a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, where I have pursued a national security strategy that protects our interests, promotes human rights throughout the world, and supports those who serve our country.

REPUBLICAN

DAVE MCCORMICK (REP)

No response as of March 18, 2024

ATTORNEY GENERAL

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The basic duties of the Attorney General, as outlined by the Commonwealth Attorneys Act, are to serve as the Commonwealth's chief law enforcement officer; collect all debts, taxes, and accounts due to the Commonwealth; represent the Commonwealth and all its agencies in any action brought by or against the Commonwealth; administer the provision relating to consumer protection laws; and represent the Commonwealth and its citizens in any action brought about for violation of the antitrust laws.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$197,748

Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

JACK STOLLSTEIMER (DEM)

COUNTY: Delaware

OCCUPATION: District Attorney

EDUCATION: Temple University's Beasley School of Law

QUALIFICATIONS: District Attorney Delaware County

What are your top three priorities as Attorney General?

1) Reducing gun violence in every community
2) Prosecuting wage theft and protect the right to collectively bargain
3) Protecting our environment and women's reproductive rights.

What specific challenges does the Pennsylvania judicial system face, and how would you address them?

As District Attorney, I see everyday people in our criminal justice system who are suffering from mental health challenges and substance use disorders. We need more resources to divert these people into programs that offer hope.

What do you see as the primary challenges to achieving equality under the law?

Inequality of resources will always be the primary challenge to ensuring equality under our laws.

EUGENE DEPASQUALE (DEM)

COUNTY: Allegheny

OCCUPATION: Attorney / Adjunct

Professor

EDUCATION: BA from The College of Wooster (OH), an MPA from the University of Pittsburgh and a JD from Widener University School of Law.

QUALIFICATIONS: Eugene DePasquale is the former two-term Auditor General of Pennsylvania. Prior to his tenure as Auditor General, Mr. DePasquale was a three-term member of the state General Assembly representing the 95th District.

What are your top three priorities as Attorney General?

My top priorities are protecting our democracy, defending reproductive freedom, and protecting against corporate greed. Protecting our Democracy is the greatest task and potential crisis we face - which the Attorney General will be front and center on. Reproductive freedoms are under attack across the country. From when to choose not to have a family through abortion to when to choose to have a family through IVF treatments, I believe Pennsylvanians should have the freedom to make those decisions for themselves. As Attorney General, I will be your legal advocate against corporate greed. I will crack down on businesses and CEOs taking advantage of consumers and help defend workers from wage theft, stop price gouging, and close tax loopholes.

What specific challenges does the Pennsylvania judicial system face, and how would you address them?

As Attorney General, I will work with law enforcement to protect our communities by investing in prevention tactics and holding those who threaten our safety accountable. I will work to restore trust between residents and local law enforcement to ensure our police can best serve and protect the Commonwealth.

What do you see as the primary challenges to achieving equality under the law?

There are so many places that we have challenges achieving equality under the law, including LGBTQ protections, the criminalization of addiction, and disparities in how the law treats people of different races and ethnicities. As Attorney General, I would enforce the law equally, but also advocate for changes in the law that gave Pennsylvanians greater protections from these inequalities.

JOE KHAN (DEM)

COUNTY: Bucks

OCCUPATION: Attorney

EDUCATION: I'm a proud graduate of Philadelphia public schools (and now a proud Central Bucks School District dad). I earned my undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College before attending the University of Chicago School of Law, where Professor Barack Obama helped guide me on a path of public service.

QUALIFICATIONS: I am the most experienced prosecutor running, having served 10 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office and 6 years in the Philadelphia DA's Office. I also have the strongest record on civil justice and won statewide recognition for defending our rights and battling corruption as Bucks County Solicitor.

IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW VOTERS

If you are a new voter or if you are voting at a polling place for the first time, then you must bring your voter ID card or a photo ID such as a driver's license, student ID or some other form of Federal or State government-issued ID. Some forms of non-photo ID are also acceptable, such as a firearm permit, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check. If you do not have any acceptable ID then you must be allowed to vote by provisional ballot.

If you are not a new voter and are not voting at your polling place for the first time, you are NOT required to bring or provide identification.

What are your top three priorities as Attorney General?

Aside from ensuring that the Attorney General’s Office continues to promote public safety in all 67 counties, we will have three immediate priorities on Day One. First, we will need to protect Pennsylvanians from attacks on our rights, including reproductive rights and the right to vote, which will be under assault from a battery of legal challenges by election deniers in January 2025. Second, we will create Pennsylvania’s first-ever Housing Justice Unit to ensure that the Attorney General’s Office is doing its part to address the housing crisis. Third, we will reimagine the Environmental Crimes Unit as an Environmental Justice Unit to use the awesome power of our office broadly to enforce our constitutional right to a safe environment.

What specific challenges does the Pennsylvania judicial system face, and how would you address them?

Bias is the throughline between so many of our most pressing issues. As Attorney General, I’ll tackle these problems by leveraging my expertise and credibility as a prosecutor, starting with our justice system’s inconsistent treatment of victims of offenses such as sexual assault, domestic violence and hate crimes. I’ll also provide a model for best practices and priorities on issues like bail, forfeiture, and diversion, where my success will provide templates for legislative reform. I’ll root out police corruption across the state and change the culture of cronyism that flourishes in too many DA’s Offices. And I will be fearless in using my role on the Board of Pardons to right wrongs that occurred in the past.

What do you see as the primary challenges to achieving equality under the law?

In my experience, the scales of justice don’t balance themselves. The extreme rollback of our rights by the radical majority on the U.S. Supreme Court is a reminder that our system of justice is only as good as the people in it. As a prosecutor, I fought for justice as an advocate for vulnerable communities – and usually had to push against gravitational pulls to ensure that the law was being applied fairly and equally. Every lawsuit I filed against a big corporation was an uphill battle to get justice for the vulnerable. And when I’ve defended our rights, it’s been against forces with much more resources. Fighting for equality is hard work, and the setbacks can be discouraging. We just need to stick together and continue the fight.

KEIR BRADFORD-GREY (DEM)

COUNTY: Philadelphia

OCCUPATION: Attorney

EDUCATION: BA- Albany State University; JD- Ohio Northern University Pettit School of Law

QUALIFICATIONS: As both a federal and Chief Defender, I’ve pioneered legal theories for equal protection, transforming the state’s largest public defender association into a community defender. I also bring effective administrative skills and unmatched expertise in improving systems and delivering just outcomes.

