

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA CEF  
AND  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY  
PRIMARY 2016 NON-PARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE

Table of Contents:

[Introductory: About This Guide](#)

[President of the United States](#)

[United States Senate](#)

[United States Representative](#)

- [Congressional District 9](#)
- [Congressional District 18](#)

[Pennsylvania Attorney General](#)

[Pennsylvania Auditor General](#)

[Pennsylvania Treasurer](#)

[Ballot Questions](#)

[Pennsylvania General Assembly: Senator](#)

- [Senate District 37](#)

[Pennsylvania General Assembly: Representative](#)

- [House District 15](#)
- [House District 39](#)
- [House District 40](#)
- [House District 46](#)
- [House District 48](#)
- [House District 49](#)
- [House District 50](#)

Delegate to Democrat National Convention

- [9th Congressional District](#)
- [18th Congressional District](#)

Alternate Delegate to Democrat National Convention

- [18th Congressional District](#)

Delegate to Republican National Convention

- [9th Congressional District](#)
- [18th Congressional District](#)

Alternate Delegate to Republican National Convention

- [9th Congressional District](#)
- [18th Congressional District](#)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA  
CITIZEN EDUCATION FUND  
NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE  
2016 Presidential Primary Election April 26, 2016  
(C) Copyright 2016 LWVPA – CEF**

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

This Voters Guide may be taken into the voting booth.

**FOR ELECTION INFORMATION**

Contact your county Board of Elections or visit [www.VotesPA.com](http://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 as of April 3, 2016. They are listed according to their ballot order. Because of space limitations, LWV of Washington County has only used one of the questions that LWVPA-CEF has used.

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.

Voters Guide information is taken directly from candidate replies to League questionnaires from the LWVPA-CEF and the LWVWC. In order to maintain League non-partisanship and to allow the candidates to express themselves in their own words, the Voters Guide editors have not changed grammar or spelling in the candidates' replies. Candidates' replies have been cut after the word limit was reached. Cuts are indicated by ellipses (...).

#### ELECTION SERVICE POLICY

The LWVWC publishes Voters Guides and conducts candidate forums to accomplish the following: to educate the public, giving voters a chance to learn the views of all serious candidates; and to motivate voters to participate in elections.

All candidates whose names appear on the ballot will be included for the offices covered in League forums and Voters Guides. To be included in the Voters Guide or candidate forums, any write-in candidate must meet two of the following criteria as ascertained by the League:

- Public and/or media announcement of the candidacy;
- Existence of a campaign committee;
- Evidence of fundraising and/or planned activity for campaign;
- Demonstration of significant voter interest and support.

The burden of proof rests with the candidate. Written notification by write-in candidates must be submitted to the League no later than the date announced in the local media, usually not later than two months before the election in question.

#### PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE LEAGUE

The purpose of the LWVPA-CEF and the LWVWC is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The League is nonpartisan: it neither supports nor opposes any political parties or candidates. Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement of any candidate by the LWVPA-CEF or the LWVWC.

#### PURPOSE OF A PRIMARY ELECTION

The purpose of a primary election is the nomination of major party candidates to appear on the slate for the general election. Since Pennsylvania has a closed primary, the voter may choose candidates only within the party in which he or she is registered. Thus, a voter must be registered in a major party to vote in a primary. However, persons who are registered independent or in a minor political party may vote on ballot questions.

## 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 for civilian absentee ballots must be received by the county Board of Elections by 5 P.M., April 19, 2016. Completed civilian absentee ballots must be received back at the Board of Elections by 5 P.M. on April 22, 2016. If an emergency arises (unexpected illness or business trip) after the Tuesday application deadline, call your county Board of Elections for information on emergency absentee voting. Proof of emergency may be required. An emergency application and ballot can be obtained and voted by 5 P.M. on April 22, 2016. Any disabled voter having questions regarding the accessibility of a polling place should consult the county Board of Elections.

## WRITE-IN VOTING

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

## ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS

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

If you have any questions or need to report any problems, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE

## 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](http://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](http://www.palwv.org) and on the League of Women Voters of Washington County homepage: [washingtoncountypalwv.org](http://washingtoncountypalwv.org).

