





# Voters Guide Primary Election June 2, 2020

Publication of the Voters Guide was made possible by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund Patriot-News/PENN LIVE Laurel Foundation © 2020 LWVPA-CEF

New Pittsburgh Courier May 20-26, 2020 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.

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. They are listed according to their ballot order.

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.

**ABSENTEE VOTING** Registered voters who are ill, disabled, or will be absent from the municipality on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot. Completed applications

# **VOTERS GUIDE 2020 League of Women Voters** Non-Partisan Voters Guide © **2020 Primary Election — June 2, 2020** (Polls open from 7 AM to 8 PM)

### This Voters Guide may be taken into the voting booth.

for civilian absentee ballots for the June 2, 2020 primary election must be received by the county election office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Completed civilian absentee ballots must be received back at the Elections Division by 8 p.m. on June 2, 2020 to be counted. If an emergency arises (such as an unexpected illness or disability or last-minute absence) after the Tuesday application deadline, call the county Board of Elections for information on **Emergency** Alternative Ballot. An emergency application and ballot can be obtained and voted by 8 p.m. on June 2, 2020. Any disabled voter having questions regarding the accessibility of a polling place should consult the county Board of Elections located at 542 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 Room 604 (412-350-4500).

**MAIL-IN VOTING** 

Voters now have the option to vote by mail without providing any reason or excuse. To apply online, go to www.votespa. com. Contact the county election office to request a paper application. Applications for a mail-in ballot must be received by your county election office by 5 p.m. on May 26. Completed mail-in and absentee ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on June 2.

#### FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

Alleghenv County is reducing the number of polling locations for this June primary. To determine the location of your polling place, contact the Allegheny County Elections Division at 412-350-4500.

#### WRITE-IN VOTING

Information for write-in voting will be available at the polling place. You are not allowed to use stickers or paste-on labels for write-in candidates because the ballot-scanning machines cannot read them and may become jammed. The law now says that write-in names may be written or stamped.

#### **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 1-866-687-8683 or the Allegheny County Elections Division at 412-350-4500.

#### **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.

#### **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 Pennsylvania homepage: www.palwv.org.

#### **PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

**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 FEC website.

During the Presidential primary season, voters cast a ballot for candidates in one party. LWVEF is required to have at least two candidates from the same party meet the above criteria before launching a voters' guide covering that party. At this time, only one candidate running for the Republican Party's nomination has met the LWVEF criteria and therefore no Republican candidates have been invited to participate. As soon as two Republican candidates meet the criteria or the party's national nominating convention occurs, LWVEF will begin outreach to the qualified candidates immediately.

#### **PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES - DEMOCRATIC**

#### Vote for One. **BERNIE SANDERS**

Campaign Website: berniesanders.com/

Campaign Email: info@bernie-

sanders.com Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/berniesanders/

Campaign Twitter: BernieSanders

Campaign Instagram: www.instagram.com/berniesanders/ Campaign YouTube: www. youtube.com/channel/UCH1dpzj-CEiGAt8CXkryhkZg



Campaign Phone: N/A

Mailing Address: PO Box 391, Burlington VT 05402 Q: What policies do you support to improve and secure elections and voting in our country? Bernie Sanders: Bernie believes that voting is a fundamental American right. As president, he will:

-Restore & expand the Voting Rights Act.

-Re-enfranchise millions of Americans who have had their right to vote taken away by a felony conviction, in-

cluding those currently incarcerated. -Secure automatic voter registration for every American

18+.

-Overturn Citizens United.

-End racist voter suppression & partisan gerrymandering.

-Abolish racist voter ID laws, super PACs, & the Electoral College.

-Make Election Day a national holiday.

-Ensure voting is fully accessible to people with disabilities

-Replace corporate funding & donations from millionaires & billionaires w/ mandatory public funding of elections.

-Expand early voting & make absentee voting easier

Q: Please explain where you see opportunities for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on the very serious issues facing our country.

#### **NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER**

Bernie Sanders: Right now we have a president who wants to divide us up by the color of our skin, our country of origin, our gender, our religion and our sexual orientation. Bernie is going to do exactly the opposite. We are going to bring our people together—black, white, Latino, Native American, Asian American, gay and straight, young and old, men and women, native born and immigrant.

Not only is Bernie going to be Commander in Chief, he will be Organizer in Chief. He will rally the American people and stand up to the greed of the corporate elite. We'll build the grassroots movement necessary to enact the transformative change we need on climate change, health care, education, a higher minimum wage, workers' rights, criminal justice, and more.

#### Q: What, if any, steps will you take to reform current immigration policies?

Bernie Sanders: Bernie will act immediately to overhaul our broken immigration system and enact a humane policy at the border and in the interior that respects human and civil rights. As President, Bernie will: -Use executive authority to reverse Trump's harmful actions on immigration.

-Place a moratorium on deportations and end ICE raids. -Restore and expand DACA.

-Push Congress to enact a fair, swift, and inclusive path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

-Break up IĈE and CBP and return their core functions to their previous departments.

-Decriminalize and demilitarize the border, and ensure due process.

-Strengthen and protect immigrant labor rights.

-Lift Trump's draconian refugee caps and taking in those forced from their homes due to climate

Q: Please explain the policies, if any, you support to address gun violence in America.

Bernie Sanders: Bernie will take on the NRA & pass common sense gun safety legislation.

-Expand background checks & end the gun show loophole

-End the "boyfriend" loophole to get guns out of the hands of domestic abusers & stalkers

-Ban the sale & distribution of assault weapons

-Ban high-capacity ammunition magazines

-Enact a voluntary buyback program for assault weap-

-Regulate assault weapons in the same way as fully automatic weapons, essentially making them unlawful to own

-Crack down on "straw purchases," where people buy guns for criminals

-Support "red flag" laws & legislation to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and stalkers

-Ban the 3-D printing of firearms & bump stocks

-Pass Equal Access to Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act

#### Q: What, if any, actions would you work towards in your first 100 days to address the threats facing the US due to climate change?

Bernie Sanders: Together, we'll launch the decade of the Green New Deal, a ten-year, nationwide mobilization centered around justice and equity during which climate change will be factored into virtually every area of policy.

As president, Bernie will declare a national emergency on climate change and take immediate, large-scale action to reverse its effects. Bernie will use executive authority to aggressively regulate greenhouse gas emissions, ban fracking, ban offshore drilling, rejoin and strengthen the Paris Climate Agreement, and more.

Bernie will work with Congress to pass a comprehensive Green New Deal to create 20 million good-paying union jobs while meeting the IPCC emissions reductions targets and transforming our energy system and our economy

#### VOTERS GUIDE 2020

#### JOE BIDEN

Campaign Website: http://joebiden.com/ Campaign Email: Women\_for\_Biden@joebiden.com Campaign Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/joebiden/

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/ JoeBiden

Campaign Instagram: http://www. instagram.com/joebiden/

Campaign YouTube: http://www. youtube.com/joebiden

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 58174 Philadelphia, PA 19102

Q: What policies do you support to improve and secure elections and voting in our country?

Joe Biden: I've fought for voting rights since I first got involved in politics, helping to secure several exten-

sions of the Voting Rights Act. But in 2013, the Supreme Court ripped the heart out of those voter protections. As president, I'll enact legislation to restore the full force of the Voting Rights Act, and my Justice Department will challenge every one of the new Jim Crow laws that are now curtailing people's right to vote. I'll also boost state funding for secure voting with a paper record, and for better information-sharing. I'll fight for automatic and same-day voter registration. And I'll make sure that any country or group that seeks to interfere in our elections faces real and serious consequences.

Q: Please explain where you see opportunities for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on the very serious issues facing our country.

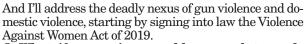
Joe Biden: The next president will inherit a divided nation and a world in disarray. They'll need to hit the ground running to fix Trump's mess, restore our global standing, and bring people together to get things done. Our next president will need to be a president for ALL Americans. I refuse to accept that we can't work together to solve tough problems. It's what democracy is all about. We can rebuild the middle class with historic investments in infrastructure, tackle prescription drug companies' profiteering, build on Obamacare with a public option—and so much more. I know how to find common ground without compromising my values.

#### Q: What, if any, steps will you take to reform current immigration policies?

Joe Biden: We're a nation that values immigrants – it's how we've constantly been able to renew our democracy. As president, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on day one, ending his cruel asylum policies, especially his Migrant Protection Protocols, family separation, and public charge rule. I'll address the root causes pushing people to flee Central America. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families. Then, I'll invest real political capital to finally deliver legislative immigration reform to modernize our system, giving nearly 11 million undocumented people a path to citizenship, updating our visa system to sharpen our economic competitive edge, and preserving family unification and diversity as cornerstones of our system

## Q: Please explain the policies, if any, you support to address gun violence in America.

Joe Biden: Gun violence is a public health epidemic. We need courage to stand up to the NRA and fix our broken gun laws. I've beaten it before—twice. As president, I'll do it again. I'll ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and require background checks for all gun sales. I'll fight for red-flag laws and close the Charleston and boyfriend loopholes, to get guns out of dangerous hands. I'll invest in smart gun technology and new strategies to reduce daily gun violence in cities. I'll work to heal trauma that outlasts shootings, starting by doubling the number of school mental health professionals.



#### Q: What, if any, actions would you work towards in your first 100 days to address the threats facing the US due to climate change?

Joe Biden: Climate change is our most urgent threat. Beating Trump won't end it, but it's key to all progress. In 1986, I introduced one of the first climate bills; Politi-Fact says I'm a "climate change pioneer." Now, I've outlined a bold plan to match today's crisis—putting us on a path to a 100% clean-energy economy and net-zero emissions by 2050. On day one, I'll rejoin the Paris Accord, restore American leadership, and push the world to do more. I'll invest \$1.7 trillion in clean energy research and development, and in transforming our infrastructure from electric vehicle charging stations to high-speed rail reducing emissions and withstanding the impacts of a changing climate, and creating 10 million good-paying jobs, that can be union jobs

#### TULSI GABBARD

Campaign Website: http://www.tulsi2020.com/ Campaign Email: aloha@tulsi2020.com Campaign Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/TulsiGabbard/

Campaign Twitter: twitter.com/TulsiGabbard

Campaign Instagram: http://www.instagram.com/tulsi/

Campaign YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBTNyrZoiTweJ1PZsJgdWTA

Campaign Phone: (808)861-0793 Mailing Address: PO Box 75255 Kapolei, HI 96707

#### Q: What policies do you support to improve and secure elections and voting in our country?

Tulsi Gabbard: I support campaign finance reform to reject the influence of corporate donations and PAC money on our elections and I support ending the practice of gerrymandering, which threatens our democracy and fuels corruption and a widening partisan divide.

TULSI GABBARD

We need to ensure the integrity and security of our nation's election systems and protect our democracy from hacking by adversaries. I introduced the Securing America's Elections Act to require paper ballots or voter-verified paper backups in order to protect our elections from malicious hackers and to make sure that every vote will be accurately counted.

#### Q: Please explain where you see opportunities for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on the very serious issues facing our country.

Tulsi Gabbard: In every issue that faces our nation, there are opportunities for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground. What is lacking is the political will to reach across the aisle, build relationships and find compromise.

Throughout my time in office, I have prioritized bipartisan outreach. If our leaders are unable to reach stable agreements based on finding common ground, then they will not be able to deliver. Their promises will ring hollow and they will create a state of permanent disruption.

As president, I will listen to the voices of all Americans, lead in the spirit of putting service above self, and upholding our country's original ideals of being of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Q: What, if any, steps will you take to reform current immigration policies?

strategies to reduce daily gun violence in cities. I'll work to heal trauma that outlasts shootings, starting by doubling the number of school mental health professionals. I'll work to heal trauma that outlasts shootings, starting by doubling the number of school mental health professionals. I'll work



mane ways to compassionately secure our borders while building bridges and cooperative foreign policy with other countries. We need to ensure we have a clear, enforceable, accessible, and humane pathway to citizenship, fund and equip agencies in charge of processing asylum claim and protect migrants, and pass DACA. We must also end our longstanding policy of military and economic intervention in Central and South America which has contributed to decades of civil war and economic instability which is the root cause of mass immigration.

**Q:** Please explain the policies, if any, you support to address gun violence in America.

Tulsi Gabbard: I have long called for reinstating a federal ban on military-style assault weapons and high capacity magazines, requiring comprehensive pre-purchase background checks for every gun sale, preventing domestic abusers from acquiring a gun, closing the gun-show loophole, and making sure that terrorists are not allowed to buy guns. I am focused on building bipartisan solutions that can actually be passed into law. As President, I would work with Congress to pass common sense gun safety legislation. The stakes are too high to allow politics to get in the way of taking bipartisan action on this. While I strongly support the second amendment, we can all agree that we need sensible gun laws to keep our us and our children safe.

**Q:** What, if any, actions would you work towards in your first 100 days to address the threats facing the US due to climate change?

Tulsi Gabbard: As president, I will tackle climate change by ushering in a Green Century - a century that harnesses technology and innovation to create jobs in renewable energy, revitalize our communities, and protect our environment. We must end taxpayer subsidies for big oil, fossil fuels and nuclear power, and instead invest in 100% renewable and safe energy sources like wind, solar, and geothermal. We must address the national security threat of climate change, end wasteful wars for oil, and address vulnerabilities to attacks/ hacks into our electrical grids that can be eliminated by decentralizing power sources and investing in renewable energy storage.

#### PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES -REPUBLICAN

**DONALD J. TRUMP:** Candidate Has Not Responded

**ROQUE "ROCKY" DE LA FUENTE:** Candidate Has Not Responded

**BILL WELD:** 

Candidate Withdrew

#### PENNSYLVANIA 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; represent the Commonwealth and its citizens in any action brought about for violation of the antitrust laws.

Term: 4 years

#### **Questions:**

**Q1:** What are your top three priorities to address as Attorney General?

Salary: \$167.838

**Q2:** The Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General is responsible for law enforcement and the equal protection

of law for all citizens. What do you see as the primary challenges to achieving equality under the law? **Q3:** What role will your administration play in reforming systemic problems and supporting restorative justice in our criminal justice system?

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Vote for ONE.