What are your top three priorities as Attorney General?

Throughout my career, I have pushed the envelope to advance the principles of the law so that they are applicable to our current societal norms and needs. As Attorney General, I’ll challenge powerful interests, from corporate polluters to predatory lenders. My top priorities will include protecting access to vital services like healthcare and housing, ensuring financial stability by holding accountable those engaging in predatory practices, and tackling crimes committed in boardrooms, such as illegal gun distribution and pharmaceutical companies’ false advertising. I am committed to being the people’s lawyer, advocating for fairness, justice, and the well-being of all.

What specific challenges does the Pennsylvania judicial system face, and how would you address them?

Addressing the challenges within the Pennsylvania criminal justice system requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. As Attorney General, I will actively combat racial disparities, advocating for equitable law enforcement practices and enhanced legal representation, drawing from my

experience as a public defender. Improving post-conviction review processes and advancements in forensic science standards to mitigate the risk of wrongful convictions. Tackling inadequate legal representation involves bolstering public defender resources and exploring innovative approaches. Comprehensive reform for overcrowded prisons, enhancing reentry programs, and fostering positive community-police relations through transparency and accountability.

What do you see as the primary challenges to achieving equality under the law?

One fundamental challenge is systemic discrimination, deeply rooted in various institutions. Overcoming this requires comprehensive reforms, including in education, employment, and housing, to dismantle discriminatory practices. Additionally, disparities in economic opportunities and healthcare also contribute to unequal outcomes, highlighting the need for policies addressing these socio-economic factors. As Attorney General, my commitment is to address these challenges holistically, advocating for policies that promote economic justice, combat systemic racism, and ensure equitable access to education and healthcare.

JARED SOLOMON (DEM)

COUNTY: Philadelphia

OCCUPATION: State Representative and JAG Attorney in PA National Guard

EDUCATION: Swarthmore College and Villanova Law

QUALIFICATIONS: Securities and Antitrust Attorney, Community Organizer, State Representative, Chair of Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, lifetime 100% voting scorecard from Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates

EDUCATION: Swarthmore College and Villanova Law

What are your top three priorities as Attorney General?

1. Abortion and personal health care decisions are between a woman and her doctor, not politicians. As Attorney General, Jared will always protect and defend women’s access to abortion in PA. 2. The right to vote is the fundamental right from which all other rights flow. As Attorney General, Jared will work tirelessly to ensure that all Pennsylvanians can exercise their Constitutional right to the ballot box in free and fair elections. 3. As AG, Jared would work with the legislature to finally bring commonsense gun reforms to PA, including stronger red-flag laws, a ban on assault weapons, expanded background checks, and shutting the ghost gun loophole. Jared will take on the gun lobby, reckless gun retailers, and ghost gun manufacturers.

What specific challenges does the Pennsylvania judicial system face, and how would you address them?

As Attorney General, Jared would support investment in training and a return of policing in our cities to pre-pandemic engagement with communities so that officers have sectional integrity in all they do and get to know the schools, churches, and businesses within their sector. Each officer needs to build connections within the community they are policing, helping with investigative work and doing preventive policing instead of reactive policing. Similarly, we must rebrand what it means to be a member of the police force in PA with a massive public-service campaign that resonates with the best and brightest of this next generation to uplift our communities from within our communities.

What do you see as the primary challenges to achieving equality under the law?

The primary challenge to achieving equality under the law is the outsized influence of special interests who put padding their pocket above protecting Pennsylvanians. These special interests are at every turn: out-of-state landlords who don’t care about the communities their properties are in, reckless gun retailers and ghost gun manufacturers, corporate polluters and frackers to name a few. We need an Attorney General who will take on special interests, political power-brokers, and corporate cheats so that regular hard-working Pennsylvanians have a government that works for them. That’s why we need an AG with Jared’s record of taking on corporate greed as an antitrust and securities attorney, and of taking on Harrisburg as a State Rep.

REPUBLICAN

DAVE SUNDAY (REP)

No response as of March 18, 2024

CRAIG WILLIAMS (REP)

No response as of March 18, 2024

PENNSYLVANIA AUDITOR GENERAL

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The principal role of the Auditor General is to determine whether state funds are being used in accordance with the purpose and guidelines that govern each use of the Commonwealth’s dollars. The Auditor General conducts financial and performance audits of individuals, state agencies, and organizations that receive state funds, including school districts, state liquor stores, and public employee pension funds. These audits are designed to measure how effectively government programs are using public money to meet their stated goals and objectives. The office performs more than 6,000 audits each year and is responsible for auditing all Pennsylvania state programs that are allocated federal funds.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$197,748

Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

MALCOLM KENYATTA (DEM)

COUNTY: Philadelphia

OCCUPATION: State Representative

EDUCATION: B.A. in Public Communications and a minor in Political Science from Temple University, M.S. in Strategic and Digital Communications from Drexel University, and completed the Harvard Kennedy School’s Executives in State and Local Government program

QUALIFICATIONS: He is a member of State Government Committee with oversight of state agencies and elections, where he chairs the Subcommittee on Government Operations; Chair of Automation and Technology in the Commerce Committee; and as a member of the Finance and Judiciary committees

What improvements, if any, would you make to the Auditor General’s office?

As Auditor General, I will rebuild the bureau of school audits, restart the annual compliance audits ended by the current Auditor General, and demand accountability from all our schools — including cyber charter schools. I will stand up for our workers by creating the first ever Bureau of Labor and Worker Protections and use the power of the office to take on wage theft, employee misclassification, and union busting. I will use the office to measure and support efforts to make communities healthier and safer. We need transparency on how huge hospital nonprofits and long-term care providers use state dollars.

How can you make the work of the Auditor General’s office more transparent?

I’m running for Auditor General because it’s time for the underdog to be a watchdog for Pennsylvania’s working families. To ask

ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS

If your right to vote is challenged at the polls on Election Day and the problem cannot be resolved at the polling place, the judge of elections at the polling place should telephone the county Board of Elections. The problem could be resolved by phone if your name appears on the county records. If it does not and you want to try to resolve the problem, then you can go in person to the county Board of Elections where a judge from the Court of Common Pleas will be on duty to resolve election problems. Alternatively you can ask for and vote by provisional ballot. If it is later determined that you were eligible to vote your ballot will be counted. You will be given instructions on how to determine if your vote was counted.