## President of the United States

*How Elected: Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November. Although all parties use conventions to nominate their candidates, in most states the Democratic and Republican parties also run state-wide primary elections or caucuses. The results of the primary influence how the delegates to their respective party's convention will cast ballots for candidates for President. The degree to which the result of the primary influences the votes of delegates at conventions varies from state to state.*

*Duties: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. 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.*

*Salary: \$400,000 per year*

*Term: Four years. Limit of two terms.*

### *About this Presidential Voters' Guide*

*This Voters' Guide is published by the League of Women Voters. The League has a long tradition of publishing the verbatim responses of candidates to questions important to voters. The League offers this Voters' Guide to assist citizens in their decision making process as they prepare for participation in the presidential primary season. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.*

### *Ground Rules*

- ♣ *All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five specific questions. Candidates qualified if they met the following criteria: 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.*
- ♣ *Responses were limited to 400 characters and were truncated thereafter.*
- ♣ *If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not responded." is printed.*

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**Candidate: HILLARY CLINTON**

**Party: DEM**



**Contact Info:**

Occupation: Former U.S. Secretary of State

Campaign Website: <http://www.hillaryclinton.com>

Campaign Email: [info@hillaryclinton.com](mailto:info@hillaryclinton.com)

Campaign Phone: (646) 854-1432

Campaign Address: Hillary for America PO Box 5256 New York, NY 10185

**Questions:**

*Q: How do you propose to address the most important challenges facing our country?*

*A: I have laid out four fights to face our greatest challenges: we must create an economy that raises pay and creates good jobs, ensuring those at the top pay their fair share. We have to support families by expanding access to health care and other vital services. We must maintain our leadership for global peace and security. Finally, we must stop the flow of secret money that corrupts our politics.*

*Q: In building a vibrant U.S. economy, would you emphasize helping companies expand and earn more or addressing income inequality?*

*A: The deck is stacked against ordinary Americans. That is why I have laid out plans to raise the minimum wage and to close unfair tax loopholes that benefit companies that shift jobs overseas. I will make investments that create jobs, including in infrastructure, research, and education. I'll fight for equal pay, paid leave, and lower taxes for working Americans—asking those at the top to pay more.*

*Q: Please explain why you support or oppose using more U.S. military power to resolve the situation in the Middle East.*

*A: Like President Obama, I do not believe we should again have U.S. troops in combat in the Middle East. If we have learned anything from 15 years of war, it is that we cannot substitute for local forces in missions to secure their own communities. Our strategy must be comprehensive—embedding our mission against ISIS within a broader fight against radical jihadism that is bigger than any one group.*

*Q: What measures do you support to protect Americans from domestic acts of terrorism?*

*A: We have to shut down ISIS recruitment in the U.S. and stop foreign terrorists from coming here. We must disrupt plots before they are carried out by ensuring local law enforcement works with national counterterrorism experts. We must build on our successes in securing loose*

*nuclear materials and other WMD. And we need to empower American Muslims, who are key to the fight against radicalization.*

*Q: Please explain why you do or do not think it is important to reduce the role of money in American elections.*

*A: Campaign finance reform is needed to restore a government of, by, and for the people—not just the wealthy and well-connected. On issues from climate change to equal pay, Washington won't work for us unless we address the outsized role of money in politics. As president, I will appoint Supreme Court justices who value our right to vote—and I will work to end secret, unaccountable money in politics.*

**Candidate:** MARTIN O'MALLEY  
Candidate withdrew.

**Party:** DEM

**Candidate:** BERNIE SANDERS

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

Occupation: United States Senator

Campaign Website: <http://berniesanders.com>

Campaign Email: [info@bernie](mailto:info@bernie)

Campaign Phone: (802) 862-1505

Campaign Address: Bernie 2016, PO Box 905 Burlington, VT 05402

**Questions:**

*Q: How do you propose to address the most important challenges facing our country?*