JOSH SHAPIRO: Candidate Has Not Responded

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. HEATHER HEIDELBAUGH

Biographical Info: County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO Box 23538 Pittsburgh, PA 15222 Education: J.D., University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law; B.A. in Economics and Political Science, University of Missouri-Columbia

**Qualifications:** Experienced trial lawyer with more than 35 years of courtroom experience who understands the complexities of the law, the intersection between policy and law, and how the law impacts the lives of citizens

Campaign Website: http://heatherheidelbaugh.com/ Facebook: http://facebook.com/HeatherforAG/ Twitter: http://twitter.com/heidelbaugh4ag Answers:

**A1:** 1. Keep PA Safe-The Commonwealth Attorneys Act states one of the main roles of the AG is criminal prosecutions. This would be my top priority. The AG works with local DAs and law enforcement to keep PA residents safe, including a strong commitment to addressing drug trafficking and the opioid crisis. 2. Put People Before Politics-Restore the AG's Office to following mandates set forth in the Commonwealth Attorneys Act and perform lawyering for the people of PA versus using the office for political gain. 3. Protect the Mentally Ill-Establish a Blue Ribbon Panel of experts from PA to examine the treatment of the mentally ill, address the current state of mental illness, and more. The panel would issue a Report suggesting structural changes.

**A2:** Keeping PA safe has to be the top priority of the AG. The AG's statutory role is the prosecutor of crime. The AG has to prioritize resources, so scarce resources are used for the highest priority tasks of the office. Crime enforcement, in conjunction with the DAs is the first priority. Crime operates across County and jurisdictional lines, so coordination with multiple County DAs is critical. Investigations that may take years and cost millions can't be wasted by prosecutors failing to follow criminal procedure. The AG must take an active role in the management of the office. The purpose of prosecuting crime is to ensure safety, not create headlines. With that purpose in mind, equal protection for all should be achieved.

A3: As the County Councilperson At Large on Allegheny County Council, I was critical of the operation of the county jail. The Allegheny County jail had more suicides than any other jail in the country. I determined that one county employee had repeatedly failed to process the proper release of a large number of people from the jail, and she was terminated. Each day someone is in jail, it cost taxpayers, they become a suicide risk and lose their liberty unnecessarily. As AG, I would continue to advo-

cate for government institutions to properly run jails and prisons. Jails and/or prisons must be properly run so we have the space to jail criminals, not those who don't belong there.

#### 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 federal fuds that are allocated to Pennsylvania state programs. **Salary:** \$167,838 Term: 4 years **Questions:** 

**Q1:** What are your top three priorities in office?

**Q2:** What distinguishes you from other candidates who are seeking to be Pennsylvania's next Auditor General?

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Vote for ONE. H. SCOTT CONKLIN

Biographical Info: County: Centre County Mailing Address: 339 Kepp Rd Philipsburg, PA 16866

**Education:** Phillipsburg-Osceola Area High School, Clearfield County Career and Technical School

**Qualifications:** Scott Conklin has served as board chairman of Centre County, chairman of the Salary Board, Retirement Board member, Employee Benefits Trust member, and Board of Assessment member, prior to Representing the 77th Legislative District of Pennsylvania. He is also a small business owner and union member.

campaign website: http://www.conklinforpa.com Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ConklinforPA Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/ConklinforPA

H. SCOTT CONKLIN

#### Answers:

A1: I have always thought of myself as a hard working voice for all people, and have served with the trust of those I represent in Harrisburg. Now, I believe it is time to use my voice for all Pennsylvanians by holding our government accountable. If you believe as I do, that our government needs to be held accountable for its spending, that our government must have an advocate for taxpayers, and that our government must work for all Pennsylvanians, then please consider supporting this campaign. Only through building a strong coalition of voters across the state, can we hope to secure these goals. A2: I am running for the Office of Auditor General because I have seen firsthand how wasteful spending can impede the missions of government. I believe that the work of the current Auditor General's office must continue, and that every taxpayer dollar should be spent legally and efficiently. I have spent my career serving the people of the 77th Legislative District, first as Chairman of the Centre County Commissioners, where I oversaw a \$90 million dollar budget. After I was elected to the House, I was placed on the appropriations committee as



a freshman representative, because of my experience in government. Furthermore, I co-own and operate a business with my wife Terri in Philipsburg, PA.

#### MICHAEL LAMB

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny County Mailing Address: 1015 Grandview Ave Pittsburgh,

PA 15211 **Education:** BA Penn State University MPM Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University JD Duquesne Uni-

versity School of Law Qualifications: As Controller since 2008 I have protected residents from waste, fraud and abuse of their tax dollars. My audits have uncovered millions in savings and I have provided unprecedented levels of transparency into city finances. I also led the effort to reform our

county into a home rule community.

Campaign Website: http://www.lambforpa.com Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MichaelLambPA Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/MichaelLambPA **Answers**:

MICHAEL LAMB

A1: The Auditor General is our 1st line of defense against public corruption. I plan to address that in part by bringing unprecedented levels of transparency to the Commonwealth. I have developed several tools of transparency for greater public engagement into the issues of public finance. I plan to bring those tools to the Commonwealth. During time of crisis it is important to recognize that some will see an opportunity for fraud. I have developed a plan to address these concerns including testing for price gouging, addressing misinformation, protecting whistleblowers and monitoring stimulus spending. Pa's largest cost is education. I plan to devote significant resources to hold accountable our charter schools and all institutions of learning.

A2: As City Controller it has been my job every day to watch over spending and protect taxpayers from waste, fraud and abuse. My record of fiscal responsibility, innovation, reform and open government helped me to play a key role in leading Pittsburgh out of near bankruptcy. My efforts to address our legacy costs while protecting our public assets have helped place our city on firm financial footing. As county row officer, I put people first by advocating a reform that eliminated my own job while generating savings to our taxpayers. As an attorney I have focused on helping communities restructure their finances while helping pension fund trustees address losses to their portfolios due to fraud. I am uniquely qualified to be Auditor General.

#### **TRACIE FOUNTAIN**

#### **Biographical Info:**

County: Dauphin (born and raised in Allegheny County)

Mailing Address: Tracie For Pa P.O. Box 22606 Philadelphia, PA 19110

Education: Drexel University B.S. Business of Administration-Major Accounting Certified Public Accountant since 1991

Qualifications: Served 29+ years in leadership roles in the administrations of the current and prior 3 Auditor Generals. Initially hired as a field audit supervisor. After 4 years promoted to Department's Technical Manager. After 3 years, Appointed Audit Bureau Director; serving as Director for 5 Audit Bureaus.

Campaign Website: http://tracieforpa.com

Facebook: http://Facebook.com/tracieforpa Twitter: http://Twitter.com/tracieforpa Answers:

A1: 1. Addressing the impact of significant staff shortages, as a result of continual legislative budget cuts, on the department's ability to properly and timely complete 5000 mandated audits annually. At the time of my hire, the Department had 850 employees statewide and was down to 392 at November 1, 2019, while still being responsible for the completion of 5000 audits annually. 2. Preventing the fraudulent use of PA's COVID-19 Economic Stim-



**TRACIE FOUNTAIN** 

ulus Funds and Small Business Loans proceeds by helping to ensure that these funds are properly awarded to PA's intended recipients. 3. Protecting the lives of PA's most vulnerable citizens-our children, our elderly, and mentally challenged.

A2: I am the only candidate in this race who, in addition to being a CPA, served in leadership roles in the administrations of the current and prior three Auditor Generals. As a result, I know this department, its staff, where they are strong, and where improvements are needed, making me the only candidate in this race who will be ready on Day 1 of taking office to effectively lead this department, especially given the department's significant staff cuts. I am also the only candidate in this race who, while on the campaign trail, issued 2 OP-ED pieces: 1. Policy to Support PA Attorney General's Efforts to Monitor State Funds Awarded to NonProfits 2. Reducing PA's Risk of Fraud, Waste, Abuse, and Mismangement of COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Funds

#### **ROSE "ROSIE" MARIE DAVIS**

#### **Biographical Info:**

**County:** Monroe County

Mailing Address: 316 Shawnee Valley Drive East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Education: BBA in Accounting; BS in Political Science Qualifications: I have an accounting degree and I am a Certified Public Accountant with 34+ years of audit experience. My expertise includes managing and conducting financial, operational, compliance and internal control reviews of Federal, State and Local government agencies and not-for-profit organizations.

campaign website: http://www.rosieforpa.com

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/ROSIE-for-PA-113154753563481/

**Answers:** 

A1: 1. The top priority is to save the PA taxpayers roughly \$600,000 dollars of extra salary cost because as the next Auditor General, there will be no need to hire another CPA to direct the audit team because I have the direct CPA experience to handle the technical job. 2. Addressing public school district funding inequality. I plan to review public school district funding from a top down approach. 3. A significant portion of State taxpayer sponsored programs and ser-

vices are outsourced to 3rd-party contractors who provide substandard and inadequate services. I will conduct more performance and effectiveness audits of 3rd-party contracts. Like: The share ride program for elderly and



**ROSIE MARIE DAVIS** 

vulnerable citizens is on top of the list.

A2: I am the most qualified candidate because I am a financial professional that has CPA public accounting and federal audit experience. I have an accounting degree, a CPA license and 34 years of real and relevant audit experience. I bring Wall Street and Main Street experience to the Auditor General's office. I have a life time of managing audit teams and bringing real results to my clients over the years. I am independent and owe no one any political favors therefore I can provide honest and candid assessments of operations at State agencies and programs. I have a stellar track record of identifying instances of fraud and abuse in governmental operations and within City and State Controller's offices.

#### NINA AHMAD

**Biographical Info:** County: Philadelphia

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 40681 Philadelphia, PA 19107

Education: Ph.D.in Chemistry, Postdoctoral Training in Molecular Genetics

Qualifications: Policy Maker (Deputy Mayor & Advisor to President Obama on AAPI) Co-owner-Community Development finance business Trustee of Foundation, Grant making Chair-\$40MM in grants and Investment Committee: oversight on half-billion-dollar endowment. Board Member, National Organization for Women campaign website: http://www.ninaforpa.com Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NinaforPA/ Twitter: http://twitter.com/NinaAhmadPHL

#### Answers:

A1: Healthcare, Education and Violence. These are all informed by the theme of my campaign which is accountability and transparency and the understanding that the taxpayers end up paying more if we ignore the problems that perpetuate inequality and injustice. I will take on Big Pharma to lower costs on life saving medicines with a focus on Pharmacy Benefits manager to increase efficiencies. I will protect and increase education funding to make sure



NINA AHMAD

our students have the best education in safe and healthy environments. I will focus on ending violence including sexual harassment/violence, advocate to end nondisclosure settlements as well as address gun violence by giving lawmakers the data to fight the NRA and pass tough new gun laws.

A2: I believe that the Auditor General's office can be a powerful tool for progressive change. I am running to deliver real results in the fight for equality, accountability and transparency. My life experience of surviving the violent Liberation War of Bangladesh, makes me cherish the promise of America, of a good education, quality healthcare and economic opportunity. I have a firm path to victory. Starting with a small lead ahead of everyone, I jump to a 34-point advantage on my nearest competitor state-wide, when voters learn about my approach and background as a scientist, policymaker and former local President of NOW. I am the only Philadelphia candidate in the race that historically makes-up half the state-wide turnout in elections.

#### CHRISTINA M. HARTMAN **Biographical Info:**

County: Lancaster

Mailing Address: PO Box 1576 Lancaster, PA 17608 Education: M.A., International Political Economy and Development, February 2004 Fordham University, Bronx, New York B.A., International Affairs, May 1999 The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Semester abroad at Université de Paris IV (Sorbonne) Qualifications: For 20 years, I've held governments to account in some of the world's worst dictatorships. I

led & managed federally-funded projects with budgets up to \$44 million with large teams across multiple offices worldwide that underwent numerous audits, which found that they were efficient and effective.

Website: Campaign http://www.christinamhartman.com Facebook: http://www. facebook.com/Hartman-ForPA **Twitter:** http://twitter. com/hartmanforpa

Answers: A1: My priorities are edu-

cation, healthcare, and criminal justice reform. Educa-

tion audits account for a third of this office's work. I will evaluate the discrepancy between the standards and funding for public schools and charter schools, which are often held to lower standards, harming our students on the taxpayers' dime. Healthcare costs continue to rise, especially for seniors. I will look at rising drug costs and nursing home treatment of seniors, to ensure that Medicare/Medicaid dollars are spent well for our most vulnerable. For criminal justice, I will examine inefficiencies created by focusing on punishment over rehabilitation leading to high recidivism rates, a truly inefficient and ineffective use of our tax dollars.

A2: I have the technical, leadership, and political experience to win in November and lead the Auditor General's office. I'm the only candidate who has run in a competitive general election with Trump at the top of the ticket and narrowed the GOP margin. When I ran for Congress in 2016, we raised \$1.25 million and got endorsed by the national party and EMILY's List, in a district originally deemed too red to win. That experience is going to be crucial in 2020. Finally, we are running a true statewide campaign. We have more than 60 endorsements, including Gov. Rendell, in 18 counties, and I've been to 45 of 67 counties. As a candidate from central PA, I'm working to unite Democrats across the state to make sure we turn PA blue in November.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE.

**TIMOTHY DEFOOR** 

**Biographical Info:** County: Dauphin

Mailing Address: 604 North #rd Street Harrisburg, PA 17101

Education: Harrisburg Area Community College, Associates of Arts, Para Legal Studies: University of Pittsburgh, Bachelor of Arts, General Studies (concentration Sociology and History); Harrisburg University, Master's of Science, Project Management

Qualifications: Former Special Investigator, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Inspector General; Retired Special Agent, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General; Dauphin County Controller (2016 to present); Former Certified Internal Auditor with the International Organization for Standards Campaign Website: http://www.defoor4pa.com/ Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DeFoor4PA Answers:

A1: 1. Work to have a more transparent government. For example, I will work to end political loopholes like

the "honor system" that allows state agencies to keep high-dollar, taxpayer funded contracts hidden from the public. 2. Bring in subject matter experts to audit the progress and performance of any new and expensive initiatives and projects to determine

how and if tax payer dol-

lars are being spent wisely.

3. Perform detailed quali-

ty management audits to

determine if the customer

service processes and ex-

periences for Individual

taxpayers and businesses



**TIMOTHY DEFOOR** 

doing business with the Commonwealth are efficient. A2: Over 25 years of combined law enforcement and auditing experience in both the public and private sectors. First as a Special Investigator with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Inspector General investigating government and contractor fraud, waste and abuse. As a Special Agent with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney General investigating Medicaid fraud and illegal prescription drug diversion and a Fraud Investigator and Internal Auditor for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center—Health Plan and various federal contractors.