If you have any questions or need to report any problems, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE for assistance in English or Spanish or 1-888-API-VOTE for assistance in Asian languages.

the tough questions, to help reimagine and streamline government, and to help build the coalitions to fix what's wrong. It's what I've done as a State Representative for nearly five years, working to protect workers' rights, enact common-sense gun safety policies, and root out government corruption and waste. We deserve a government that works for working families. That starts with being serious about fixing what's broken. And it means having an Auditor General who isn't afraid to stand up for those too often forgotten by our government.

MARK PINSLEY (DEM)

COUNTY: Lehigh

OCCUPATION: Lehigh County Controller

EDUCATION: Northeastern University (BSBA); Indiana University: Kelley School of Business (MBA)

QUALIFICATIONS: Lehigh County Controller (2020-); DermaMed Solutions: President (2011-)

What improvements, if any, would you make to the Auditor General's office?

The Auditor General is an often-overlooked position and yet has immense power in influencing government. Just as I have as Lehigh County Controller, I will use the full powers of the position to audit for impact. As Auditor General, I vow to divest funds from anti-choice companies, as I did with Wells Fargo in Lehigh Co; audit the state healthcare system where there are hundreds of millions of dollars wasted by price-gouging insurance companies, as I did in Lehigh Co; reveal misdiagnosis of medical child abuse, saving children from wrongful separation, as I did in Lehigh Co; report on the economic costs of underfunding our schools and recommend fair funding; create a wage theft hotline for union workers to report wage theft to my office.

How can you make the work of the Auditor General's office more transparent?

The Auditor General position is not known because, for decades, it was improperly used or underutilized. As Auditor General, I will audit to impact Pennsylvanians. Every single dollar and cent spent by the Commonwealth impacts Pennsylvanians. My job will be to show just how that is the case--how workforce development programs are working, how the state can increase funding for public schools, how Pennsylvanians could have more access to adequate healthcare, how Crisis Pregnancy Centers incur costs on taxpayers and women's health, how Pennsylvania can have a smooth and just transition to green energy with good union jobs. The Auditor General's office's role is transparency, and it must be shown with audits that change policy.

REPUBLICAN

TIM DEFOOR (REP)

COUNTY: Dauphin

OCCUPATION: Auditor General

EDUCATION: Associate degree in paralegal studies from Harrisburg Area Community College. University of Pittsburgh- Bachelor's degree in psychology and earned a second Bachelor's degree in sociology and history. Master's in project management from Harrisburg University of Science and Technology.

QUALIFICATIONS: Dauphin County Controller from 2016 to 2020. Elected Pennsylvania Auditor General in 2020. Over 30 years of experience as a Special Investigator with Pennsylvania's Office of Inspector General, as a Special Agent with Pennsylvania's Attorney General and in the private sector and federal government.

What improvements, if any, would you make to the Auditor General's office?

Under Tim's leadership, the Auditor General's office has focused on transforming the office in various ways, which include: how the Department recruits and retains employees; how it audits, making the work more efficient and effective for the taxpayers; and how it is building the next generation, focusing on the need for financial literacy education to be taught across the entire Commonwealth through the 'Be Money Smart' initiative.

How can you make the work of the Auditor General's office more transparent?

Tim has transformed and improved how the Auditor General's office conducts public and charter school audits to ensure

that administrators and school boards are accountable and transparent with taxpayer dollars.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TREASURER

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The duty of the Pennsylvania Treasurer is to safeguard the Commonwealth's financial assets, which total more than \$160 billion in public monies. The office manages several programs in order to better serve the financial needs of Pennsylvanians. The Treasury Department is also responsible for reuniting unclaimed property with its rightful owner; investigating loss, theft, and fraud involving Commonwealth checks; reviewing real estate leases and contracts entered into by Commonwealth agencies; and maintaining the Pennsylvania contracts electronic library. The Treasurer has specific duties in addition to the oversight of the Department: serving as chair of the Board of Finance and Revenue, which selects banks to serve as depositories for state money; setting interest rates paid on Commonwealth deposits; and hearing and deciding state tax appeals.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$197,748

Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

RYAN BIZZARRO (DEM)

COUNTY: Erie

OCCUPATION: State Representative

EDUCATION: B.A. - Masters in Public Policy

QUALIFICATIONS: 10 years experience in state budgeting process and deep connections in the legislature to implement new programs.

What improvements, if any, would you make to the State Treasurer's office?

As Treasurer I will create two new programs. IMPACT PA which will leverage our impressive investment ability to grow communities right here in PA focusing on communities impacted by lack of available capital, environmental injustice, and decades of disinvestment. Investstructure PA will focus on infrastructure investment and leverage public private partnerships to rebuild our infrastructure and retain and attract families to settle here. I will also modernize the unclaimed property program, making it more transparent and accessible and launching a statewide education campaign to connect more Pennsylvanians with their money.

How can you make the work of the State Treasurer's office more transparent?

When I'm Treasurer, I'll restore integrity to the office, do my part to protect our democratic institutions from extremist officeholders, and I will do the work. I will start by publishing all information on the performance of Treasury, not just the information from my term which is all that can be found now. As the people's treasurer, I will bring them closer to the treasurer's office and make it more accessible to all Pennsylvanians. My plan will shift resources from Harrisburg to establish new regional offices across the commonwealth. We will invest in new technology to make treasury programs more widely available and accessible to people from the palm of their hands with a smartphone or from their home computer.

ERIN MCCLELLAND (REP)

COUNTY: Allegheny

OCCUPATION: Process Improvement Consultant

EDUCATION: BS Psychology & Economics, MS Psychology

QUALIFICATIONS: Founded and ran a small business, Spent a year training on process improvement and organizational problem solving under former US Treasury Secretary O'Neill, 9 years doing process improvement for government systems in Allegheny County

What improvements, if any, would you make to the State Treasurer's office?

I would expand the information you could see

WRITE-IN VOTING

Information for write-in voting will be available at the polling place.

in the database of state contracts, including searching vendors by union/non-union as well as women and minority-owned businesses. I will provide a recommended vendor list that complies with US trade policies for fulfilling state purchases such as ensuring we are not purchasing from companies that use slave labor, child labor, or conflict-mined materials. I would not invest in foreign holdings and would reinstate the pension investment standards that existed before pension de-regulation in 2003.

How can you make the work of the State Treasurer's office more transparent?