*A: I will address the most important challenges facing our country by bringing people together to reinvigorate democracy. Middle class and working families and low income people. White, Black, Hispanic, and Native American. Men and women. Straight and gay. Native born and immigrant. This is the only way to address the major economic, political, social, and environmental challenges facing our country.*

*Q: In building a vibrant U.S. economy, would you emphasize helping companies expand and earn more or addressing income inequality?*

*A: To rebuild the middle class and reduce income and wealth inequality, we must unlock the economic potential of all Americans. As President, I will: demand large corporations pay their fair share in taxes; boost wages by increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, fight for pay equity for women, create 13 million new jobs by investing \$1 trillion to modernize our crumbling infrastructure, and more.*

*Q: Please explain why you support or oppose using more U.S. military power to resolve the situation in the Middle East.*

*A: I deeply believe that the test of a great and powerful nation is not how many wars it can engage in, but how it can resolve international conflicts in a peaceful manner. We must move away from using unilateral military action, and toward diplomacy. War must always be the last resort. As Pres., I will defend this nation, its people, and America's strategic interests, but I will do it responsibly.*

*Q: What measures do you support to protect Americans from domestic acts of terrorism?*

*A: We must root out terrorist funding networks, provide logistical support to better coordinate local and federal law enforcement, and disrupt online radicalization. While our intelligence and law enforcement agencies must have the tools they need to protect the American people, there must be legal oversight and they must go about their work in a way that does not sacrifice our basic freedoms.*

*Q: Please explain why you do or do not think it is important to reduce the role of money in American elections.*

*A: There is no issue more important than reforming our broken campaign finance system, which is increasingly controlled by billionaires and special interests. We must give Congress and the states the power to regulate money in elections, and we must require full disclosure of all campaign contributions. Ultimately, we should move toward public funding of federal elections.*

**Candidate:** JEB BUSH  
Candidate withdrew.

**Party:** REP

**Candidate:** BEN CARSON  
Candidate withdrew.

**Party:** REP

**Candidate:** TED CRUZ

**Party:** REP

**Contact Info:**

Campaign Website: <http://www.tedcruz.org>

Campaign Address: Cruz for President

PO Box 25376 Houston, TX 77265

Candidate has not responded.

**Candidate:** CARLY FIORINA

**Party:** REP

Candidate withdrew.

**Candidate:** JOHN R. KASICH

**Party:** REP

**Contact Info:**

Campaign Website: <http://www.johnkasich.com>

Campaign Address: Kasich for America

620 E Broad Street, Suite 2016 Columbus OH 43215

Candidate has not responded.

**Candidate:** RAND PAUL

**Party:** REP

Candidate has not responded.

**Candidate:** MARCO RUBIO

**Party:** REP

**Contact Info:**

Campaign Website: <http://marcorubio.com>

Campaign Address: Marco Rubio for President

PO Box 558701 Miami, FL 33255

Candidate has not responded.

**Candidate:** DONALD TRUMP

**Party:** REP



**Contact Info:**

Occupation: Businessman

Campaign Website: <http://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

Campaign Email: [info@donaldtrump.com](mailto:info@donaldtrump.com)

Campaign Phone: (646) 736-1779

Campaign Address: Donald J. Trump for President, INC 725 Fifth Ave New York, NY 10022

**Questions:**

Q: How do you propose to address the most important challenges facing our country?

*A: I think the most important issues facing this country are economic recovery, immigration and national security. I have proposed an excellent pro-growth tax policy, have taken the strongest stance on immigration reform and have addressed how we will recapitalize our military to attain the readiness necessary to achieve and protect our national interests. A strong economy must be first.*

*Q: In building a vibrant U.S. economy, would you emphasize helping companies expand and earn more or addressing income inequality?*

*A: Good economic policy will help both companies grow and invest in America, and improve wages and living standards for all Americans. A smart trade policy, a competitive tax policy, and a national-interest immigration policy, will all boost the quality of life for Americans and make the country stronger and more prosperous.*

*Q: Please explain why you support or oppose using more U.S. military power to resolve the situation in the Middle East.*

*A: The Middle East really presents three sets of issues. The Muslim Brotherhood is making great headway in the African littoral, we have the issues with Syria and Iraq and we have the challenges offered by Iran. Each of these requires different solution sets. Military power should only be used to achieve our national interests, and until such time as we have a better economy, we are limited.*