#### PENNSYLVANIA **STATE TREASURER**

Description of office: The duty of the Pennsylvania Treasurer is to safeguard the Commonwealth's financial assets, which total more than \$120 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; maintaining the Pennsylvania contracts electronic library. The Treasurer has specific duties in addition to the oversight of the Department: serves as chair of the Board of Finance and Revenue, which selects banks to serve as depositories for state money; sets interest rates paid on Commonwealth deposits; hears and decides state tax appeals.

Term: 4 vears Salary: \$167.800

#### **Questions:**

Q1: what is the most important duty of the state treasurer? If elected how would you carry out that duty? Q2: What distinguishes you from your opponent in the

general election?

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. JOE TORSELLA

#### **Biographical Info: County:** Montgomery

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 626 Flourtown, PA 19031 Education: University of Pennsylvania (B.A.); New College, Oxford University

Qualifications: Current Treasurer of Pennsylvania; former Ambassador to the UN for Management and Reform; former President and CEO of the National Constitution Center; former Philadelphia Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning

Campaign Website: http://www.joetorsella.com http://www.facebook.com/JoeTorsellafor-**Facebook:** Treasurer

Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/JoeTorsella Answers:

A1: From Day One, my most important duty has been restoring integrity to an office too often marred by scandal-three of the last five elected Treasurers have been indicted. Upon taking office, I immediately banned the use of middlemen to win investment contracts and introduced Treasury's first-ever conflict-of-interest policy and Chief Integrity Officer. In addition to restoring in-

**JOE TORSELLA** 

tegrity, we've created the Keystone Scholars program, which gives at-birth college and career savings accounts to every child born or adopted in Pennsylvania after January 1, 2019. Furthermore, we fight to hold Wall Street accountable to taxpayers, including through legal action when necessary and as trustees for our public pension systems.

A2: I have spent my career in the public sector, fighting for the responsible use of taxpayer funds in our civic institutions. Before serving as Treasurer, I was the U.S. Ambassador for UN Management and Reform. Prior to that, I was the founding President and CEO of the National Constitution Center and Philadelphia's Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning. What these roles have in common is a dedication to the highest and best use of funds, contributed by the masses, toward a common goal. They each require the careful stewardship of someone else's contribution: to reinforce effective international cooperation; to build a beautiful civic resource for our nation; or to resolve a \$1.25 billion deficit and revitalize a vibrant major American city.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **STACY L. GARRITY:** Candidate Has Not Responded

# U.S. REPRESENTATIVES -17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Description of office: Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is composed of two houses. The upper house is the Senate. The lower house is the House of Representatives. A majority vote by both houses is necessary to pass a law.

Salary: \$174,000

#### Term: 2 years **Questions:**

Q1: What would be your top priorities as a U.S. Representative over the next two years?

Q2: The landmark Shelby v. Holder decision overturned protections in the voting Rights Act of 1965 that required certain states and local governments to obtain federal preclearance before implementing voting laws or practices. Since then, the U.S. has exprienced a surge of legistration that makes it more difficult for many people to vote. What voting reforms do you see as essential to making U.S. elections accessible and secure?

Q3: How would you go about finding consensus and reducing gridlock in Washington D.C.?

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. CONOR LAMB: Candidate Has Not Responded





#### **CHRISTINA M. HARTMAN**

**VOTERS GUIDE 2020** 

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **SEAN PARNELL:** Candidate Has Not Responded

#### **U.S. REPRESENTATIVES 18TH CONGRESSIONAL** DISTRICT

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **MIKE DOYLE** 

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny Coun-

Mailing Address: PO Box 17426 Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Education: B.S., Penn State University

Qualifications: Served in the United States Congress since 1995 campaign website: http:// mikedoyleforcongress.com/ http://face-Facebook: book.com/doyleforcon-

gress/ **Twitter:** http://twitter. com/rep\_doyle

Answers:

A1: My top priority is ensuring that we, as a nation sault weapons ban and universal background checks.

Holder decision. In response, I joined my colleagues in the House to pass the For The People Act (H.R. 1) last year. This legislation included expanded early voting and automatic voter registration. In addition to making these critical changes to make it easier for people to vote, the legislation also tackled dark money spending by outside groups and ending gerrymandering of legislative and Congressional Districts. While this legislation is stalled by Mitch McConnell in the Senate, I will continue to fight to remove obstacles that make it harder for people to exercise their right to vote and to remove big money from political campaigns.

A3: In Congress, I have shown that I can work with Members of Congress whom I disagree with on a number of issues. In the current Congress, I was able to pass four pieces of legislation despite the partisan divide in Washington. Two bills were passed on a bipartisan basis and were signed into law, including legislation that will stop spam phone calls to all our cell phones. I am able to build consensus and pass legislation because I look for common ground with other Members, even if we disagree on other issues. That was my approach when I first went to Congress and that will continue to be my approach should I be fortunate enough to return for another term.

#### JERRY S. DICKINSON

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny Mailing Address: 1207 Fifth Ave., Ste 100 Pittsburgh, Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/negronforcon-

**MIKE DOYLE** 

and as a region, get through the current crisis due to COVID-19. I am working to help workers who lost their jobs, small businesses that are struggling, and working to expand access to unemployment compensation. I am focused on other issues like fighting climate change, making prescriptions more affordable, defending Social Security, and protecting and improving Obamacare. I support common-sense gun safety measures like an as-

A2: I strongly opposed the Supreme Court's Shelby v.

#### **VOTERS GUIDE 2020**

#### PA 15219

Education: College of the Holy Cross Fordham University School of Law **Qualifications:** Tenured Professor, Univ. of Pittsburgh School of Law Fulbright Scholar Campaign Website: http://www.JerryDickinson.com

Facebook: http://Facebook.com/JerryforCongress

Twitter: http://Twitter. com/Dickinson2020 **Answers:** 

A1: The three most import-



JERRY S. DICKINSON

ant issues facing our nation are healthcare reform, the climate crisis, and ending the influence of corporate money on government. All require bold, urgent action with big, ambitious goals. There is no time to waste; we must act now. I will fight every day to achieve comprehensive healthcare reform by building a path to Medicare for All. The pandemic has exposed how broken our healthcare system is and how desperately we must fight to fix it. I will also strive to make the Green New Deal a realitymoving to ban fracking, strengthen the EPA, and enact a green jobs guarantee. That's also why I'm not taking a single dollar of fossil fuel money; because I intend to work for our people and not for corporate sponsors.

A2: We must absolutely protect our fundamental right to vote-it is a bedrock principle of American democracy. My campaign is about giving a voice to those who feel unheard and fighting for those who feel forgotten. We need to amplify our voters' voices by making it easier to vote. Pennsylvania has made great strides recently with its expanded voting laws, mail-in ballots, and online registration system. Other states should follow our example. Furthermore, across the country, we need to eliminate barriers to voting—like discriminatory proof of identity requirements, policies that prevent anyone who has an unpaid fine from voting, convoluted voter registration systems, and so much more. Voting should be easy.

A3: One of the most important steps to making real progress in Washington is getting corporate money out of politics. Too often, politicians like the incumbent give lip service to what people want but ultimately they cater to the industries that give them the most money. That's why, unlike the incumbent, I'm not taking a single dollar of corporate PAC money or from the fossil fuel and energy industries. The challenges that face our country healthcare, climate change, inequality, and others-aren't going to be solved by us striving to do less, we need to fight to do more. If we are going to make change, we need to work for bigger, broader ideas that help all Americans.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE.

LUKE EDISON NEGRON

#### **Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO Box 23556 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

#### Education: Grove City College

Qualifications: US Air Force, The Pittsburgh Project, The Mentor Project, Samaritan's Purse, City Lights, The Green Beret Project, International Justice Mission, Patriot Voices, Republican Leadership Initiative, Local Borough Government Intern, Political Science, Communications, and National Security studies

Campaign Website: http://negron2020.com

gress/ Twitter: http://www. twitter.com/LukeEdison20 **Answers**:

A1: My top priorities start with a matter of conduct rather than a matter of policy; I believe that local reps must be expected to be in touch with the citizenry they represent. Officials who win elections and proceed to hide from their districts while enjoying an elitist lifestyle should



LUKE EDISON NEGRON

be ashamed of their actions. Members of the US House are meant to be representative of their district, not separate from or above their district. 2020 sees far too many career politicians who know nothing about what the average working class American experiences. My pledge for my first year representing PA18 is to either write or support policy pushing for congressional term limits.

A2: I believe that voting for future American leaders is a sacred right which has been preserved by men and women sacrificing life, time, and effort. Because of the gravity of the situation, a government issued ID must be presented prior to casting a vote. Mail-in/ absentee ballots which can be properly screened and legally recorded are also acceptable for the elderly, the disabled, military members on orders, and the like.

A3: I believe that if each representative were involved in a well-established state of communication with their citizenry AND bound by congressional term limits, we would see less political pandering, less safe politics in favor of re-election, and more passionate changes in US leadership. We need to stop viewing politicians as D's and R's and start knowing the individual statesman or stateswoman. Party lines tend to serve as a big box to throw names into - this leads to a great deal of gridlock.

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR** - DISTRICT 37

**Description of office**: In Pennsylvania, the legislative branch of government is composed of two houses: The Senate is the upper house and the General Assembly is the lower house. A majority vote by both houses is necessary to pass a law. Senators must be at least 25 years old, have been citizens and lived in their respective districts one year before their election, and must live in their districts during their terms of service. Term: 4 years

Salary: \$90,335

#### **Questions: State Senate Districts 37,43,45**

Q1: Access to the ballot box is one of the most important rights for a citizen. Although Pennsylvania recently modernized its election code, there are other reforms that would further modernize Pennsylvania's elections. If elected, what reforms would you support to ensure that all citizens who want to vote are able to securely, privately, and independently cast a ballot?

Q2: While there have been some positive legislative actions recently, partisan gridlock in Harrisburg has taken its toll, and many people feel that Pennsylvania's state government is dysfunctional. What types of reforms, if any, would you support to make the legislative process in Harrisburg more effective?

#### 8 MAY 20-26, 2020

Q3: Do you support a state constitutional amendment to form an independent commission to redraw Congressional and legislative districts? Why or why not?

Q4: 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, many barriers still exist for people with disabilities. What will you do as a state legislator to improve accessibility for people with disabilities across the Commonwealth?

a paid sick leave program in the state, allowing family members to care for loved ones during times of tragedy, and am a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 890, which would allow workers with disabilities to increase their earnings while remaining eligible for Medical Assistance. I believe passing these bills would be a tremendous start to continue to improve accessibility for people with disabilities around our Commonwealth.

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES** 

Vote for ONE.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR

- DISTRICT 43

**DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES** 

Vote for ONE.

JAY COSTA JR.

commission exists for generations to come. A4: We need to ensure that those with disabilities have equal access to education and job opportunities. I co sponsored SB 439 to help expand disability benefits. Additionally, students with disabilities deserve the same

fight for the rights of all Pennsylvanians.

#### **BILL BRITTAIN**

opportunities as their able peers. I vow to continue to

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny Mailing Address: 28 Wilkins Road Pittsburgh,

PA 15221 Education: PITT-5 year Russian Language and

History **Qualifications:** I am the owner of Shadyside Nursery, a 10 year volunteer for Big Brother Big Sisters and a member of the PA Farmers Union. I know what it's like to struggle to survive as the little guy. I have been an independent business owner for over 18 years and am running be-

cause we need better representation

Campaign Website: http://www.brittain2020.com Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/BillBrittain20/ Answers:

A1: I would support the complete switch over of our voting system to a vote by mail system similar to other states like Oregon, Hawaii, California, Utah and Washington. I support vote by mail for the following reasons: 1). Increasing voter turnout: PA currently has a 50% voter turnout. When other states have switched to vote by mail, voter turnout has increased substantially among occasional voters. 2). Economic: PA would not have to buy, service and create security fixes to our voting machines. Some counties in CO have seen 40% decrease in elections cost by switching over to vote by mail. 3). Security: We can help solve the issues or fears of our system being hacked by using the mail in paper ballots.

A2: I support term limits and leadership limits within the PA Legislature, ranked choice voting and taking money out of politics. 1). Term Limits: Partisan gridlock is partially caused by the same stagnant leadership which controls the legislative agenda and incumbents with no new ideas. PA House and Senate leadership has remained the same for years and we have continued to get poorly thought out policy this is not a coincidence. 2). Campaign finance reform: Each party is backed by their chosen special interests which generally have opposite agendas, This amplifies partisan gridlock, getting money out of politics would hopefully help our legislators see what the people want and think is best for our state

A3: Yes, I do support a constitutional amendment to end gerrymandering but I also support both PA's HB 22/23 and it's partner legislation SB 1022/1023. I support a legislative fix over a state constitutional amendment as it will be easier to accomplish. Gerrymandering has helped create the hyper partisan environment in our legislature. We need to decrease the power of political parties and increase participation and trust in our voting system. I think that ending gerrymandering is a 1st step in a long process to restore citizen confidence in our government.

A4: The ADA and subsequent state laws have come a long way in making our physical world more accessible to citizens with disabilities but there is a long way to go though. My wife was a teacher at a low income school district and I saw though her experiences how children are slipping through the cracks because of a lack of support in our educational system. We need more help for

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. PAM IOVINO

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny Mailing Address: 750

Washington Rd #201 Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Education: Gettysburg College, B.A. in Political Science & U.S. Naval War College, M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies

Qualifications: 23 Year US Navy Veteran and Captain, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs (Presidential confirmed position), Director of the Allegheny County Department of Vet-



eran's Affairs, PA State Senator - District 37, Member of the PA Council of Arts and Commission of Women Campaign Website: http://www.pamforpa.com Facebook: http://facebook.com/pamforpa Twitter: http://twitter.com/pamforpa Answers:

A1: I was proud to support Governor Wolf's recent initiative to implement no excuse mail-in-ballot voting, as well as extended voter registration and mail-in / absentee return deadlines. While this was a very important move to expand ballot access, there is still more work we can do to further ensure all citizens have equal access to the ballot box. I support same-day voter registration and mailing every voter a mail-in ballot for the 2020 primary. During these unprecedented times, all citizens must be given a safe, secure method to cast their ballot.

A2: During the current COVID-19 pandemic, continuity of government and education, at all levels, has depended on cooperation and bipartisan communication. I believe the most important thing we can do to expedite the legislative process in Harrisburg is to strengthen relationships outside my caucus, which is why I have introduced three significant pieces of legislation with colleagues from across the aisle. As someone who assumed a Senate-confirmed, Presidential appointment position when the GOP controlled both the White House and U.S. Senate, I've seen first-hand the importance of these relationships, and I have always prided myself on being able to reach across the aisle when it matters most to get things done.