Transparency is a word that is thrown around loosely in politics. However, it is only truly achieved if it is demonstrated at times when it is inconvenient and when we make mistakes. Elected officials identifying errors in the interest of improving performance rarely happens. That must change. The current Treasurer's Asset report only states what is going well. It does not identify opportunities for improvement. I would let the taxpayers know where I think we could improve or mistakes we may have made, the cause of the mistake and the correction. I also hope to move toward incorporating ESG (environmental, sustainability, governance) ratings into investment standards if that rating should be established as a viable measure.

REPUBLICAN

STACY GARRITY (REP)

COUNTY: Bradford

OCCUPATION: Pennsylvania State Treasurer

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Finance/ Minor in Economics Bloomsburg University | Certificate Cornell University Business Management Institute

QUALIFICATIONS: Thirty-year decorated member of the U.S. Army Reserve with three deployments to the Middle East including a Battalion command | 34 years in private sector manufacturing, retiring as one of the first female vice presidents of Global Tungsten & Powders, an international refractory metals co.

What improvements, if any, would you make to the State Treasurer's office?

I will build on the progress made during my time in office. Since January 2021, I've worked with my bipartisan team at the Treasurer's office to set a new record for returning unclaimed property (more than \$274 million in a single year, and more than \$600 million altogether), to earn the first-ever Gold Rating from Morningstar for our PA 529 College & Career Program (making it one of the top two programs in the nation), and to nearly triple the assets in the PA ABLE savings program for people with disabilities (to over \$115 million). I will continue cutting fees for both of Treasury's savings programs: PA 529 (so far, I've saved account owners more than \$11 million) and PA ABLE (so far, I've cut fees three times).

How can you make the work of the State Treasurer's office more transparent?

Transparency is a core principal under my watch. Every dollar that comes to Treasury, and every dollar paid out, belongs to the taxpayers. They deserve to see exactly what's happening with their money. Before I took office, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department received a "C" rating for transparency. That's unacceptable, so I immediately went to work improving transparency at all levels. I added many new features to the Transparency Portal on Treasury's website, making it easier for people to see our state's expenditures, revenue, and budget. I added county-level data for all of Treasury's programs, and I revamped the Fiscal Health Scorecard which allows people to easily compare Pennsylvania's fiscal performance to other states.

8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The US Constitution requires that the House of Representatives be composed of Representatives from each state, elected in proportion to population. There are 435 members of the House of Representatives, with 17 Representatives allotted to Pennsylvania after the 2020 census. A US Representative must be at least 25 years old, have been a citizen of the United States for

the past seven years, and be a resident of the state they seek to represent at the time of the election (though not necessarily the same district). The House of Representatives is responsible for introducing and voting on bills, resolutions and amendments, and for approving the budget. Representatives also serve on various policy committees. The House may send Articles of Impeachment of elected officials to the Senate and elects the President if there is a tie in the Electoral College.

Term: 2 years
Salary: \$174,000
Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

MATT CARTWRIGHT (DEM)

COUNTY: Lackawanna
OCCUPATION: US Representative for Pennsylvania's 8th District; formerly a trial lawyer for 25 years
EDUCATION: University of Pennsylvania Law School (JD), Hamilton College (BA)

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the country and how do you propose addressing them?

As our economy continues to grow, too many people are being left behind and life remains too expensive for the working people who make our country run. I have been honored to fight in Congress against the big corporations who continue to raise prices at all of our expense, including taking on Big Pharma to bring down the cost of prescription drugs and cap the cost of insulin for seniors. Northeastern PA's economy in particular has been badly hurt as our country continues to lose jobs overseas. That's why I fight so hard in Congress to bring our fair share of federal dollars back to PA-08 and to deliver on promises like reestablishing passenger rail in our area, which will bring with it an additional \$84M of economic activity every year.

What legislation, if any, would you support that would help Congress function more efficiently and effectively?

Congress needs to get its financial house in order. As of this writing, we're more than five months into the 2024 fiscal year and yet we haven't actually figured out how much Congress is going to spend this year. I was proud when we passed the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to America last year that neither added to the deficit. Unfortunately, this year, Congress can't seem to function at all, but I'm working with both parties to bring common sense back to how Congress spends money.

What legislation would you support to protect voting rights and safeguard access to free and fair elections?

I wrote the Time Off to Vote Act, and I am a strong supporter of several additional pieces of legislation - including the Freedom to Vote Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act - that all have the same goal in mind: to make sure that all Americans who have the right to vote can do so and that every American can trust that their election is secure.

How do you view the role of the US in responding to challenges facing the international community?

America is the greatest country in the world because we stand up for freedom every chance we get. That includes defending and expanding upon the freedoms enjoyed in this country by every one of our citizens, and it includes standing up for freedom around the globe against authoritarians. As the strongest country in the world, we have kept Americans and the world more safe by leading this fight for freedom. But now, China seeks to displace us as the global superpower. China has grown by taking our jobs, forcing minorities into inhumane work camps, and trampling over its citizens' god-given freedoms. A world with China at the top is a world where our freedoms are at risk, and we must do everything we can to win this race against China.

REPUBLICAN

ROB BRESNAHAN, JR. (REP)
No response as of March 18, 2024

9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The US Constitution requires that the House of Representatives be composed of Representatives from each state, elected in proportion to population. There are 435 members of the House of Representatives, with 17 Representatives allotted to Pennsylvania after the 2020 census. A US Representative must be at least 25 years old, have been a citizen of the United States for the past seven years, and be a resident of the state they seek to represent at the time of the election (though not necessarily the same district). The House of Representatives is responsible for introducing and voting on bills, resolutions and amendments, and for approving the budget. Representatives also serve on various policy committees. The House may send Articles of Impeachment of elected officials to the Senate and elects the President if there is a tie in the Electoral College.

Term: 2 years
Salary: \$174,000
Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

AMANDA WALDMAN (DEM)

No response as of March 18, 2024

REPUBLICAN

DAN MEUSER (REP)

COUNTY: Luzerne
OCCUPATION: Congressman PA-09
EDUCATION: New York Maritime University, Cornell University
QUALIFICATIONS: Former PA Secretary of Revenue, Businessman with 20+ years of experience

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the country, and how would you address them?

As a conservative Congressman, I see the southern border crisis, inflation, rising crime, and ongoing wars as top concerns. My solutions: secure the border, rein in spending to curb inflation, support law enforcement, and restoring leadership to the White House. That is why I am supporting President Donald Trump for President.

What changes, if any, would you support that would help Congress function more efficiently and effectively?

The candidate has not responded.