*Q: What measures do you support to protect Americans from domestic acts of terrorism?*

*A: In a Trump administration, we will keep Americans safe while safeguarding their Constitutional rights. This would mean that I would insist that all federal agencies cooperate with state and local law enforcement to ensure that we have the broadest network possible working on collecting, and acting upon, intelligence that will suppress any attempts at domestic terrorism.*

*Q: Please explain why you do or do not think it is important to reduce the role of money in American elections.*

*A: Politicians have become puppets for their donors. I am the only candidate who is self-funding. The best way for voters to rebel against the influence of money in politics is with their votes: a Trump Presidency will return this government to the people.*

## ***Pennsylvania US Senate***

*The U.S. Constitution prescribes that the Senate be composed of two Senators from each State (therefore, the Senate currently has 100 Members) and that a Senator must be at least thirty years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for nine years, and, when elected, be a resident of the State from which he or she is chosen. A Senator's term of office is six years and approximately one-third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every two years.*

*The Senate has several exclusive powers not granted to the House, including consenting to treaties, a precondition to their ratification consenting or confirming appointments of Cabinet secretaries, other federal executive officials, military officers, regulatory officials, ambassadors, and other federal uniformed officers, as well as trial of federal officials impeached by the House.  
Term: 6 years*

***Candidates (choose 1):***

**Candidate:** JOHN FETTERMAN

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: BRADDOCK

Mailing Address: P.O. Box F Braddock, PA 15104

Campaign Phone: (951) 970-3268

Website: <http://www.johnfetterman.com>

Campaign Email: [brendan@johnfetterman.com](mailto:brendan@johnfetterman.com)

Twitter: [twitter.com/johnfetterman](https://twitter.com/johnfetterman)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JohnFettermanPA/>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: August 15, 1969

Education: Degree in finance from Albright College, MBA from University of Connecticut and an MPP from Harvard

Qualifications: Currently serving third term as Mayor of Braddock

**Questions:**

Q: Partisan gridlock in Washington has brought our government nearly to a standstill. If elected, what steps will you take to reduce partisan gridlock? Please be specific.

A: It would be disingenuous for me to say I am going to change Washington overnight, and I can't change it by myself. People asked me why I would want to be mayor of Braddock, saying things like "it's so far gone" and "you'll never get anything done." People say the same about the Washington gridlock. I think there's a moral obligation to try. Just because you can't perfect it immediately doesn't mean it can't be improved on, and you can't be a voice for common sense reform and actually getting things done and moving forward. I'll work with any Republican on any issue as long as we both have an understanding that science and facts matter.

Q: In *Shelby County v. Holder*, the US Supreme Court invalidated provisions of the Voting Rights Act, which has led to disenfranchised voters across the US. If elected, what will you do to ensure that the voting rights of all Americans are protected?

A: As someone who won their first race by a single vote, I can personally attest to the importance of ensuring the voting rights of all Americans are protected. This deciding vote happened to be a provisional ballot, meaning that if this person didn't understand their rights and fight for their right to vote, I might not have ever become the Mayor of Braddock and the course of my life could have been drastically altered. We need Congress to pass the Voting

*Rights Advancement Act, which will help reverse some of the issues that came from Shelby County v. Holder and return to requiring states with a history of voter discrimination to preclear changes to voting laws. We also need to ban voter ID laws and restore the right to vote to former prisoners who have rightfully served their time. These laws unfairly target minority communities.*

**Candidate:** KATIE MCGINTY

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: Wayne, Pennsylvania  
Mailing Address: PO Box 22446 Philadelphia, PA 19110  
Campaign Phone: (215) 253-6220  
Website: <http://KatieMcGinty.com>  
Campaign Email: [Katie@KatieMcGinty.com](mailto:Katie@KatieMcGinty.com)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/KatieMcGintyPA](https://twitter.com/KatieMcGintyPA)  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/katiemcgintypa/>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: 5/11/1963

Education: B.S. from St. Joseph's University, J.D. from Columbia University

Qualifications: Former Chair of President Bill Clinton's Council on Environmental Quality; Former Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection under Governor Ed Rendell; Former Chief of Staff to Governor Tom Wolf.