A3: I am a strong supporter of creating such a commission to oversee the redrawing of both the state and congressional districts before the 2022 primary election. I am a co-sponsor to Senate Bill 22, Senate Bill 1022, and Senate Bill 1023, which together would create such a commission in the most expedited way.

A4: I have introduced legislation (Senate Bill 914) that would require all public, state-owned buildings and large, public facilities to install adult changing stations, making many spaces and activities accessible to differently abled individuals and their families. I am also proud to support Senate Bill 580, which would create **Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny Mailing Address: 314 Newport Rd Pittsburgh, PA

Education: Community College of Allegheny County / A.S. Indiana University of Pennsylvania / B.A. Duquesne University School of Law / JD Qualifications: Allegheny County Register of Wills PA State Senator -District 43 / Democratic Leader Website: Campaign http://jaycosta.org http://face-Facebook:

**JEFF NEFF:** 

15221

Candidate Has Not Responded

Candidate Has Not responded

**DEVLIN ROBINSON:** 

book.com/jaycostapa/ Twitter: http://twitter. com/jaycostapa

Answers:

A1: Voting is a fundamental right. While we have made several major changes to our election law in the last year, we need to make sure that citizens have access to the ballot box. Same day registration would help to make voting more accessible. Additionally, we need to open primaries to allow non affiliated voters a chance to vote in a primary election. Everyone should be able to vote privately and securely. Finally, we need to prevent the passage of real ID measures that disproportionately impact our senior and minority voters.

A2: Committee membership should more accurately reflect the chamber composition. One reform would be to require that all bills introduced be given at a minimum committee vote. We could also hold joint Senate-House hearings on legislation. Additionally, adopt an annual member training and updates on chamber and operating rules. We need to continue working across the aisle on issues to move legislation forward.

A3: Yes, an independent commission will keep those who draw the maps accountable to the citizens of Pennsylvania, not party officials or special interest groups looking out for their own interests. I introduced the idea of having an independent commission. In the coming term, I will be supporting S.B. 1022 and S.B. 1023, that will create an independent commission and guarantee this



JAY COSTA JR.

**BILL BRITTAIN** 

**VOTERS GUIDE 2020** 

our students who have mental and physical disabilities to get the education that they deserve. Jobs now require a lot more education than they did 30 years ago and if we cannot include ALL of our citizens and give them these opportunities to excel, we are selling ourselves short.

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR** — DISTRICT 45

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote fo ONE. JIM BREWSTER

**Biographical Info:** 

County: Allegheny and Westmoreland Mailing Address: 455 29Th Street Pittsburgh, PA 15132

Education: California University of Pennsylvania / B.S. Qualifications: Mayor of McKeesport State Senator District 45

Campaign Website: http://brewster4senate.com Facebook: http://face-

book.com/brewster4senate/

**Twitter:** http://twitter. com/brewster4senate **Answers:** 

A1: Access to the ballot box for all is critical. Pennsylvania policymakers have a responsibility to ensure that there are more opportunities to participate in the electoral process. Early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, increased mail-in ballots and greater flexibilof voter accessibility-all

**JIM BREWSTER** ity are critical components things I strongly support. Given the pandemic, policymakers will be challenged to find new ways to increase safe and secure access to the ballot. The consideration of additional safe and secure options, greater voter education, easier voter registration, paper backup of electronic voting so that votes can be audited and recounted are

critical pieces of a state-of-the-art voting system. A2: There are many opportunities to reform the legislation process to ensure greater transparency and openness. First, we need to institute reforms that impact how lawmakers are reimbursed for expenses and revise our spending practices. Second, to increase accountability and open the range of bills considered, and the General Assembly should consider changing its rules to require committees to consider legislation offered by members of the minority party. Finally, develop a reapportionment process that produces more districts that are less partisan. A better reapportionment creates more mainstream districts, a search for common ground and less gridlock and dysfunction.

A3: I offered my colleagues in the Senate a thoughtful and thorough reapportionment process that would be run by leading scholars from higher education. Any appointed, elected or candidate for public office, political party officer or someone with ties to the House or Senate, a lobbyist or others involved in politics could not serve on the commission. My goal would be to create a non-political body that would be free of political ties to create well-defined districts. As part of the discussion of changes in the reapportionment process, during Senate consideration I offered my detailed approach to my colleagues to ensure the creation of fair districts.

A4: A lot more can be done to expand benefits for those with disabilities. The first step is to ensure that adequate funding is available to expand services. Unfortunately, in

tight fiscal times, one of the first places budget-cutters and the General Assembly is the lower house. look to claw back revenues are in lines devoted to helping A majority vote by both houses is necessary to those with disabilities This should be the last place that funding is removed. Meeting health care needs, addressing employment, finding more vocational opportunities, and growing the support networks to bolster programs must also be a priority. All should have equal access to opportunities. Beyond funding programs properly, we must do more to develop new initiatives.

**VOTERS GUIDE 2020** 

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote fo ONE. NICOLE ZICCARELLI

**Biographical Info:** County: Westmoreland

Mailing Address: 2300 Freeport Road Suite 3 New Kensington, PA 15068

Education: Nicole is a 1999 graduate of McKeesport Area High School, a 2003 graduate of Penn State University, and a 2006 graduate of Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

Qualifications: Nicole is a wife, mother of four young children, and small business owner. In addition to her law practice, Nicole has also served an adjunct instructor at Penn State University. Nicole is an active member of her

local community and a lifelong resident of District 45. Campaign Website: http://www.nicoleziccarelli.com Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/NicoleZiccarelliPA/ Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/PaZiccarelli **Answers:** 

A1: Once Covid-19 is behind us, allowing early voting, perhaps the Saturday before Election Day may be a way to allow some working people, who can't vote on a Tuesday, to vote in person. Voting by mail is now allowed but, in talking to voters, many would still prefer to vote in person and we should make it possible for more people to do so by giving alternatives.

A2: One of the reforms I would champion is that each legislator would be allowed to designate a few bills each session that are guaranteed to get a floor vote. In many cases, the Majority Party bottles up good legislation simply because someone in the Minority Party proposes it or the Committee Chair opposes it. This would allow more viable and beneficial legislation to receive a vote by the House and Senate.

A3: I would support an independent Commission to draw districts. In 2017, the PA Supreme Court allowed one professor from Stanford University in California to draw the Congressional map after ruling the existing map was unconstitutional. Both Parties attempt to draw districts to favor their Party. A true independent Commission that would draw fair districts where both Parties could compete is best for the people.

A4: Society has made great strides in providing accessibility for people with disabilities. We need to constantly monitor these efforts and improve them where possible.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Description of office: In Pennsylvania, the Twitter: http://@RobMatzie legislative branch of government is composed Answers: of two houses: The Senate is the upper house A1: If it was up to me, I would have Pennsyl-

pass a law.

Salary: \$90,300 Term: 2 years Questions: To all Pennsylvania State Representative Candidates

Q1: Access to the ballot box is one of the most important rights for a citizen. Although Pennsylvania recently modernized its election code, there are other reforms that would further modernize Pennsylvania's elections. If elected, what reforms would you support to ensure that all citizens who want to vote are able to securely, privately, and independently cast a ballot?

Q2: While there have been some positive legislative actions recently, partisan gridlock in Harrisburg has taken its toll, and many people feel that Pennsylvania's state government is dysfunctional. What types of reforms, if any, would

you support to make the legislative process in Harrisburg more effective? Q3: Do you support a state constitutional

amendment to form an independent commission to redraw Congressional and legislative districts? Why or why not?

Q4: 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, many barriers still exist for people with disabilities. What will you do as a state legislator to improve accessibility for people with disabilities across the Commonwealth?

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE **REPRESENTATIVE** -**DISTRICT 16**

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **ROBERT F. MATZIE** 

**Biographical Info:** County: Beaver & Allegheny

Mailing Address: 1028 Highland Ave Ambridge, PA 15003 Education: Associate Degree in High Technology Communications from the Community College of Beaver County and a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and Communications from Point Park University.

Qualifications: Serving my sixth term as a member of the PA House Of Representatives. Senate staff member for 14 years, served as Mayor of Ambridge and was elected to the Democratic State Com-

mittee. Board Member Point Park University, Board Member VisitPittsburgh. Commissioner PHMC. Former Broadcaster.

**ROBERT F. MATZIE** 

campaign website: http://robmatzie.com Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/rob.matzie



NICOLE ZICCARELLI

#### 10 MAY 20-26, 2020

I've introduced legislation to do just that for two terms. In fact, it was the language from my bill (HB 1059) that was used to authorize voting by mail in the election code modernization cited above. In our current system, I'm supportive I understand the purpose of vetting legislation of automatic voter registration, same day voter registration, early voting and permitting high school students to register ahead of their 18th birthday. I have also authorized paper ballot only legislation.

A2: I respectfully take exception to the term "dysfunctional." Gridlock is sometimes an unavoidable result of divided government. I would support reforms to give the minority a bigger voice in legislative matters-committee structure, floor votes, and legislative process—but, as those reforms would have to be supported by the majority, they are unlikely.

A3: I do and I am a co-sponsor of the legislation. It's simple, the closer a district is to 50/50, the ities across the Commonwealth. better those vying for the seat will consider the views of all sides. Gerrymandering, over time, causes elected officials to move further and further toward the extreme sides of their respective parties.

**A4:** What I've done for 12 years, identify issues faced by those with disabilities-from communication with my constituents or through proposed legislation-and act accordingly to address them. Whether it be a floor vote or acting as a conduit and advocate in dealing with state agencies, I work to ensure ALL Pennsylvanians have every opportunity to participate and succeed. I have authored resolutions recognizing Limb Loss Awareness and in 2017 the state House of Representatives unanimously adopted my resolution designating Monday, Jan. 30, as "Pennsylvanians with Disabilities Day."

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **RICO ELMORE Biographical Info:** 

County: Beaver

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 103 Rochester, PA 15074

Education: BA Criminal Justice-Pennsylvania State University Qualifications: Military Leadership, Youth Mentor Attention to Detail Integrity Facebook: http://Elmore/202020

**Answers:** 

A1: In 2019, Pennsylvania took a major step in election reform allowing voters bv to cast their ballots through mail, Extend-

ed the registration deadline from 30 days before election day to 15 days before election day, extended the deadline to return mailing absentee ballots to 8 PM on election day and passed funding for new and more secure voting machines. These reforms are great strides in making very more convenient, safe and secure. We should allow time for these reforms to be implemented so we can see the areas we need to improve upon. A2: I believe one person doesn't know all. I

surround themselves with and seek out people that have full knowledge of particular subjects. This way they can learn and make an informed decision. While the legislative process is slow, to ensure it is what is best for Pennsylvania. As a reformer myself I am always open to ways to make government more proficient and effective. A3: I am open to the idea of an independent commission for redistricting. I believe in free and fair elections, so I am going to support legislation that does so. However, with the protransparency factors that need to be answered. I will need to see legislation before I commit to anything.

**VOTERS GUIDE 2020** 

A4: Protecting Pennsylvanians with disabilities is a must. I am willing to review and support any legislation that will help those with disabil-

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 19**

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Vote for ONE. **AERION ANDREW ABNEY** 

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny Mailing **Address:** 

P.O. Box 99642 Pittsburgh, PA 15233 MSW, **Education**: University of Pittsburgh

Qualifications: Statewide voting rights advocate fighting to end voter suppression. Former program

officer responsible for granting over \$1.2M in funds to nonprofit groups. Community organizer & champion of voting rights, housing affordability, quality

education, criminal justice reform, & environmental protection

Campaign Website: http://www.voteaerionabnev.com

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/AerionAndrewAbnev

Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/triplea2 **Answers:** 

A1: I would push for same day registration, automatic registration, vote centers, and the option for in-person early voting. These reforms have proven in other states to expand access to the ballot for voters. Additionally, I would advocate for open primaries to allow independents the chance to have their voice in the outcome of primary elections which in many parts of the state end up being the deciding election. With any of these reforms, proper implementation is just as critical as the legislation itself. When good legislation is not implemented correctly it can have the unintended consequence of disenfranchising voters. Thus I would work with state and county officials on implementations plans for all voting reforms.

vania's elections be conducted entirely by mail. think it is important for our elected officials to A2: The first step would be to push for campaign finance reform to reduce the amount of big money that influences the decisions elected officials make and makes it easier for incumbents to remain in office for decades. Additionally, I would work to get more progressive candidates elected to office across the state to help flip both the House and Senate. In the interim I would find ways to work with my colleagues to identify where mutual ground exists and push legislative proposals that benefits not only my district but all Pennsylvanians.

> A3: People should choose their legislators not posed commission, there are accountability and the other way around. The way that our districts are drawn will have lasting impacts on our state for decades to come. It is of the upmost criticality that the redistricting process be fair and data driven not driven by political motivations and deception. An independent commission should drive the redistricting process. The process must require full public transparency and accountability as well as seek public input prior to final authorizations.

> > A4: I will work with both national and in-state disability rights groups to develop legislation that is supported by the disability community. Legislation would have an equity lens to ensure that the outcomes will improve quality of life factors. Voting is a fundamental right however for many voters with disabilities the barriers to the ballot box that still exist in 2020 need immediate change. Inaccessible polling places, untrained poll workers, separate and unequal voting equipment are all problematic issues that make it difficult for voters with disabilities from casting a ballot freely and independently.

#### **JAKE WHEATLEY**

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO Box 53044 Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Education: BA Political Science North Carolina A&T State Univer-

sity MPA University of Pittsburgh

Qualifications: Decorated United States Marine PA State House Democratic Chairman of Finance Committee Community Organizer/ servant of the People Campaign Website: http://jakewheatley. com

Facebook: http://Citizens for Jake Wheatley Twitter: http://@jakewheatlevpa **Answers:** 

A1: Same day voter registration and voting. Real early voting. Allow all citizens, even those incarcerated to participate in all elections. I would also continue to push the concept that every eligible citizen(when they reach the required age) is automatically registered as an eligible voter and they must make a request to be taken off the voter rolls. Also, Election Day is a paid official state holiday. Also, I would like to provide an incentive for those who participate to receive a sales tax break with the showing of their voter sub. It's redeemable within a week of any election or something equivalent. The basic premise is to create an incentive for citizens to



#### **RICO ELMORE**





#### **NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER**

participate.