What legislation would you support to protect voting rights and safeguard access to free and fair elections?

It's crucial to uphold constitutional principles and ensure the sanctity of our electoral process. Too often, we have seen individual interpretations by state officials and bureaucrats undermining the security of the electoral process, which results in growing distrust in the process. All election officials must adhere to established laws to safeguard the ballot, and operate with full transparency with the public.

How do you view the role of the US in responding to challenges facing the international community?

The U.S. must lead from the front as a world leader, ensuring security domestically first. By prioritizing the safety of the American people, we can effectively protect our allies and respond to global challenges with strength and resolve. Unfortunately, from the botched and deadly withdraw from Afghanistan to the late response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration has been wrong or absent time and time again on the world stage.

27TH PA SENATORIAL DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA Senate consists of 50 members, representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Senators must be at least 25 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years

and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The Senate develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the House of Representatives). In addition, the Senate tries officials impeached by the House and authorizes executive appointments. Senators serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation. There are no term limits to this office.

Term: 4 years
Salary: \$106,422
Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

PATRICIA LAWTON (DEM)

COUNTY: Columbia
OCCUPATION: Assistant Professor of Speech-Language Pathology
EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Administration and Leadership Studies; Master's in Speech-Language Pathology
QUALIFICATIONS: Community leader, advocate, and educator.

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians, and how do you address them?

We need to fully fund our educational system to improve the quality of education for residents. We need to improve internet access to rural residents to provide for opportunities in education, employment, and healthcare. We must bring jobs to Pennsylvania so that our young people can stay and increase access to affordable housing. We also must protect the right for women in Pennsylvania to have access to reproductive healthcare. We need to develop ways to support our veterans, increase access to mental healthcare, and create initiatives that help to protect our children from the dangers of technology.

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?

Pennsylvania has secure elections. We should do whatever we can to ensure that people have easy access to voting including drop boxes, mail-in ballots, and the appropriate number of polling places especially in urban areas. The necessary supports, including funding, must be given to local election officials.

What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?

I would support to fully fund Fair Funding so that our educational system receives the appropriate amount of resources per student that all districts require. Quality education is the foundation upon which all else is built in our commonwealth. I would also support fully funding the special education system so that all children have access to the supports they need to be successful in school.

What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's abortion laws?

I would vote to protect women's unrestricted access to reproductive healthcare here in Pennsylvania.

REPUBLICAN

LYNDA J. SCHLEGEL CULVER (REP)
No response as of March 18, 2024

29TH PA SENATORIAL DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA Senate consists of 50 members, representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Senators must be at least 25 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The Senate develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions,

allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the House of Representatives). In addition, the Senate tries officials impeached by the House and authorizes executive appointments. Senators serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation. There are no term limits to this office.

Term: 4 years
Salary: \$106,422
Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

JOHN ZUGAREK (DEM)

COUNTY: Luzerne

OCCUPATION: Educator

EDUCATION: BA-Wilkes University;

MA-East Stroudsburg University

QUALIFICATIONS: 5 and 1/2 Years member of White Haven Borough Council (Police Public Safety Committee, Anti-Tolling Committee, Bicentennial Committee, etc.)

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians and how would you address them?

Pennsylvania has long been a reactive state - we wait until there is a problem & then spend years trying to fix it. As a borough councilperson, I see firsthand how difficult it is to maintain services in your municipality. The rapidly increasing cost of Fire, Police, & Ambulances has seen many good departments close their doors. Right now, PA's legislature is one of the most expensive & least productive in the country. We need to move forward & ensure that the government starts working on providing these basic services, as well as school & infrastructure, to provide our communities with safe environments that they can grow & succeed in. I believe a start would be reforming the grant process to one that rotates awards based on needs.

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?

Elections need to be safe, secure, and accessible. The state legislature needs to ensure that everyone who can vote has access to voting and that we can all be confident in the results of the election. I believe this needs to be a bipartisan approach that looks at options such as early in-person voting, automatic voter registration, and free and available voter verification.

What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?

Funding for education has been a long running issue in the state. It's time that we step up and make sure that we adequately fund our schools, but also use this as an opportunity to help reduce or eliminate property taxes. I believe that zip code should not determine success, and that our public school system needs to work for all students. I believe that a variety of funding sources could be used to help fund our schools in a more equitable way and take the pressure of overtaxed property owners, especially seniors.

What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's abortion laws?

Reproductive freedom is one of the most important and personal issues that we face in recent times. Many women face very difficult decisions when it comes to their health and well-being and we should strive to make sure those decisions are between them and their healthcare providers.

REPUBLICAN

DAVE ARGALL (REP)

COUNTY: Schuylkill

OCCUPATION: State Senator & Adjunct Professor

EDUCATION: Tamaqua Area High School, 1976. Lycoming College, B.A., Political Science and International Studies, 1980. Penn State, M.A., American Studies, 1993. Penn State, Ph.D, Public Administration, 2006
QUALIFICATIONS: Former Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 124th Legislative District (1985-2009). Current Member, Pennsylvania State Senate, 29th Senatorial District (2009-present)

What do you see as the most pressing issues

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?

For me, fighting blight and revitalizing our downtowns and older industrial neighborhoods in Carbon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill counties is a high priority, as is finding a fairer way to fund our public schools. My goal is to further improve the education of all Pennsylvania students, from pre-school to graduate school, in our smallest towns and villages to our largest cities, for generations to come.

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?

Ensuring our elections are accessible and secure is vital. I would support any measure that boosts election security and supports our county and local election boards. Voter ID is a high priority for the people I represent.

What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?

The Commonwealth Court has spoken, and I agree that we must find a fairer way to fund our public schools. The key here is developing legislation that allows us to invest in our most valuable resource, our students, but also avoids massive tax burdens on Pennsylvanians.

What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's abortion laws?

Pennsylvania's voters should be the ones deciding whether taxpayers should be required to pay for abortions—not the courts, not the governor, not the legislature.

PENNSYLVANIA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 116

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA House of Representatives consists of 203 members representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The House develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the Senate). The House also has the exclusive authority to impeach public officials. Representatives also serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation.

Term: 2 years
Salary: \$106,422
Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

DEBORAH ADOFF (DEM)

Municipality: East Union Township

Qualifications for Office: I worked as a court stenographer for 42 years. While raising three boys I was very involved in the community, the school system and the PTA. More recently I was the president of the HOA and headed several committees in our large community.