**Questions:**

Q: Partisan gridlock in Washington has brought our government nearly to a standstill. If elected, what steps will you take to reduce partisan gridlock? Please be specific.

A: My entire career I have worked with both parties to build partnerships to achieve results. As President Clinton's chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, I worked with Newt Gingrich's Republican Congress to make a difference in public health and environmental protection. By building partnerships we strengthened laws keeping our water safe and our air clean, targeted more resources to cleaning up toxic waste sites, and acknowledged the importance of environmental justice in policy making for the first time. I carried that same approach of coalition building to the Department of Environmental Protection under Governor Rendell. Even with a Republican legislature, we were able to direct major new investments to environmental protection and infrastructure improvement, enact tougher standards on toxic emissions, and

*accelerate the development of clean energy. Track record matters. As Senator, I will use the same approach I've always used to get past partisanship and get results.*

*Q: In Shelby County v. Holder, the US Supreme Court invalidated provisions of the Voting Rights Act, which has led to disenfranchised voters across the US. If elected, what will you do to ensure that the voting rights of all Americans are protected?*

*A: Voting is a fundamental right for Americans across this country. We must fully restore the Voting Rights Act to protect that right for thousands of Americans who are being disenfranchised. But we must also do more. As Senator, I will stand against partisan attempts to disenfranchise voters through new voter identification laws because we should be encouraging more people to vote, not systematically denying them that right. I also support reforms that increase accessibility and integrity in our elections like guaranteeing early voting and expanding options for voter registration.*

**Candidate:** JOE SESTAK

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: EDGMONT

Mailing Address: PO Box 1936 Media, PA 19063

Campaign Phone: (484) 444-2550

Website: <http://www.joesestak.com>

Campaign Email: [Michael.Garrett@JoeSestak.com](mailto:Michael.Garrett@JoeSestak.com)

Twitter: [twitter.com/JoeSestak](https://twitter.com/JoeSestak)

Facebook: <http://JoeSestak>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: 12/12/1951

Education: United States Naval Academy Harvard University, Masters & Ph.D in Political Economy and Government

Qualifications: 31 years in U.S. Navy, served as Three-Star Admiral, Director of anti-terrorism unit, President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy. Professor at Carnegie Mellon & Cheyney Universities, Dickinson College. United States Congressman, 2007-2011.

**Questions:**

*Q: Partisan gridlock in Washington has brought our government nearly to a standstill. If elected, what steps will you take to reduce partisan gridlock? Please be specific.*

*A: The biggest deficit in our nation is the trust deficit. The gridlock that's crippled DC demonstrates why people no longer trust their elected officials – because too many place partisan ideology over the people they were elected to serve. I believe true leadership that bridges divisions begins with the people you're elected to serve. It's why I was the second Democrat to be reelected to my Congressional District since the Civil War; why I was named the most productive member of my Congressional class, passed more pieces of bipartisan legislation than either of PA's Senators, and why I began my campaign by walking 422 miles across PA to meet the people, learn their hopes and concerns, and show them I will truly walk in their shoes once elected. I will continue my dedication to bipartisan leadership once elected to the Senate by placing people above politics, engaging in honest debate with my colleagues, and working toward principled compromise without compromising our principles.*

*Q: In Shelby County v. Holder, the US Supreme Court invalidated provisions of the Voting Rights Act, which has led to disenfranchised voters across the US. If elected, what will you do to ensure that the voting rights of all Americans are protected?*

*A: If I have a voice in the confirmation of our next Supreme Court Justice, I will strongly urge for the nomination of Justice who recognizes the importance of restoring these critical aspects of the Voting Rights Act and will do everything in my power in that process to ensure that our next Justice is committed to restoring and protecting access to the ballot box for all Americans. I will also oppose attempts to place burdens on voters that disproportionately burden minority voters. Pennsylvania's own Voter ID Law, for instance, was rightly struck down in the courts for the burdens it wrongfully placed on poor, elderly, and minority groups, and I will fight against future attempts to limit citizens' ability vote.*