A2: Many in the general public only see or read about the negative or disagreements of our democracy, but I have been apart and witnessed many more positive of how bipartisanship has worked. In politics, by its very nature there will always be differences and disagreements but our process, when needed has worked. Where we need change is how and what our citizens support. Members reflect, in most instances, the areas that they represent. They carry the values and concerns of their districts to Harrisburg and are their citizens eyes, ears, and voice. If change is needed, its in that process. I also believe that the 24/7 access and news or social media has brought both positive and negatives with it, as it relates to how we do the our work. A3: I will not support any reform to how we draw our congressional or legislative districts that does not also include how we count our citizens who are incarcerated. There can not be fair districts that are still based on proportional and structural racism. The fact that many of our citizens from urban areas are being housed in correctional facilities in rural areas and those citizens for purposes of legislative apportionment are counted as citizens in those rural areas and not counted from their home counties is meant to dilute and political power of those individuals and their home counties. Thus, until that is change, I will not and cannot support any false concept of a fair and nonpolitical "independent commission."

A4: I will continue to be a strong voice and advocate for breaking down all discriminatory practices, policies, and barriers. We have a very difficult and long road to create a truly equitable society, especially as it relates to our citizens who have disabilities. The fact that many of our skilled and talented citizens still high

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRE-SENTATIVE - DISTRICT 20**

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **EMILY KINKEAD** 

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny Mailing **Address:** 1424 Beckham Street Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Education: B.S. Biology, B.A. Political Science, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, 2009 J.D.,

Pitts-University of burgh School of Law, 2016

Qualifications: Over 15 years of experience advocating for LGBTQIA+ equality, reproductive justice, disability rights, criminal justice reform, medical research funding, campaign finance reform, gerrymander-

**EMILY KINKEAD** 

ing reform, immigrant rights, tenant rights, and other issues as both an attorney and policy advocate.

Campaign Website: http://www.emily4pa20. com

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/emily-4pa20

#### **Answers:**

Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/emily4pa20

A1: In college, I got involved with an organization that works on issues of good government reform-access to voting, campaign finance reform, and gerrymandering reform. We lobbied Harrisburg and Congress, held all-day educational dialogues, teach-ins, and lunch-andlearns to push for policies that ensure that our government works for the people and not wealthy special interests. If elected I will continue to champion the pro-democracy policies we need: automatic voter registration, early voting, same-day voter registration, an independent redistricting commission, and real campaign finance reform. While not all directly related to voting, each policy has a direct result on the ability of voters to confidently select their elected leaders.

A2: As mentioned previously, I believe that we must have an independent redistricting commission. Elected leaders should not be in charge of selecting who gets to vote them into office. It is a conflict of interest that only the most cynical would dispute. Regarding partisan gridlock, I believe that we need to make systemic changes to the rules within the Legislature. For a start, committee chairs should be required to provide legitimate cause for refusing to bring proposed legislation to a vote. Amendments to bills should be fully debated before being accepted or rejected. Additionally, I believe that Harrisburg must be much more proactive in alerting citizens about the status of legislation and explaining what each bill does.

A3: Absolutely. I believe an independent redistricting commission is one of the most fundamental protections we can establish for our democracy to ensure that it works for the people. I would further require that this redistricting commission count prisoners as residents of their home municipality and not where they are incarcerated. The current system of prison gerrymandering disenfranchises already vulnerable communities and distributes representation unfairly.

A4: As a legislator, I would turn to the stakeholders within communities with disabilities to ensure that their needs are being properly addressed and considered as we make all of our decisions. As someone who used to work in a community for persons with disabilities, I know that the best people to advocate for persons with disabilities are those persons, themselves. I am privileged to live without a disability and for that reason it is my responsibility to listen to the people who are impacted most when we fail to consider accommodations for those with disabilities when we make our decisions. With their input, I would fight for the funding and resources needed to provide adequate accommodations in all areas for people with disabilities.

#### ADAM RAVENSTAHL

#### **Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: 117 Lilv Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15229 Education: Graduated from North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh Graduated Magna Cum Laude from Robert Morris University with a degree in Business Management, 2007

Qualifications: Lifelong resident of the 20th District,

Served as Representative since 2010, Former Democratic Committee Man, 10 years of experience as a State Representative Campaign Website: http://www.adamravenstahl.com/

Facebook: http://www. facebook.com/adamravenstahl/

**Twitter:** http://twitter. com/adamravenstahl **Answers:** 

ADAM RAVENSTAHL

A1: Act 77 Made Historic Changes to the PA Election Code which allows more convenient voting. You can now vote by mail-in ballot. I voted in favor, to allow constituents a more accessible way to vote. I also support early voting, automatic voter registration, same day registration and any other measure that makes it easier to vote. A2: I support government reform. I was a co-sponsor of a joint resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, deleting provisions relating to the Legislative reapportionment Commission: and providing for the Independent redistricting Commission. I'm not sure there is a legislative fix that will solve the current gridlock. I think elected officials need to work together, be willing to listen and compromise more to help get things done.

A3: Yes, I do support an independent Commission. I am a co-sponsor of House Bill 563, legislation that would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to allow for a more open, transparent process when reapportioning and redistricting the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Under this legislation, the independent commissions tasked to draw these lines would not be obligated to incumbent politicians or political parties. I am also a co-sponsor of legislation being introduced by Rep. Mary Jo Daley. This legislation would allow any Pennsylvania resident to submit reapportionment plans for legislative districts. The Reapportionment Commission would be required to consider these plans. Also to assist Pennsylvanians in developing these plans, the Commission w

A4: I take great pride in my record of always fighting for our most vulnerable. I am a current member of the Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Caucus, the Disability Caucus and the Cancer Caucus. As Chair of the Committee on Ethics for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I am honored to support my colleague, Rep. Dan Miller with his Annual Disability Summit. I have supported people with disabilities over the last 10 years in office and will continue to advocate for all individuals. I supported HR 543 honoring the 30th Anniversary of the ADA, HB 1189 that provides COVID 19 disability benefits for professionals in an emergency disaster, HB 2082 that provides our veterans with pensions and benefits for the blind and amputee's. In 2015-

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 21**

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Vote for ONE. SARA INNAMORATO

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO Box 40393 Pittsburgh, PA 15201 Education: North Hills High School; BS in Business Administration with a major in Marketing from the University of Pittsburgh

Qualifications: Founder, Innamo Co., a communica-



tions agency for social good: Co-founder, She Runs SWPA, an organization encouraging women to run for office

Campaign Website: http://www.saraforpa.com Facebook: http://facebook.com/SaraforPÅ Twitter: http://twitter. com/Innamo **Answers**:

A1: I believe it should be easier to vote-Pennsylvania should have same-day voter registration, election day as a holiday and early voting. I've sponsored HB1556, which would would automatically regis-



SARA INNAMORATO

ter people to vote when they interact with PennDOT, the state departments of Health or Human Services, or any other state agency.

A2: I support a gift ban for legislators to build trust between them and the people they represent. I also support campaign finance reform, and my campaign does not accept corporate contributions. We must ensure that legislators represent the interests of their constituents, not powerful corporations.

A3: Yes, I support Fair Districts' legislation to use a state constitutional amendment to form an independent commission to redraw voting districts. We need to strengthen our democracy at every level, which means eliminating the conflict of interest that comes with legislators draw their own districts.

A4: I support a ban on subminimum wages for all people, including persons with disabilities. I believe that any state and public dollars that go to corporations must come with caveats. Pennsylvania has the opportunity to prioritize incentives to companies that guarantee integrated workplaces that provide meaningful work for individuals with disabilities. In the short term, Pennsylvania should offer a consumer-directed care option in the waiver system so that assistance can be more specialized to an individual's needs, so that more people can be supported. In the long term, Pennsylvania should not only pass a Medicare for All program, but also ensure that care for individuals with disabilities under such a program would be consumer-directed.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

#### Vote for ONE. JOHN WAUGH

#### **Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 11081 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Education: Indiana University of Pennsylvania, double majoring in accounting and finance

**Qualifications:** 5+ years as a state revenue auditor, 10 years experience in accounting.

campaign website: http://www.JohnforPA.com Facebook: http://www. facebook.com/johnforpa21/ Answers:

A1: Voter records need to be better maintained. Out of date voter rolls present a



JOHN WAUGH

tem for voter registration. The interface could use some improvements and I would like to see more programs to educate students in high school about the voting process and registering to vote.

**VOTERS GUIDE 2020** 

A2: Pennsylvania has one of the most expense state legislatures in the country, yet it performs near the bottom of the spectrum. Reducing the cost of our government is a crucial first step. Unfortunately, in the case of elected officials, their power and status are usually tied to the size of the budget they have authority over. This dis-incentivizes reducing government spending. In terms of making the overall process more effective. What I would like to see is legislation that is targeted only at one issue and not a scatter shot of special interest issues that causes the type of gridlock that this question mentions.

A3: There is a lot of room for improvement with how our congressional and legislative districts are drawn. I feel that the more pragmatic approach to this issue is to form an independent commission without a constitutional amendment. The reason I say that is because when people start hearing constitutional amendment there is nearly always a large amount of backlash and effort to prevent it from happening. This would tie into the legislative gridlock mentioned in the previous question.

A4: One of my primary campaign platforms is mental health advocacy and de-stigmatization. In a perfect world physical health and mental health would not be separate conversations in our society. There are numerous barriers to care that could be eliminated or reduced in order to improve the lives of those that need access to these services the most. There has been a noted decline in the number of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities "IDD" who have competitive employment. They deserve the same opportunities to work and that includes the same quality that all Americans want.

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 23**

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **DAN FRANKEL:** Candidate Has Not Responded

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 24**

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Vote for ONE. **ED GAINEY** 

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny Mailing Address: 6451 Apple Street Pitts-burgh, PA 15206 Education: Morgan State University **Facebook:** http:// www.facebook.com/ RepEdGainey/ Twitter: http://twitter.com/RepGainey **Answers**: A1: I believe that we

took the first step last year, but I believe that considering the Covid-19 pandemic we



**ED GAINEY** 

huge problem. I think Pennsylvania has a fairly good sys- need to ensure that every Pennsylvanian can cast a ballot no matter the situation. I am about to introduce a bill that will help achieve this by making it so that instead of requiring people to apply for a mail in ballot they will instead be sent a mail in ballot automatically by their counties.

> A2: The one reform that I feel that we need is ensuring more transparency in our campaign finance system. We need to know how much private money is influencing public policy.

> A3: Yes, I believe that an independent council would be fairer. It would take redistricting out of the hands of politicians and put it in the hands of the people; as long as it reflects the diversity of the state.

> A4: I believe that one of the best things we can do is increase pay for care workers. Better pay will mean better care in the long run. I would also like to see it made so that it is easy as possible for those who can live alone to do so, but still get the support they need.

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 25**

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **BRANDON J. MARKOSEK:** 

Candidate Has Not Responded

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE.

**JOHN RITTER:** Candidate Has Not responded

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE **REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 27**

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE.

**DAN DEASY:** Candidate Has Not Responded

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE **REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 28**

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Vote for ONE. **EMILY SKOPOV** 

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: 105 Archberry Dr. Wexford, PA 15090

Education: Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Columbia University; Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting and Film from the University of California Los Angeles

Qualifications: Before starting her own arts & environmental nonprofit, No Crayon Left Behind, Emily had a successful screenwriting & directing career. She is an active volunteer in her community & schools, & serves on the Mar-

#### NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER

shall Township Parks & Recreation Board, as well as the board of Northland Public Library.

Website: Campaign http://electemily4pa.com Facebook: http://www. facebook.com/ElectEmily-4PA/

Twitter: http://eskopov16 Answers:

A1: Recent efforts to modernize our elections are commendable, but we can do more. i will work to open PA's primaries to all voters. Our process excludes thousands of Independent,

third-party and unaffiliated voters, and there is no excuse for this kind of disenfranchisement. We should emulate other states by instituting in-person early voting, in addition to mail in ballots. Mail in ballots are a huge step forward, but people experiencing homelessness or others who may not have a mailing address for whatever reason are still excluded from that process. Early in-person voting expands the franchise to the folks most in need of representatives who will be advocates.

**EMILY SKOPOV** 

A2: Redistricting reform is paramount for a properly functioning democracy & I'll work to achieve that from day one. I'll put in place policies that promote transparency & hold true to my mission of representing all of HD28. My campaign is releasing an Accountability Pledge outlining my commitment to: 4 Town Halls a year; all calls & emails will receive a response within 48 hours; my calendar will be public; I will declare all real or perceived conflicts of interest; I will have a user-friendly legislative tracker on my website; I will seek public comments on legislation; if budget negotiations extend beyond the deadline, I will not take a salary until the budget is passed; I will not leave Harrisburg until the budget is passed.

A3: Absolutely. We can not rely on the State Supreme Court as a backstop to ensure that our legislators don't continue to run roughshod over our democratic process. If a truly independent commission is not enshrined into law, we have seen first hand what enemies of free and fair elections are willing to do to put partisanship over people and permanently enshrine their majorities through any means necessary.

A4: The ADA is civil rights legislation that has never gone far enough to make our society truly accessible to all. We treat people with disabilities as people requiring accommodation, rather than recognizing that the culture & constructs we've created must be changed to have a society that is accessible to all. People with disabilities aren't an afterthought & we must move toward crafting legislation in line with the principles of Universal Design. I support establishing independent commissions or agencies on the state level to ensure proper enforcement and oversight of ADA regulations. I will work with all parties to bring stakeholders to the table, and allow those stakeholders to lead on their issues, so that democracy works for everyone.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **MIKE HECKMANN:** 

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: 10595 Landau Drive Wexford, PA 15090

Education: J.D. - Vanderbilt Law School, Class of

2016. B.S., Public Pol-

icy & Economics, Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies, NYU Stern School of Business, Class of 2013. North Allegheny Senior High School, Class of 2009 Qualifications: Lifelong member of the community I seek to represent, child and brother of NA teachers since 1979, experience working within the Capitol, for the House Republican Caucus, on crucial issues including education, redistricting,

and the public pension crisis.

Campaign Website: http://mikeheckmann.com Facebook: http://facebook.com/MikeHeckmann-PA

**MIKE HECKMANN** 

Twitter: http://twitter.com/MikeHeckmannPA **Answers:** 

**A1:** I absolutely support an election day holiday to expand the number of citizens who participate in our democratic process. At the same time, think there are countervailing concerns that weigh against widespread use of early or mail-in voting, included in our "modernization" (although this year obviously is exceptional); those include events that occur after early voters have sent ballots but before election day, the difficulty in providing an election result night of or even day after, with widespread vote by mail, and the potential to increase undervoting, especially for down-ballot races like my own, with the lack of in-person advocacy at the polls- thus the potential to advantage candidates with more money to reach voters at home.