What are your priorities if elected?

If elected, my priorities would include expanding assistance for working families, passing commonsense gun safety laws, raising the minimum wage, expanding voter access, supporting LGBTQ+ rights, and protecting access to reproductive freedoms.

REPUBLICAN

DANE WATRO (REP)

No response as of March 18, 2024

PENNSYLVANIA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 117

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate

is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA House of Representatives consists of 203 members representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The House develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the Senate). The House also has the exclusive authority to impeach public officials. Representatives also serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation.

Term: 2 years
Salary: \$106,422
Vote for ONE.

REPUBLICAN

JAMIE WALSH (REP)

MUNICIPALITY: Ross Twp.

QUALIFICATIONS: Jamie is a small business owner, and he is an advocate for parental rights and election integrity. He is the co-founder of Citizens Advisory of Pennsylvania, a parents rights organization and he testified in Washington DC on behalf of Luzerne County voters that ran out of paper in the 2022 election.

PRIORITIES: My priorities in Harrisburg will be to find win-win solutions for the taxpayers. I will be a strong advocate of the second amendment, fight for property and school tax reform so senior citizens can stay in their homes, advocate for election integrity so people can be confident in the voting process, introduce legislation to support parental rights and ensure medical freedom and privacy.

MIKE CABELL (REP)

No response as of March 18, 2024

PENNSYLVANIA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 118

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA House of Representatives consists of 203 members representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The House develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the Senate). The House also has the exclusive authority to impeach public officials. Representatives also serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation.

Term: 2 years
Salary: \$106,422
Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

JIM HADDOCK (DEM)

COUNTY: Luzerne

OCCUPATION: State Representative

EDUCATION: PBA Advanced School of Banking

QUALIFICATIONS: Current State Representative, small business owner, worked in banking & insurance industry, former Mayor of Avoca and former Pittston Area School Director

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians and how would you address them?

Properly funding public education, protecting our democracy including important issues like voting rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and women's rights. I have a proven record in Harrisburg in supporting these issues.

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election

officials and processes?

We must continue to not only protect but to expand voting rights in the state. The state must continue to help fund elections on the state and county level and also support the process. We should modernize election laws to expand voting opportunities by allowing early in person and mail voting along with allowing opening primary elections to third party voters like independents. Our right to vote makes America great.

What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court’s ruling that Pennsylvania’s school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?

Last year I voted for an historic investment of the most dollars for public education in the history of the state. I strongly support Governor Shapiro’s 1.1 billion dollar investment in this years budget for education. The court’s ruling has said we have failed (before I was elected) in the states constitutional obligation to property fund education. I support the state property funding education and tie the states money to making sure the local school boards lower property taxes for our home owners.

What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania’s abortion laws?

A woman’s reproductive health care is a conversation between her and her doctor. I support a woman’s right to choose.

REPUBLICAN

MCKAYLA KATHIO (REP)
No response as of March 18, 2024

PENNSYLVANIA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 119

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA House of Representatives consists of 203 members representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The House develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the Senate). The House also has the exclusive authority to impeach public officials. Representatives also serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation.

Term: 2 years
Salary: \$106,422
Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

MEGAN KOCHER (DEM)
COUNTY: Luzerne
OCCUPATION: Community Organizing, Political Advocacy
EDUCATION: I have a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in political science and history and minored in women and gender studies at Wilkes University, where I graduated Magna Cum Laude and maintained a spot in the honors program. I am currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in criminal justice.
QUALIFICATIONS: Over 6 years of professional experience working within the Pennsylvania political system, which includes working on campaigns, community organizing, grassroots lobbying, fighting for working-class families, and management. I also regularly volunteer at a food bank serving local residents in need.

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians and how would you address them?

While Pennsylvanians currently face many issues, including healthcare access, reproductive care, gun violence, and issues relating to inflation, I believe that the most critical issue today is environmental injustice. If elected, I will support legislation that addresses each of these issues, from increasing healthcare access and affordability

to requiring thorough background checks and secure storage requirements for gun ownership. A key focus of mine would be making the shift to clean energy, increasing our energy independence and creating well-paying jobs, in addition to making clean energy more widely available for working class families.

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania’s voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?

Voting is how our citizens engage directly with government and is essential to maintaining our democratic system. I will always protect and expand voting access by supporting automatic voter registration, no excuse mail in voting, and widely available and accessible ballot drop boxes, because we need to make voting easier - not harder. In order to protect our election security, Pennsylvanian Counties need Federal and State funding to upgrade our voting systems, including upgrading from outdated DREs, which may be vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Finally, in order to protect the integrity of our elections, we must fully fund election boards, giving local election officials the tools and funds that they need to properly do their jobs.

What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court’s ruling that Pennsylvania’s school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?

As found by the Commonwealth court, our state constitution guarantees a thorough and efficient public school system and the Pennsylvania Legislator is not currently meeting that standard. I support a budget that makes significant gains in closing school funding adequacy gaps, increasing the amount of state funding per student and relieving the burden on homeowners paying property taxes. Additionally, I support legislation that would cap costs of cyber charter schools at the cost that public schools pay to educate those same students, relieving pressure on public school funding. I believe that we need to hold charter schools receiving state funds accountable, to make sure that they educate students to the same standards as public schools.

REPUBLICAN

ALEC J. RYNCAVAGE (REP)
MUNICIPALITY: Plymouth Borough
OCCUPATION: State Representative
EDUCATION: Graduate of Wyoming Valley West HS. Self-taught software engineer.
QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: I’ve proven to listen and be present. I have hosted over 173 outreach events, monthly coffee conversations, and telephone town halls while maintaining daily office hours. I was raised in a paycheck-to-paycheck household and grew to become a homeowner, business owner, and former Borough Councilman. My constituents know me personally.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED: Continue the job delivering results for families living paycheck-to-paycheck, our businesses, seniors, and veterans. Add to the \$10 million in grants received and continue to put people over politics. Whether it be fighting utility companies from rate hikes or listening at your most vulnerable time, that personal representation will continue.

PENNSYLVANIA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 120

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA House of Representatives consists of 203 members representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The House develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the Senate). The House also has the exclusive authority to impeach public officials. Representatives also serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation.