**JOSEPH J VODVARKA**

**Party: Dem**



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: ROBINSON TOWNSHIP  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 170 Clinton, pa 15026  
Campaign Phone: (412) 706-1429  
Website: <http://JoeVodvarka.com>  
Campaign Email: [JosephVodvarka1943@gmail.com](mailto:JosephVodvarka1943@gmail.com)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/JosephJVodvarka](https://twitter.com/JosephJVodvarka)  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/joe.vodvarka.1>

**Biographical Info:**

**Date of Birth:** 8/28/1943

**Education:** Stowe High school and a Ph D. from the streets.

**Qualifications:** Small business owner and manufacturer of springs and wire forms. Higher level of mechanical dexterity. Never served public office in my life. Seen 1st hand the destruction of our Free Trade policies and want Fair Trade!

**Questions:**

**Q:** Partisan gridlock in Washington has brought our government nearly to a standstill. If elected, what steps will you take to reduce partisan gridlock? Please be specific.

**A:** If elected my goal in Washington would not be to make friends but to get the job done, and that job is to get a Fair Trade policy enacted. Today w/ the Democrats and Republicans the only difference between the two is the name, and if those in office weren't receptive to a Fair Trade policy then part of my goal would be to get them out of office and get people like myself in. This country needs people in office w/ less political experience and more business experience to step up.

**Q:** In *Shelby County v. Holder*, the US Supreme Court invalidated provisions of the Voting Rights Act, which has led to disenfranchised voters across the US. If elected, what will you do to ensure that the voting rights of all Americans are protected?

**A:** At the time of writing this to you I'm involved in a petition challenge by Joe Sestak to have my name removed from the ballot which will disenfranchise thousands of American's of their 1st amendment right. This challenge has included a lot of different kinds of signature challenges, but in the long run laws like these are made by politicians for politicians. As a person that has never served public office in my life, I can tell you that these offenses don't make it to the publics eye very often but are the things that disgust most Americans. I'm not sure how I could correct any type of voter right infringements, but can tell you that I have felt their weight more than most.

**Candidate:** PAT TOOMEY  
**Municipality:** UPPER MILFORD

**Party:** REP

Candidate did not respond.

### **Pennsylvania Attorney General**

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 agencies in any action brought by or against the Commonwealth; administer the provisions 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

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

**Candidate:** JOHN MORGANELLI

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: BETHLEHEM

Mailing Address: 835 Barnsdale Road Bethlehem, Pa 18017

Campaign Phone: (610) 248-7701

Website: <http://johnmorganelli.com>

Twitter: [twitter.com/johnmorganelli](https://twitter.com/johnmorganelli)

Facebook: <http://JohnMorganelli-DemocratforAttorneyGeneral>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: 11/12/1955

Education: \*JD Villanova School of Law \*BA Moravian College, Political Science , Summa Cum Laude

Qualifications: \* Career, courtroom prosecutor for 24 years •President of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association \* Special Deputy Attorney General \* Commission on Crime and Delinquency , 6 years \* Instructor in Criminal and Constitutional law

**Questions:**

Q: *The Attorney General's office has been under a cloud for the last few years. Why do you believe you can restore public confidence in the office, and what steps will you take to make that happen?*

A: *We need experience. I am Pennsylvania's longest serving district attorney and the most experienced candidate. I am the only candidate who has actually prosecuted criminal cases in the courtroom and who has personally conducted grand jury investigation. I have personally prosecuted 25 consecutive murder cases, without a loss, putting some of Pennsylvania's most dangerous criminals in jail for life. Neither of my opponents have ever prosecuted a single criminal case or personally conducted a grand jury investigation. I am also the only candidate who has actually served as a Special Deputy Attorney General having served northeastern Pennsylvania in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties in special investigations. And I am the only candidate who has served all of Pennsylvania as President of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association and as 6 year member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. We cannot afford on the job training in this office at this time.*