A2: I have to say that I find this question a bit leading, and I'm not willing to concede that PA's government is dysfunctional; although in some ways, "partisan gridlock" could be seen as the recent will of the voters, having chosen a Democratic Governor and Republican legislative majorities, to keep either side from altering too much. In a closely divided swing state like Pennsylvania, I don't think that it is fair to consider a lack of major legislative changes to be dysfunctional.

A3: I am unconvinced—I am not opposed to changes to our current system, but I have equal concerns with the model proposed by the League of Women Voters' project group Fair Districts, as well as theories advanced by the LWV's attorneys in their successful suit to change our Congressional districts. Proportional representation, or the maximization of voter efficiency, are metrics that in Pennsylvania overwhelmingly accrue to the partisan benefit of Democrats- and to the disad-vantage of communities like Wexford (the 28th District). This is true to such a degree that, in the model created by 538's Atlas of Redistricting, the best possible Democratic gerrymander is the same as the approach that maximizes proportional representation.

**A4:** I think if there is one thing we have learned from the current COVID-19 shutdown, it is that many more jobs are able to be done from one's home than was previously the norm. I hope that that leads to a permanent change in the approach taken by employers in every sector, but I think it would be appropriate and beneficial for state and never be round. There are a ton of possible imnational legislatures to incentivize this flexibili- provements.

ty- something that would be to the great benefit of disabled Americans, as well as many other groups. I also think it is vital to recognize the widespread termination of pregnancies with a diagnosed disability as a "barrier" for people with disabilities, to seek to prohibit such terminations, and to offer real assistance to these families.

#### **ROB MERCURI:** Candidate Has Not Responded

LIBBY BLACKBURN **Biographical Info:** 

County: Allegheny Mailing Address: 1015 Woodland Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Education: Kenyon College

Qualifications: I am the only elected public official running, who has actually voted on public

issues. I have had to make tough decisions, and made them. I have been on dozens of boards and committees dedicated to our community. I have lived in the 28th District for 50 years, and am the only experienced candidate. campaign website: http://www.peoplewithlibby.com

Facebook: http://facebook.com/peoplewithlibby

#### **Answers:**

A1: I like the new mail-in ballot option and foresee a future

when we can do everything online. Right now, you may go online to request the Absentee or Mail-In Ballot, but you still have to wait for the paper ballot to arrive via USPS, then return the paper ballot via USPS. We should be able to actually vote online.

A2: I believe we still have too many legislators and not enough positive action. I would like to have one item in legislation bills that could be passed or voted against. Currently, if you don't like item A, but like item B, often the legislation has both A and B together so if you want the one, you have to pass the other one.

A3: Yes. Everything seems to be based on which political party is in the majority. Districts should be drawn fairly, without politics. Of course, the next problem will be arguing over who is on the "independent commission," and that will likely be politically based too.

A4: So many signs are in places that do not allow for the handicapped to be able to see the sign safely. For instance, many bathroom signs are on the door. The sign should be placed beside the door, out of the way of a swinging door. Signs need to be at a lower level and Braille should be on signs. There needs to be a more accessible ramp and railings to all buildings. Sometimes the ramp is too steep. It is amazing that some places pass code with these flaws. We need to hold businesses accountable to making sure their buildings are even more accessible than current code. They can be designed better for the handicapped. Doors should not be as heavy as some are, and the door handles should





#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 30**

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

#### Vote for ONE. LISSA GEIGER SHULMAN

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO Box 107 Allison Park, PA 15101

Education: BA University of Pittsburgh; MA in Education University of Missouri-St. Louis Qualifications: Teacher. Advocate. Leader. Website: Campaign http://lissaforpa.com http://face-Facebook: book.com/LissaforPA **Twitter:** http://twitter. com/LissaforPA Answers:

A1: Pennsylvania's recent addition of mail-in voting is welcome and necessary. Now voters do not have to choose between their health and their civic duty.

LISSA GEIGER SHULMAN

I am glad that Allegheny County will be mailing ballot applications to all voters, including pre-paid return envelopes. I would like to see this expanded across our state. Furthermore, I support public awareness campaigns to publicize and grow vote-by-mail in the future. In addition to vote-by-mail, I support same-day voter registration which would further expand voting rights to all eligible voters in our state. I also support automatic voter registration anytime an individual interacts with a state entity with the default being that individuals are registered as opposed to an opt-in system.

A2: Too many of our constituents have a negative view of politicians, and this loss of confidence in elected officials will slowly erode our democracy. Therefore, I am in favor of reforms including ending gerrymandering, campaign finance reform, and ending the "old boys" culture in Harrisburg. Specifically, I support campaign contribution limits, a gift ban for elected officials, more transparent and searchable campaign finance reports on the state's website, addressing sexual harassment in the state Capitol, professionalizing legislative staff, and replacing per diems with an expense reimbursement system. My full government reform platform is available at lissaforpa. com/govreform

A3: Politicians on both sides of the aisle are guilty of working to craft districts that benefit themselves and their friends. This also creates districts that are safe for one party, benefiting candidates who are more partisan. We need competitive districts so that our elected officials work together to solve problems and effectively govern, not score political points by holding radical positions. I support an independent redistricting committee who can use data and technology to craft districts that meet the constitutional requirements of being compact and contiguous, respecting municipal boundaries, and keeping communities of interest together.

A4: I am proud of my work to develop Rep. Dan Miller's annual Disability and Mental Health Summit. The event always includes a legislative panel to discuss relevant state policy issues. As a state legislator, I will engage with the Autism & Intellectual Disabilities caucus and advocacy groups to keep informed on current issues in the disability community. Initial priorities include: addressing waiting lists for waiver services, growing

community-based services, passing paid family leave, and increasing access to early intervention by expanding quality early learning programs. Additionally, I would engage with local and municipal officials to address physical accessibility issues, particularly in relation to transit, within House District 30.

MARCO ATTISANO

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny County Mailing Address: 1496 Butler Plank R. Glenshaw, PA 15116 Education: Pittsburgh

School of Law Allegheny College Qualifications: US Navy

AmeriCorps Seabees The Pittsburgh Project Knowledge of both sides of the law, having served as both a defense attorney and prosecutor for the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. Business owner Union family Website: Campaign

http://www.marcoforpa.

com Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MarcoforPA Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/MarcoforPA Answers:

A1: I support passing reforms to expand access to safe, secure, and private voting. I support expanding opportunities for voter registration. Additionally, I support Pennsylvania mailing all registered voters a Mail in Ballot Application.

A2: Pennsylvania's campaign finance system is broken, and this contributes to partisanship in Harrisburg. I support campaign finance reform. Pennsylvania is one of only a few states in the entire country that does not have campaign contribution limits for state elections. I support campaign contribution limits and increased transparency around campaign finance reporting. I was the first candidate in this election to post my Campaign Finance Reports on my campaign website and I will continue to hold myself to the higher standard I believe Harrisburg should hold itself.

A3: Yes. I believe this will improve Pennsylvania and restore citizens' trust in government because doing so will mean that voters can pick their legislators, not the other way around. This will make representatives more responsive to all of the voters in their district. It is time to act on this, rather than continuing the political posturing currently happening in the legislature with co-sponsorship' of bills that will never receive a vote. I brought forward a resolution in support of fair Congressional and legislative districts at an O'Hara Township Council meeting in November of 2019. I am proud that my own municipality took up and passed this resolution, but resolutions are not enough. We need action from the legislature.

A4: I am interested in expanding opportunities for persons with disabilities. It's been 30 years since the Federal Government passed the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we must continue to build on that and restart anew an effort to ensure that people with disabilities are valued equally. Harrisburg must ensure the laws providing accessibility and opportunity for persons with disabilities are effective and can be enforced. This will help create equality for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Legislators must always be aware of the barriers that persons with disabilities must overcome to gain economic independence and work to help create an economy and society where persons with disabilities can thrive.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

#### Vote for ONE. LORI MIZGORSKI

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny County Mailing Address: P.O. Box 354 Glenshaw, PA 15116 Education: B.A., Hood College, Frederick, MD Qualifications: Chief of Staff to former State Repre-

sentative Hal English, served nine years on the Shaler Township Board of Commissioners and North Hills Council of Governments, currently serve on the Shaler North Hills Library Board of Directors and Port Authority of Allegheny County Board of Directors.

campaign website: http://lorimizgorski.com Facebook: http://Lori Mizgorski for State Representative

Twitter: http://Lori4PA Answers:

A1: In 2019 I voted "ves" to an historic election re-







# **MARCO ATTISANO**

form bill that made the most significant improvement to elections in more than 80 years. Act 77 of 2019 gives all registered voters the option to vote by mail without needing to provide a reason for doing so. The bill extends the deadline to register to vote to 15 days before the election instead of 30. The deadline for returning an absentee ballot has also been extended until 8:00 pm on Election Day. Additionally, voters with permanent disabilities may request to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list. Finally, the Act provides \$90 million in funding for new voting systems which will improve voting integrity and provide a paper trail. A2: I work with people, not political parties. When I

was a local elected official, I collaborated with my fellow township commissioners to serve the residents of my community without regard to political affiliation. I have continued my record of bi-partisan leadership in Harrisburg. My first bill, House Bill 318 Changes to Do Not Call List, was voted unanimously in the House and Senate and was signed into law by the governor last October. I also introduced House Bill 1970 PA Local Solar, and Senator Jay Costa introduced similar legislation in the Senate. I continue to demonstrate my willingness to find common ground and work with House and Senate members on both sides of the aisle.

A3: I have supported the initiative to create an independent commission for redistricting. Although, I do not believe a commission of appointed members will completely remove politics from the process, I believe it would provide a layer of protection. Creating an independent commission is a viable option for consideration and deserves further consideration by the General Assembly.

A4: From my late mother who utilized a wheel chair, to my former co-worker with autism, to the many constituents I helped receive human services when I worked for my predecessor, helping others overcome challenges has always been a priority for me. That's why I was honored to co-sponsor House Resolution 543 Recognizing the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act with State Representative Dan Miller. I am proud of voting for increased funding for human services with focus on help for individuals with disabilities. As legislators we must continue to work to provide inclusive education and expanded work opportunities so more Pennsylvanians can utilize their abilities and lead fulfilling lives.

#### **VOTERS GUIDE 2020**

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 32

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE.

**ERIN VECCHIO:** Candidate Has Not Responded

#### TONY DELUCA:

Candidate Has Not Responded

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 33

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE.

FRANK DERMODY

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny, Westmoreland

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 274 Tarentum, PA 15084

Education: B.A., history, Columbia University; J.D., Indiana Univ. School of Law (Bloomington)

**Qualifications:** Attorney in private practice, public defender, prosecutor, district justice. Elected to represent the 33rd District and currently serving fifth term as Democratic Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

Campaign Website: http://frankdermody.com Facebook: http://Rep-FrankDermody Twitter: http://@Rep-FrankDermody Answers:



FRANK DERMODY

**A1:** I support changing state laws to make it easier for all citizens to vote. This includes same-day voter registration, having more days to submit your mail-in or absentee ballot, encouraging counties to set up central sites for early voting before election day, and allowing workers to take unpaid time off if necessary for them to cast a vote on election day. The state government also needs to provide sufficient resources and lead time to county boards of elections to properly implement mandated changes in voting systems.

**A2:** I am prime sponsor of a comprehensive bill to limit the impact that special interests with deep pockets can have on elections. It would limit how much any person or political committee can donate to a candidate in an election, and strengthen requirements for reporting such contributions. Too many bills are passed with little or no public notice. I support using our House committees to air issues in advance at hearings with more public input. **A3:** Districts should reflect and respect communities of interest as well as municipal borders. A constitutional amendment is required to change how state legislative districts are drawn and there's insufficient time to complete the process before 2021. Moving to an independent commission to draw Congressional districts only requires changing state law, without amending the con-

stitution, and I support this change as it applies to Congressional districts. I support making Election Day a state holiday so

**A4:** Many protections that exist in the law are poorly understood and poorly enforced due to insufficient resources in state agencies. I will continue fighting to secure more funding for this important work in each year's state budget. That includes workplace protections, public accommodations, housing opportunity, educational equity and, most broadly, protection from all forms of discrimination and prejudice against people with disabilities.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. CARRIE DELROSSO

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny **Mailing Address:** 662 7Th Street Pittsburgh, PA 15139

**Education:** University of Pittsburgh **Qualifications:** Elected

Official Oakmont Council Small business owner Mother of 3

Campaign Website: http://carrieforpa.com Facebook: http://@carrieforpa

Twitter: http://@carrieforpa

#### Answers:

**A1:** The best way to vote is in person. I would support better access to the polls

and communication on voting.

**A2:** Continued education on the legislative process to the voters as well as transparency.

**A3:** Yes. I am running for a seat that has been held for 30 years by an incumbent who essentially drew the lines. **A4:** I think PA has done a good job following ADA in terms of accessibility(both our infrastructure and our population is aged). I would continue to support accessibility for projects that way the generations to come can have accessibility.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 34

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. CHRIS ROLAND

#### Biographical Info:

County: Allegheny County

Mailing Address: 200 Osborne St. Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania 15145

**Éducation:** Community College of Allegheny County **Qualifications:** 10 years on N. Braddock Borough Council. 2016 Frank Lucchino Distinguished Service Award for efficiency, teamwork, cost savings initiatives and productivity.

**campaign website:** http://www.rolandpa.com/ **Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/RollinWithRoland

Twitter: http://twitter.com/Chris\_RolandPA Answers:

**A1:** The job of our legislature should be to make it easier to vote, not to make it more difficult. The reforms passed that allowed voting by mail and extending the deadline for registering to vote was a good first step, but more can be done to make it easier for people to vote.

Day a state holiday so more people can have the day off of work. Adopting early voting periods as many other states already have would also make it easier with multiple jobs and with busy schedules to participate in elections. I would vote for same-day registration because artificially imposing deadlines disenfranchises voters. Additionally, I would support moving to all-mail elections as Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington do.