Term: 2 years
Salary: \$106,422
Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

FERN LEARD (DEM)
COUNTY: Luzerne
OCCUPATION: Advocate
EDUCATION: Nurse Aide Certification at Marywood University
QUALIFICATIONS: Fern Leard’s political advocacy earned her a 10+ year education on how state and federal government operates. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Luzerne County Democratic Party as well as the 5th District Democrats of Luzerne County. Learn more about her at www.votefern4pa.com.

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians and how would you address them?

Many Pennsylvanians are struggling to make ends meet while everything but our wages go up. Our minimum wage needs to be a family sustaining wage. We are losing a lot of tax revenue by allowing companies operating in PA, that have incorporated their business out-of-state, avoid paying state taxes while leaving small and local businesses to shoulder that bill, we must close that loophole. We need to prioritize holding companies accountable for price gouging us by amending the Price Gouging Act of 2006 to impose stronger penalties that can’t be brushed off as “the cost of doing business” and make sure that the Bureau of Consumer Protections has what it needs to make sure Pennsylvanians aren’t being taken advantage of by greedy corporations.

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania’s voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?

The burden we place on our election workers by not allowing them to open the envelopes of mailed in votes until election day is unnecessary. Tallying the votes would be more efficient and drastically increase the likelihood of projecting the winner of an election, on election night, if they weren’t subject to start until the polls open on election day. Separately, the many changes to our voting process over the last 5 years has caused a lot of voter confusion, which has unfortunately resulted in legally registered voters having their votes thrown out. We have a responsibility to provide better access to voter education when we make changes to prevent that from happening.

What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court’s ruling that Pennsylvania’s school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?

Pennsylvania currently ranks #36 in the nation for public education and we have a lot of work to do to change that. A quality public education requires adequate funding and we have failed to offer that to many of our school districts. I fully support revising the cyber charter school funding formula to reflect the actual cost of educating our students. The formula we currently use is outdated and results in our school districts overpaying tuition that could be used elsewhere in our educational system. We need a funding formula that will equitably provide a quality public education to set up all our students for success.

What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania’s abortion laws?

I am a strong advocate for reproductive freedoms and there is much I would support changing in Pennsylvania’s abortion laws. Including, but not limited to, changing informed consent to mean discussing the procedure and its risks as you would any other medical procedure, offering optional counseling without a 24hr waiting period, striking out the spousal notice provision, and expanding access by permitting advanced practice providers to perform the procedure. Abortion is healthcare.

JOHN MORGAN (DEM)
COUNTY: Luzerne
OCCUPATION: Councilman
EDUCATION: B.S. Marywood University
QUALIFICATIONS: Exeter Councilman for the past 13 years; Current Vice Chairman and EMA Director; Exeter Borough’s alternate

member of the Wyoming Area Regional Police Commission and representative to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (Second Assistant Secretary, Chairman of the Safety and Security Committee)

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians and how would you address them?

Public safety is a priority. All first responders need proper funding in order to effectively protect their communities. Our state's aging infrastructure is another priority that needs to be addressed. Updating and improving our state's infrastructure not only improves the quality of life for residents, but also creates jobs. The fair and equitable funding of public schools as well as the increasing need to address the mental health needs of our students in schools must be a top legislative priority in Harrisburg.

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?

Voting is a fundamental right. Voting needs to be accessible to all citizens and I would support sensible legislation that provides easier and more accessible ways to accomplish this. We need to strengthen election integrity. Election officials should also be protected from intimidation and harassment while doing their jobs.

What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?

In February 2023 the Commonwealth Court ruled that Pennsylvania's public school funding is unconstitutional. The unconstitutional inequities in our public school funding should be a top legislative priority and I would support legislation to make the funding fair and equitable in accordance with the provisions adopted by the Basic Education Funding Commission. All students deserve access to a quality public education.

What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's abortion laws?

I support a woman's right to choose.

REPUBLICAN

LEE ANN MCDERMOTT (REP)

MUNICIPALITY: Kingston Township

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE:

Small business owner for 25 years. Luzerne County Councilwoman since 2019. I know the importance of quality customer service. I will protect the bottom line in the budget. I believe in honesty, integrity and results. What are your priorities if elected? Crime prevention-strongly support funding law enforcement and prosecuting crimes. I will remain fiscally conservative-expenditure control in the budget is imperative. Support school choice-state education funding should follow the child. Voter Integrity-I will support the requirement of photo identification for voting. Small business-fight for less regulations and lowering the net income tax to 4.99%. Affordable housing-work to bring more housing to the area.

BRENDA PUGH (REP)

No response as of March 18, 2024

PATRICK MUSTO (REP)

COUNTY: Luzerne

OCCUPATION: Flooring Sales and Service

EDUCATION: B.A. Education

QUALIFICATIONS: Currently Dallas School District Board Director (3rd term). Familiar with public sector budgets and public sector union negotiations

What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians and how would you address them?

Education: School choice provides students with an opportunity to learn so that the system works for the student. Pennsylvania allocates millions of dollars every year only to maintain a mediocre educational system. Property Tax: Pennsylvania can attract more job creators and working families by avoiding tax hikes and reducing government and regulatory bureaucracy. Limited Choice: Public sector unions, especially monopolistic education unions, limit competition and innovation. Special education costs rise

yearly as more children are given IEPs to accommodate their unique needs. Healthcare benefit costs rise as these unions negotiate expensive healthcare plans.

What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?

Voter ID is a crucial improvement to ensure secure and fair voting, and we need to maintain the same chain of custody procedures

What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?

I strongly advocate for putting an end to the "hold harmless" policy for schools experiencing decreased growth and demand the development of charter schools that are rapidly growing.

What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's abortion laws?

I am pro-life. I believe conception takes place at the moment of fertilization. Abortion decisions are a health care discussion that should take place between a doctor and the patient. Parents always should be involved when the patient is under the age of consent. I would support legislation that protects the life of the mother and victims of rape or incest.

PENNSYLVANIA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 121

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA House of Representatives consists of 203 members representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service. The House develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the Senate). The House also has the exclusive authority to impeach public officials. Representatives also serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation.

Term: 2 years

Salary: \$106,422

Vote for ONE.

EDDIE DAY PASHINSKI

No response as of March 18, 2024

GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

DESCRIPTION OF OFFICE

If the question of forming a government study commission is approved by the voters, seven people are required to be elected to serve on the commission. Regardless of how you voted on the question of appointing a government study commission, you can vote to elect candidates to the commission. You may vote for no more than seven candidates to serve on the study commission.