Q: *It is increasingly apparent that Pennsylvania's criminal justice system is deeply flawed. What do you see as the primary systemic problems within our criminal justice system and, if elected, what steps would you take to address them?*

A: The system is not "deeply flawed". It needs some fixing, but overall our system works. Here are my priorities : 1.Enact Gov. Ed Rendell's plan to end parole for repeat violent criminals so we keep violent criminals and sexual predators off our streets. 2.Keep guns out of the hands of children, criminals and the mentally ill by advocating the passage of the "Parents Responsible Gun Ownership Act" and require that lost or stolen guns be reported to law enforcement. 3.Fix the broken parts of our justice system to make the system fairer for the poor, the mentally ill and the drug dependent by fighting for more resources. 4.Support new legislation to give non violent offenders a "second chance" by expanding the ability to erase old criminal records. We have lost two generations of people who cannot get a job because of an old non violent criminal record. 5.Go after the Wall Street crooks who engage in predatory practices that melt down our economy and hurt all of us.

**Candidate:** JOSH SHAPIRO

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

Mailing Address: 21 E. Airy Street Norristown, PA 19401

Campaign Phone: (215) 886-7376

Website: <http://www.joshshapiro.org>

Campaign Email: [info@joshshapiro.org](mailto:info@joshshapiro.org)

Twitter: [twitter.com/JoshShapiroPA](https://twitter.com/JoshShapiroPA)

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/JoshShapiroPA>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: 6/20/73

Education: B.A. - University of Rochester J.D. - Georgetown Law Center

Qualifications: Chairman, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, 2015-present  
Of Counsel with Stradley Ronon law firm, 10 years State Representative, 2005-2012

**Questions:**

Q: The Attorney General's office has been under a cloud for the last few years. Why do you believe you can restore public confidence in the office, and what steps will you take to make that happen?

A: Throughout my career, I've been a reformer. In Harrisburg, they didn't like it when I stopped their perks and pushed for reform. In Montgomery County, I cleaned up an ethical mess. I'll bring this same commitment to integrity and reform to the Office of Attorney General. In my

*Integrity Agenda, I've laid out the steps I will take to restore integrity to the Office of Attorney General. On Day One, I will create a code of conduct and mandate ethics training. I will ban gifts. I will post all expenses online for every Pennsylvanian to see. Additionally, I will professionalize the office's human resources and establish a new Chief Diversity Officer to ensure that the Office of Attorney General looks like the public it is sworn to represent. And I will create the "Casey Commission," named for the late Gov. Robert P. Casey, to issue regular reports on integrity and transparency in our Commonwealth and recommendations for how to improve our laws. For more details on my plan visit [www.joshshapiro.org/integrity](http://www.joshshapiro.org/integrity).*

*Q: It is increasingly apparent that Pennsylvania's criminal justice system is deeply flawed. What do you see as the primary systemic problems within our criminal justice system and, if elected, what steps would you take to address them?*

*A: We need to treat addiction as a disease instead of a crime and ensure prison is used for those who are violent and pose a risk to others and not the mentally ill or those suffering from drug addiction. Far too many young people—particularly young people of color—get caught up in the system when they should not be there in the first place. This hurts individuals, communities and taxpayers. We need to put in place alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders, drug courts, smart probation and more resources for drug and alcohol treatment and mental health services. In Montgomery County, we have been nationally recognized for reducing our recidivism rate by 30 percent through a comprehensive treatment program in our prison. As Attorney General, I'll reform our criminal justice system so that everyone is treated fairly, we lower the recidivism rate, reduce the number of victims of crime, lower the burden on taxpayers and make our communities safer.*

**Candidate:** STEPHEN A ZAPPALA JR

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: FOX CHAPEL

Mailing Address: PO Box 183 Bethel Park, PA 15102

Campaign Phone: (412) 999-2625

Website: <http://www.zappalaforpa.com>

Campaign Email: [info@zappalaforpa.com](mailto:info@zappalaforpa.com)

Twitter: [twitter.com/ZappalaforPA](https://twitter.com/ZappalaforPA)

Facebook: <http://ZappalaforAttorneyGeneral>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: 5/20/57

Education: University of Pittsburgh, BA; Duquesne University, JD

Qualifications: 18 years as Allegheny County District Attorney; 12 years in private practice in civil, municipal and criminal law

**Questions:**

Q: The Attorney General's office has been under a cloud for the last few years. Why do you believe you can restore public confidence in the office, and what steps will you take to make that happen?