**CHRIS ROLAND** 

A2: One of the main reasons we see so much gridlock is that entrenched incumbents feel they are in no danger to lose because of Pennsylvania's warped campaign finance laws. There are currently no limits on financial contributions. I support strict limits on campaign contributions to level the playing field for those who are challenging incumbents. I would also support requiring the legislature to fall under Pennsylvania's right-toknow laws so voters can access more information about how their legislator is conducting the people's business. A3: Partisan gerrymandering has been a cancer on Pennsylvania politics. I strongly support a constitutional amendment to create an independent commission to redraw legislative and Congressional Districts. The Republicans in Harrisburg have shown they cannot be trusted to redraw districts in a manner that benefits voters. Democrats in other states have been no better. The only way we can guarantee that fair districts are drawn is through the creation of an independent commission.

#### SUMMER LEE

#### **Biographical Info:**

**County:** Allegheny

Mailing Address: 2233 Woodstock Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Education: Woodland Hills High School Pennsylvania State University Howard University School of

Law

**Qualifications:** Summer L. Lee is a lawyer, a community organizer, and the Democratic representative for the 34th district of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. campaign website: http://www.summerforpa.com/

Facebook: http:// www.facebook.com/ SummerForPA/

Twitter: http://twitter.com/SummerForPA Answers:

A1: While I think the updated election codes are a step in the right direction, we should be working to automatically provide access to voter registration at DMV and other local state agencies, at high schools for graduating seniors, as well as same-day registration on election day. Eventually I'd like to see us reach a standard of automatic, universal registration for eligible adults in the Commonwealth. During the unprecedent-



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**CARRIE DELROSSO** 

ed and ongoing crisis we are currently facing with COVID-19, it has become especially important to automatically provide mail-in ballots for residents, and I am proud of this county's efforts to ensure Allegheny voters all receive such a ballot. I hope to see this effort replicated through the Commonwealth.

A2: Improved standards for reporting on executive programs by departments, agencies, and commissions coupled with changes to the rules of procedure that would increase legislator's access to relevant information and streamline the legislative duties of each legislator can greatly increase the efficacy of the legislature. I also believe an extension in legislative terms from two to four years would allow legislators more time to actually legislate rather than to exist in a constant state of campaigning

**A3:** I do, with the understanding that such a commission and a general push towards fair districts would allow an even playing field and remove one layer of partisan electioneering from the efforts of our state government allowing us more freedom to actually govern.

A4: I support automatic mail in ballots and guaranteed accessibility standards for voting equipment statewide so that those with disabil

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 35**

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. AUSTIN DAVIS

Candidate Has Not Responded

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 36**

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. **JESSICA BENHAM** 

**Biographical Info:** County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO# 42398 Pittsburgh, PA 15203 Education: MA, Health-

care Ethics BA, Political Science BA, Communication

Qualifications: A union organizer and community leader, Jessica Benham has been an advocate for people and neighborhoods across our district. She has fought for and won fair treatment for people with disabilities at the Pittsburgh Center for Autistic Advocacy.

Campaign Website: http://www.benhamforpa.

com Facebook: http://www. facebook.com/Benhamfor-

PA/

Twitter: http://twitter.com/jessicalbenham **Answers:** 

A1: A whole slate of voting reforms was recently passed in Pennsylvania, which significantly expands access to the ballot. In general, I am in favor of all reforms that

will increase the electorate. I'm particularly excited to fight for election day voter registration, automatic voter registration, and more opportunities for early voting

A2: One reason why partial gridlock exists is because of the role of money in politics. Elected officials become beholden to lobbyists or corporate PACS instead of working for their constituents. I support limits on gifts to elected officials and stricter reporting guidelines. I also support limits on contributions to the campaigns of PA state candidates and limits on independent expenditure campaigns as well. Partisan gerrymandering also contributes to partisan gridlock in Harrisburg, as more Biographical Info: polarized districts make it so that elected officials are answerable only to members of their own party. Expanding the electorate is also a solution to partisan gridlock because it holds elected officials accountable to more of

the people they represent

A3: I do. Partisan gerrymandering denies voters fair representation and increases gridlock in Harrisburg. Currently, legislators can manipulate the boundaries of districts in order to keep themselves in office, resulting in Pennsylvania being the most gerrymandered state in the country. An independent citizens commission increases the transparency, fairness, and accountability of the process.

A4: As a person with a disability myself, I know well the many barriers to accessibility that exist in Pennsylvania. I support increased state funding for: accessible early childhood programs, special ed, school therapists & counselors, Medicaid waivers, living wages for service providers, paid family & sick leave, employment programs for students w/ disabilities, Office of Voc Rehab, incentives for businesses to hire PWDs, diversion & community-based treatment to decrease incarceration of PWDs, among other programs. Pennsylvanians w/ disabilities have the same desires and rights as those without disabilities, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that the rights of people like me are upheld.

#### **ED MOELLER**

#### **Biographical Info:**

County: Alleghenv

Mailing Address: 2821 Waterman Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Education: Baldwin High School B.S. Degree - Accounting St. Vincent College

Qualifications: Constable 17th Ward—6 years Baldwin Whitehall School Board—2006-2009 Baldwin Borough Council-2010-2013; 2016-2019 (last two years as Council

Website: http://edmoeller.com Facebook: http://Ed Moeller for State Representa-

#### Answers:

**A1:** I think we need to take a look at polling places as an area of reform. We need polling places that are easily accessible for all, clearly defined, which will help reduce wait times and confusion. We need to make sure that voters are made aware of changes as early as possible and we take steps to reduce wait times. I would also like to see the possibility of same day registration as long it is done in a secure manner and look into making election day a holiday. Since this is the first election where mail-in ballots are being used extensively, I want to take a look at the process and figure out where we can improve, both on the voter and election department ends.

**ED MOELLER** 

We should be continually trying to build upon the progress accomplished.

A2: Compromise has become the anathema to the legislative process. This is not to say you compromise on your core values or the democratic values that we all cherish. Despite the ideological differences between parties, I feel there is still common ground that can be reached. However, that ideological gulf can't be breached unless there is a willingness to com

#### HEATHER KASS

**County:** Allegheny

Mailing Address: 1515 Celtic Street Pitts-burgh, PA 15210

West-**Education**: ern School of Health 2 Associates degrees CCAC/University of Pittsburgh program Bachelors in Health Information Management (Continuing) CPC for Coding

**Qualifications:** Worked in Healthcare and Health insurance over 25 years, 2 years Democratic Committee woman and was exposed to Law and government training 4 years through Highschool at Oliver Law Magment



**NEW PITTSBURGH COURIER** 

**HEATHER KASS** 

Campaign Website: http://heatherkassforpa. com/

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DemocraticCandidate36thDistrict/?eid=ARBL3oA-JXYs\_WQ6ijry8CD9e5hvv0wUUPq2e7lfnJZ-TO3nZ3XKXKLzVdaktf704QGBpp8Hpk2lH Op52

#### **Answers**:

A1: I believe we need to come up with safe voting via the internet as a start. I would like to start in the schools teaching our youth what voting is about and what a privilege we have to be able to do this. I would like to explain indetail what all parties are about so they may make and educated choice of what party they want to belong to. I also think we should allow independents to vote in the primary because as of right now their voices are not heard.

A2: When a bill is up for vote we may want to stop riders being added to a bill. This in theory may curb some of the gridlock lock we see.

A3: I believe yes that we should have an independent commission to draw the lines and maintain those lines so there will be no more gerrymandering to favor one political party. This would then give a fair representation of the voter's voice.

A4: We have made great strides in with this, but I believe we should do better. When Governor Wolf wanted to close Polk Center and Whitehaven the elected officials never met with the families to discuss how this would really affect the longtime residents that have lived there for almost their lives. I personally know one of these facilities and the residence and know how detrimental this would be for them. I think before we would do anything drastic, we as officials should visit, talk to families and to the residents to further make and educated decision of their future. I believe we could make some





**JESSICA BENHAM** 

small changes for some residents that have not resided in a public facility for long period of time. I believe we have to be their voice.

#### **MARK JOHNSON**

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny **Education:** Juris Doctor Qualifications: Eagle Scout US House of Representatives Experience

campaign website: http://markjohnsonforpa. com/

**Facebook:** http://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Politician/Mark-Johnson-for-PA-110258800540941/

#### **Answers**:

A1: I support same day registration. We should make access to the polls easier, not harder. I support open primaries. This question was written before a few things happened as a result of COVID-19. Since then the state has committed to sending out paper ballots to every voter in the state. This is the right move to ensure that as many voters can vote in PA as possible and I support it. A2: When I was younger



**MARK JOHNSON** 

I worked in Washington D.C. in the U.S. House of Representatives. And during that time I saw many of the tricks and procedural elements that made government unaccountable. Did you know that in PA there is no restriction on gifts given from lobbyists to legislators? Additionally, all kinds of proposed bills never reach a point of a vote, they simply 'die in committee' and that leaves Pennsylvanians with no idea how their representative would have voted on any issue. We need to remove this inertia of incumbent re-election in a two party system. Where gerrymandered districts mean that once a person is elected to office they stay there forever without any real challenge just because they are a member of a party.

A3: Yes. An independent commission is the only fair way to put an end to gerrymandered districts. The PA Supreme Court has said explicitly that it will NOT break up gerrymandered districts, even if it is being done specifically for political gain. That puts the duty on the legislator and we should create and independent commission. However the Independent Commission needs 3 important features: -Tranparency -Decisions based sole on DATA from the Census -Accountability

A4: I'm an attorney who has represented disabled people in suits under the ADA, so I am intimately aware of some of the flaws and shortcomings. Čurrently, because of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), it is legal to pay disabled people below minimum wage. It's an exploitation of our most vulnerable citizens to allow companies to profit on the disabled in a time where the minimum wage isn't even considered a livable wage, and they get less than that. The protections of the ADA should also be extended to pregnant women. Currently pregnant women are only protected from discrimination by the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1979 (PDA). We should codify some of the requirements of the "interactive process" and "reasonable accommodation".

#### **VOTERS GUIDE 2020 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for One.

**AJ DOYLE:** Candidate Has Not Responded

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 38**

#### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Vote for One. NICK PISCIOTTANO:

#### **Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO Box 338 West Mifflin, PA 15122

Education: West Mifflin Area School District B.A. in Accounting, Washington & Jefferson College B.A.

in History, Washington & Jefferson College M.A. in Government Analytics, Johns Hopkins University Qualifications: Certi-

fied Public Accountant Certified Information Systems Auditor website: campaign http://www.nickforpa. com

**Facebook:** http:// www.facebook.com/ nickforpa

Twitter: http://www. twitter.com/nickforpa Answers:

A1: Act 77 was historic



NICK PISCIOTTANO

legislation that brought Pennsylvanian election law out of the Dark Ages and provided funding to help counties implement more accessible and secure ways of voting. The current COVID-19 crisis has delayed our Primary Election and the reform allowing no excuse vote by mail-in ballot turned out to be extremely timely given the current restrictions on public interaction. While Act 77 was a big step in the right direction, I believe that there are more reforms needed to extend the vote to all Pennsylvanians. I am supportive of election law reforms that help our citizens register, make it easier to vote by mail, adopt curbside voting for disabled persons, and provide funding to protect the integrity of our elections.

A2: There are a number of parliamentary rules that could be changed to ensure more effective communication between caucuses, the branches of government, and representatives to create a more stable and reliable legislative schedule. Politically, there are barriers to entry that protect incumbents to the point that some are no longer representative of their constituents. By enacting reforms that create a more stable body (i.e. longer, staggered terms), while increasing political accountability (i.e. campaign contribution limits, electoral cycle contribution maximums, etc.), we can carve out space for representatives who are more willing to compromise and more accountable to voters that would result in a more functional legislative process.

the League has proposed, I support the constitutional amendment, however, any attempt by the General Assembly to influence the selection of commission members would undermine the entire process. While political gerrymanders are not new to our nation, the sophistication of new technology and the ubiquity of big data makes it easy to pinpoint voters to their very homes and draw district lines that include an incumbent's supporters. When politicians can choose their voters, they become less moderate and willing to compromise - forgoing an essential requirement of effective governance. Any legislation aimed at reducing the effects of partisan gerrymandering has my support as long as its independent.

A4: Ensuring that the spirit of the law codified in the Americans with Disabilities Act continues is a job that is never complete and an effort that requires continuous progress to ensure that the most vulnerable among us are not left behind. The rights of individuals with disabilities need to be protected, their access to policy makers is extremely important, and their voice needs to be heard in Harrisburg and throughout the Commonwealth. As a state legislator, I will ensure that individuals with disabilities have a seat at the table to provide their perspective on all legislation and have the opportunity to advocate for their need.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 39

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for One. SARA-SUMMER OLIPHANT:

**Biographical Info: County:** Allegheny Mailing Address: 3572 Falmouth Dr South Park, PA 15129 **Education:** Bachelor's of Art in Mass Communications, Point Park University 2003 website: campaign http://www.sso4pa. com/

**Facebook:** http:// www.facebook.com/ SSOforPa39 **Answers:** 

A1: In addition to the measures already taken, election day should be a statewide paid holiday. In reality, this

is a measure I would like to see nationwide, however as a State Representative hopeful, I realize the scope of my reach. I also believe we need to expand early voting. Early voting is a great method in reducing wait times and accommodating those who have child care, transportation or work schedule issues. Typically, these issues are more likely to impact the financially disadvantaged. Early voting needs to not just be a 9-5 option, but also available in the evenings and on weekends. Finally, as an advocate for equal accessibility, we need to ensure that polling places are able to accomodate people of every ability level.

A3: If the commission is truly independent as A2: The role of government is to move a state



SARA-SUMMER OLIPHANT

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forward, and if every action is tied up in gridlock, clearly this cannot happen. However, gerrymandering in Pennsylvania has created maps that protect the interest of the legislation rather than the interest of the citizen. By redistricting in a manner that is both transparent and impartial, we can create a fair system that will reduce the unacceptable amount of gridlock that has recently been found in our state's capital.

**A3:** As stated in my previous answer, not only do I support a constitutional amendment, but I believe a nonpartisan, transparent redistricting is the only way we can ensure a fair and productive legislation for Pennsylvania. The current gerrymandering strips citizens of their voice and power in the process. To truly be a government of and for the people, we need to make it our mission to create legislative districts that guarantee that every vote has equal value.

A4: Equal accessibility does not mean everybody gets the same, but that everybody is equality entitled to their individual needs. I wish this was a simple advancement, however with the plethora of needs in an unlimited number of situations, this is a much larger issue than any single act. Starting in childhood, the majority of playgrounds are not wheelchair accessible. It is time to reexamine what the Americans with Disability Acts promises and how we can ensure that every American of every ability level is promised the quality of life they deserve. While this starts at the swingset, it carries over to classrooms, to the workforce, and even to their local polling place. One important step is to enforce the law already in place.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for One.