REVISED EXPLANATION:

Office of Law - Revised Explanation of Ballot Question for Government Study Commission 2024 Primary Ballot Question:

A Government Study Commission of seven members will be elected to study the existing form of government of the County of Luzerne, to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter, and if advisable, to draft and recommend a home rule charter. The Commission could recommend that the form of government shall remain unchanged, recommend a new home rule charter, propose changes to the current home rule charter, recommend Luzerne County be governed by the Third-Class County Code which is the form of government Luzerne County had prior to adopting the current Home Rule Charter, or recommend such other action as it deems advisable consistent with its functions as set forth by law. The

government study commission of seven members shall be elected by qualified voters at the same election. The Government Study Commission issues a report with a proposed recommendation for a form of government to govern Luzerne County and does not make the ultimate decision itself. At the next election following the issuance of the Government Study Commission's report with recommendations, the recommendation is placed on the ballot for the voters of Luzerne County to accept or reject the Government Study Commission's recommendations. If a majority of voters vote yes, the Government Study Commission's proposed government will go into effect at a time specified by law. If a majority of voters vote no, the existing Home Rule Charter remains in effect.

Question: Shall a Government Study Commission of seven members be elected to study the existing form of government of the County of Luzerne, to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter, and if advisable, to draft and recommend a home rule charter?

**Candidates: Vote "Yes" or "No."
Vote for up to SEVEN.**

TOM BASSETT

Municipality: Pittston City

Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?

No

What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?

I have no agenda and will open-mindedly study the charter carefully, seeking input from stakeholders

DAVE CHAUMP

Municipality: West Pittston

Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?

No

What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?

Any sections of the charter that are in legal conflict with the PA state constitution

SANDRA DEBIAS

Municipality: Hazle Township

Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?

No response as of March 18, 2024

What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?

No response as of March 18, 2024

FERMIN DIAZ

Municipality: West Hazleton

Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?

No

What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?

If I'm elected, I will approach the role without any preconceptions about what needs to change.

CLAUDIA GLENNAN

Municipality: Salem Township

Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?

No

What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?

A thorough review including research of current charters and input from the community is essential.

VIVIAN KREIDLER-LICINA

Municipality: Nescopeck Township

Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating

the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No response as of March 18, 2024
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
No response as of March 18, 2024

VITO MALACARI
Municipality: Hanover Township
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
We must be open to examining all parts of the charter for effectiveness, such as the size of Council

CINDY MALKEMES
Municipality: Dallas Township
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
I would research other charters in order to make any decisions about amending the present charter

TIM MCGINLEY
Municipality: Kingston
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
I would like to listen to people regarding the Charter. There have been comments about the number of council members and how they are elected.

ALISHA HOFFMAN-MIRILOVICH
Municipality: Fairview Township

Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
The whole charter, resulting in recommendations based on a complete evaluation and community input.

MATT MITCHELL
Municipality: Plains
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
County council should be lowered to 5 members and be elected by district/region instead of at large.

MARK RABO
Municipality: Hazleton
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
The sections where Council can remove any elected official as it violates the PA Constitution.

TED RITSICK
Municipality: Forty Fort
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
Reduce the size of Luzerne County Council from 11 members down to either 5, 6, or 7.

CHARLES SCIANDRA
Municipality: Duryea Borough
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No response as of March 18, 2024
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
No response as of March 18, 2024

MARK SHAFFER
Municipality: Wilkes-Barre
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
We should focus on reviewing other charters and community feedback rather than specific agendas.

STEPHEN J. URBAN
Municipality: Kingston Borough
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No response as of March 18, 2024
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
No response as of March 18, 2024

ANDY WILCZAK
Municipality: Wright
Do you think a Government Study Commission should propose eliminating the home rule charter and revert to a Class III county government with three (3) commissioners?
No
What one feature of the county's home rule charter would you seek to amend if elected to the Study Commission?
I can't answer this without first studying the charter in-depth and comparing it to other charters.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE WILKES-BARRE AREA

P.O. Box 1480 | Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-1480 | 570-675-3429 | lwvwba.org

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The League of Women Voters of the Wilkes-Barre Area is a nonpartisan organization which has as its purpose the promotion of political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. Membership is open to any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League. While the League of Women Voters has made every effort to ensure that the information provided to us by the candidate is typed properly in this guide and it will not be liable for damages arising out of error, deletion or omission.

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Special Thanks to the Citizens' Voice for publishing the Voters Guide. The Voters Guide is a member-supported publication.

Online Voters Guide:

The Vote411 Online Voters Guide is available at www.vote411.org. Useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania homepage: www.palwv.org. This Voters Guide is available on the League of Women Voters of the Wilkes-Barre Area homepage: lwvwba.org.

JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS TO VOTE AND MAKE INFORMED VOTING CHOICES.

Consider joining the League of Women Voters of the Wilkes-Barre Area

WHO WE ARE

As an all-volunteer organization, we work diligently to promote citizen participation in our democracy by educating our community about voting and the democratic process. We encourage citizens to have a voice in their government by simply going to the polls to vote for the candidates who reflect THEIR views on how government should operate.

Voting truly is a simple act that can have profound effects on our county and how it operates.

Our nonpartisan status allows us to work effectively on voter education. The community knows that candidate meetings and our Voters Guide will present information without bias. We are respected in our community because citizens know that we are fair in our presentations.

We never support political candidates or parties, nor do we do things that would appear to support one over another.

Our Wilkes-Barre League focuses on voter education. Our members include men and women.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? OUR HISTORY!

The Wilkes-Barre League of Women Voters was established in 1944. The League of Women Voters of the United States was founded in 1920 -- six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.

This amendment gave women the right to full voting rights after a 72-year hard-fought struggle.

The amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920. On November 2 of that year more than eight million women across the United States voted in elections for the first time. The League of Women Voters was created to help newly enfranchised women learn how to register to vote, how to vote, how to learn about their candidates, and how to learn about the workings of their governments.

The League of Women Voters is nonexclusionary – all are welcome to join and participate in our programs.

Our name honors our rich history and those women who paved the way for all of us by working tirelessly to gain the right for disenfranchised women to vote so many years ago.

WHAT WE DO:

- Voter Registration Drives
- Candidate Forums before Primary and General Elections
- Annual Breakfasts with Legislators
- Annual Publication of a Government Directory
- Publication of a Voters Guide before each Primary and General Election
- Annual Meeting Dinner
- Annual Holiday Dinner

LEARN MORE: LWVWBA.ORG •  LWVWBA

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