**TOM KIRSCH:** Candidate Has Not Responded

#### **MIKE PUSKARIC:**

Candidate Has Not Responded

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 40

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for One. SHARON GUIDI

Biographical Info:

County: Washington Mailing Address: PO Box 1161 McMurray, PA 15317

**Education:** Masters in Education **Qualifications:** As a life long resident of the South

Hills, retired educator, and devoted parent I understand the issues that concern the constituents of the 40th District. I have spent my life

in service to others and want to continue serving in Harrisburg; I'm ready to listen, work, and serve the 40th District.

campaign website: http://www.sharon4pa.com Facebook: http://www. facebook.com/SharonGuidi4PaHouse40/ Twitter: http://twitter. com/@Guidi4PA40

Answers: A1: I fully support accessibility for all voters to receive a mail-in bal-



SHARON GUIDI

lot. Knowing that whether you are sheltering in place during an illness, a pandemic, or bad weather; or job responsibilities prevent you from reaching your polling place on time you should feel confident that your vote matters and will still be heard. Your vote is your opportunity to select the type of representation and government you want in Harrisburg and Washington DC; it is your voice and if you are not able to go the polls it is important that you are still able to vote. Voting is your civic responsibility, which protects you and your loved ones now and in the future.

A2: The self-interests of partisan politicians to remain in power through gerrymandered Congressional and Legislative Districts cannot be allowed to continue. Pennsylvania is one of the worst gerrymandered states in our nation and allows party leadership the ability to enforce votes along strict party-line ideology. If an elected individual votes against the party they can be punished with gerrymandered districts with the potential for more extreme voices to be elected. Gerrymandered districts exacerbate the partisan gridlock we see in Harrisburg today. When districts are drawn more fairly the opportunity for moderate voices will be heard and elected. A non-partisan, independent citizens review board should be in place after the 2020 census.

**A3:** Yes, I would support an independent commission to redraw Congressional and Legislative Districts because politicians should not continue the practice of picking their voters. Your vote is your voice and if fair districts are not achieve after the 2020 census we will have missed the opportunity for every voice to be heard until 2030. We cannot wait to fix our fractured government; it is the voter who should be selecting the politicians and not the other way around. The self interests of partisan politicians to remain in power through gerrymandered Congressional and Legislative Districts cannot be allowed to continue. The creation of an independent citizen review board will begin the process of a fair and more representational form of government.

**A4:** While Mail-in ballots will help eliminate some barriers for voters with disabilities, making sure that all polling places are selected with Universal Design elements in place will also help to promote a welcoming place for all voters. When voting machines and polling places are designed to increase accessibility for one voter, that design will convey the importance that all voters should have availability to the polling place. As legislators we must protect the voting rights of all Americans; everyone must be a part of the process with easy access to voting whether at home through mail-in ballots or in person at their polling place.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for One. NATALIE MIHALEK: Candidate Has Not Responded

PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 42

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for One. DAN MILLER

Biographical Info: County: Allegheny Mailing Address: PO Box 13421 Pittsburgh, PA 15243 Education: BA History, BS Secondary Education, JD Qualifications: Previous Mt. Lebanon Commissioner, 14 year veteran of the Mt. Lebanon Fire Department, Finishing 4th term campaign website: http://VoteDanMiller.com

Facebook: http://www. facebook.com/VoteDan-Miller/

Twitter: http://twitter. com/votedanmiller Answers:

A1: I have a bill that would increase voting accessibility for citizens who are blind, deafblind and otherwise physically unable to manipulate our current voting devices without assistance. Currently most people with those disabilities cannot vote securely, privately and independently in Pennsylvania. This bill first requires a soft-

DAN MILLER

ware program to be available to voters that would allow them to apply independently for mail-in and absentee ballots and fill them out independently as well. The bill additionally requires an accessible voting machine with software and hardware capabilities that allows everyone to vote independently, securely and privately alongside their neighbors (if they so choose) at ever voting center in the state.

A2: While partisanship has been with us almost since our founding, hyper-partisanship is limiting our nations future. I think a big part of the problem is extreme gerrymandering. The more partisan our districts get the more difficult reaching a compromise seems to be. The reality is that rules of the House itself hasn't changed much in a generation—our districts have. Districts now can be drawn by a computer to divide a street and calculate wins and losses before candidates have even been announced. This process pushes both parties further apart. While it is good to offer distinct differences for people to consider in an election, it is not healthy to never compromise on any of them. I believe ending gerrymandering would help end gridlock.

A3: Yes I support an independent commission to redraw our legislative districts in Pennsylvania. There have been a couple different versions of ideas floated as to how best to do that, but I believe that our state would be well served by taking this process out of the direct hands of the legislators. I think a fair and independent commission would help rebuild public confidence that their government works for them and that their vote is important in elections, hopefully leading to greater turnout and participation.

**A4:** The Americans with Disabilities Act was one our nations most important civil rights bills, but its mission is not yet completed. Most pressing is the fact that in the majority of our states over 60% of people with disabilities are not engaged in the workforce. Despite the gains we have made in providing more inclusive education, we still have yet to see this make sizable differences in employment opportunities for people with disabilities. My hope is to continue to prioritize this issue, as it was the main focus of my Disabilities and Mental Health Summit this past March.

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 44

**DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES** 



Vote for One. **MICHELE KNOLL** 

**Biographical Info:** 

**County:** Allegheny Mailing Address: 157 Toms Run Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237

**Education:** Graduated from Montour High School with Honors and National Honor Society. Graduated

Cum Laude from The University of Pittsburgh with B.S. in Elementary Education, Earned Master's of Education from The University of Pittsburgh in Early Intervention.

Qualifications: Resident of the 44th District for 37 years. Former School Board Director of Avonworth S.D. Parent of 3 daughters, all graduates of Avonworth S.D. Current elected member of Just Harvest Board. Former board member of North Boros YMCA.

Volunteer in Ohio Township, Avonworth S.D., and Allegheny Ct.

**MICHELE KNOLL** 

Campaign Website: http://www.knoll4pa44.com http://www.facebook.com/Michele-**Facebook:** Knoll44/

**Twitter:** http://twitter.com/micheleknoll44?lango=en

**Answers**:

A1: Mailing a Vote By Mail application to every voter would help seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people with poor access to polling places to have a voice in our elections as well as enabling voters with unusual working situations, like shift workers, workers called on to work overtime in emergencies, and occupations like long haul truckers or corporate workers that frequently travel to have ballots accessible under any circumstances. It would also be helpful to have drop off sites other than just polling places. Registering all of Pennsylvania's voters automatically removes barriers for voters. Providing the most up to date methods of voting for all voters is essential for all Pennsylvania's voters.

A2: Preventing gerrymandering from skewing districts therefore disenfranchising voters and causing unfair representation for hundreds of thousands of voters is a personal goal of mine. Although my opponent went to Harrisburg saying she would work across the aisle, she doesn't. Her record is clear and other representatives report she is unwilling to work with the other party. Good leadership means putting Pennsylvanian's first not political ambitions. Former lobbyists should not be allowed to run for State Representative for at least 10 years after they have worked for corporations as a lobbyist.

A3: Yes. This is the key piece of eliminating gerrymandering. I have met young voters on door who say they vote, going through the motions, but feel their votes do not count. Disenfranchising voters is deadly to Democracy. Gerrymander fosters being concerned about issues that have little importance but help legislators in a gerrymandered district retain their seats while serious issues like funding education, infrastructure, and our Department of Environmental Protection adequately get pushed aside. These legislators in gerrymandered districts need not address burning issues since they are assured of reelection.

#### **VOTERS GUIDE 2020**

A4: I work with young children, ages birth to three Commonwealth, with a process in place to give years of age, with disabilities and delays so this is an issue I work on in my job on a practical and daily basis. Many children have barriers in schools everv day that they must overcome in order to learn. Adults have physical and intellectual barriers to functioning on an equal footing within their homes, community, and while accessing services. Some of these barriers are as simple as providing access to voting in the downstairs of my own polling place but many cause individuals to be unable to exercise their right as citizens to vote at all, work at chosen job, or access adequate health care. Pennsylvania has an aging population so we must enact legislation today.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for One. **BOB DODDATO:** Candidate Has Not Responded

#### **PENNSYLVANIA STATE** REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 45

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

#### Vote for One. ANITA ASTORINO KULIK

**Biographical Info:** 

**County:** Allegheny County

Mailing Address: 121 Lorish Rd McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Education: B.A. and J.D. from Duquesne University

Qualifications: State Representative, 45th Legislative District since 2016 Commissioner, Kennedy Township 2003-2016 Managing Partner, Kulik Law Offices Past President, Parkway West Rotary Club Former Law Clerk for PA Superior Court and Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

**Campaign** Website: http://www.anitaastorinokulik.com Answers:



**ANITA ASTORINO KULK** 

A1: I was proud to vote in favor of the recent election reforms. With the modernization of our society, it is only logical that we improve voter accessibility. One further reform that I would support would be early in-person voting.

A2: In my time as a legislator, I have consistently worked across the aisle to help move bipartisan legislation. I continue to reach out to all my colleagues, because I believe the best ideas come from vibrant discussion, even with those who may have different views on issues. A productive reform that would help alleviate partisan gridlock would be to give equal consideration to bills from both the minority and majority sides. A3: I support the formation of a commission to redraw congressional and legislative districts. I believe the commission should be comprised of independent citizens and officials from all levels of government. Any redistricting plan should be subject to public comment from across the

genuine consideration to the public input. A4: In my time as a legislator, I have supported and voted for initiatives on behalf of persons with disabilities. Whether through educational opportunities and access opportunities, I will continue to support the needs of persons with intellectual or physical challenges. Our "nation of opportunity" must provide equally for all its' citizens.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for One. M. FRANCIS

**Biographical Info:** 

County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: 230 Waterford Dfrive Robinson Twp, PA 15136

Education: College graduate Civil Engineering Qualifications: Malek Francis is not a politician. He is a public servant who served as a Civil Engineer at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for more than 33 years. He is known for fighting waste and corruption at the department,

Campaign Website: http://malekfrancis.com Facebook: http://malek.francis.56 http://@

**Twitter: MalekFrancis Answers:** 

A1: Election Dav should be a State Holiday Open Primary Eligible Citizen should be register and vote on Election Day Voting by mail

A2: Hold Legislators accountable Downsizthe Legislature ing and limiting terms and campaign contributions Part Time Legislature

A3: Yes. To eliminate gerrymandering the

that manipulates the Boundaries of a voting district as to favor the party in power A4: Increase State Funding Encourage Employ-

ers to hire people with disabilities

#### **DANNY DEVITO:**

Candidate Has Not Responded





#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - DISTRICT 46

#### **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES**

Vote for One. BYRON TIMMINS

Biographical Info:

County: Washington

Mailing Address: 1019 Mayfair Drive Canonsburg, PA 15317

Education: B.S. Business Economics, Miami University

**Qualifications:** Working father, community leader, and advocate for working families looking to bring opportunity to the 46th District

Campaign Website: http://www.Timmins-ForStateRep.com Facebook: http://Facebook.com/ByronForStateRep

Answers:

A1: Current policies disproportionately disenfranchise the poor, people of color, and people with dis-

abilities. Our nations technology is unparalleled and should be employed to enhance participation in our elections. I am a proponent of automatic registration with secure online access to update voter information. We have the data and infrastructure to register any eligible citizen who has interacted with the government. These measures are simple, cost effective, and long overdue. We should also add early voting to make it easier for working Pennsylvanians to make their voices heard. We fought for democracy, not a plutocracy. We need to make voting easier, not harder.

**BYRON TIMMINS** 

**A2:** Elected officials are employees of the people, but this is a fact that too many of them have forgotten. When elected I will always put the interest of the people of the 46th first. I will hold in person town halls in every municipality in the district so the people can hold me accountable and I can inform them of what is going on in Harrisburg.

**A3:** I fully support the implementation of an independent redistricting commission to help guarantee the protection of fundamental constitutional rights. Representatives, and their special interest allies, have chosen their voters for far too long.

**A4:** The Americans with Disabilities Act was an important piece of legislation helping to reduce barriers for people with disabilities, but more still needs to be done to improve accessibility for people with disabilities across our Commonwealth.

#### **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES**

Vote for ONE. JASON ORTITAY: Candidate Has Not Responded

#### PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE – DISTRICT 54

**REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES** 

Vote for ONE. BOB BROOKS

Biographical Info: County: Westmoreland Mailing Address: Po Box 213 Murrysville, PA 15668

**Education:** B.A. Math, Franklin & Marshall College M.B.A Corporate Finance, Wharton Grad, University

of Pennsylvania **Qualifications:** Bob served as the Chief Financial Officer of Westinghouse Air Brake Technology Company (Wabtec), and served on the Board of Directors through 2019 where he helped to significantly grow the company. He has also

been involved in several successful businesses as the Director of Brooks Sports Group.

Campaign Website: http://electbobbrooks.



BOB BROOKS

com Facebook: http://Bob Brooks for PA Rep Answers:

A1: I was a supporter of the election reforms we made this year in PA. We extended the registration period and allowed mail in ballots without requiring a reason. Voter registration when obtaining a driver's license is also extremely helpful. I am pleased that registration two weeks prior to voting is good for those who want to vote and it allows the state adequate time to ensure integrity in elections. I look forward to this primary election as a test on the integrity of the mail-in ballots. It is important to me to maintain fair and honest elections.

A2: I see gridlock in Washington D.C. In Harrisburg I see disussions but not gridlock. My committees all have members from both sides of the aisle and all issues are discussed. That does not mean that everything we all desire is approved. Whilte it can be frustrating, that is how democracy functions. My job is to convince 101 other Representatives that my ideas are good even after I have to modify them to obtain the necessary amount of votes to accomplish the goal.

A3: I have listened to several different approaches to redrawing Congressional and Legislative Districts after the completion of the census. I am in favor of creating a committee that is a proportional representation of our constituents. I plan on listening to all proposals and will consider ones that balance logic with independence and politial expertise. A4: Persons with disabilities deserve inclusion wherever and whenever possible. It is our job in Harrisburg and in our districts to work to make that happen. They also deserve a choice and a voice. I support people with disabilities. In addition I am a strong supporter of Anti-bullying which can often impact those with disabilities.