A: My first priority will be to restore confidence in the office of Attorney General that has been shaken in recent years. The office itself was reshaped and created as a separate, independently elected office after a period of corruption in our state. In order for this office to be effective, it is vital that the citizens of Pennsylvania view the office holder as capable and competent leader. I have shown strong leadership and sound judgment for 18 years as Allegheny County's District Attorney. I will bring those same principles with me and set high standards for all employees of the office.

Q: It is increasingly apparent that Pennsylvania's criminal justice system is deeply flawed. What do you see as the primary systemic problems within our criminal justice system and, if elected, what steps would you take to address them?

A: The biggest problem is over-incarceration, which impedes rehabilitation and treatment of underlying medical and social problems while burdening taxpayers with costs. We must develop effective programs that emphasize defendants' accountability to the community and victims, and require participation in programs that emphasize treatment and rehabilitation, as well as give judges the discretion to devise effective consequences. As DA, I was instrumental in the creation of specialty courts that can address the roots of crime and help criminals become more productive. I used existing nuisance laws to force landlords to make buildings safer for residents; to revitalize the theater district; to interdict prescription drug trade in Pittsburgh; and to protect neighborhoods from disruptive bars. I also distributed forfeited funds to support advocacy groups and law enforcement to make crime prevention a priority, such as providing assistance to victims of sexual offenses, surveillance cameras for public safety, and police dogs for municipalities.

**Candidate:** JOE PETERS

**Party:** REP



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: OVERFIELD TOWNSHIP

Mailing Address: PO Box 429 Lake Winola, PA 18625

Campaign Phone: (717) 574-6674

Website: <http://joepeters.com>  
Campaign Email: [JoePeters4AG@gmail.com](mailto:JoePeters4AG@gmail.com)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/JoePeters4AG](https://twitter.com/JoePeters4AG)  
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/JoePetersforAG/>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: 7/9/1957

Education: King's College for undergrad & Dickinson School of Law

Qualifications: *I have spent my career in law enforcement as a cop and prosecutor. I served as state's top drug prosecutor and as a federal mafia prosecutor. I am only the candidate for AG with local, state, national and international law enforcement experience.*

**Questions:**

Q: *The Attorney General's office has been under a cloud for the last few years. Why do you believe you can restore public confidence in the office, and what steps will you take to make that happen?*

A: *I grew up in that office rising from intern/law clerk to become the first Executive Deputy Attorney General in charge of the Drug and Organized Crime Division. As such I was the state's top drug prosecutor and also Chief of the office's Bureau of Narcotics Investigation. People who know me know integrity is first with me. The Office clearly needs to be revitalized and that will happen with the election of a proven leader who has demonstrated throughout his career a dedication to integrity and the prosecution of all without regard to anything but the pursuit of justice. The office needs a new leader like me, who because of his 15-year plus career in the AG's office, is ready to lead on Day 1 and does not need any on the job training.*

Q: *It is increasingly apparent that Pennsylvania's criminal justice system is deeply flawed. What do you see as the primary systemic problems within our criminal justice system and, if elected, what steps would you take to address them?*

A: *For example, to deal with our state's growing heroin epidemic we need to change the focus from just incarceration and begin to treat addiction as a what it is: a health issue. People are dying every day here because of this like we've never seen before. We should mandate treatment, not incarceration. If say, a single mom has become addicted to the cheap heroin on the streets after starting with prescribed pain pills, she is a health concern. She is using the ER, neglecting her child and endangering others. So forcing treatment sooner rather than later helps her and the community, and perhaps even saves taxpayer dollars. My experience as a federal prosecutor and top official at the White House Drug Czar's office will allow me to better, and more quickly, try to bring federal resources to bear as we deal with this and other areas of concern. The OAG needs to get out of the news for its dysfunction and begin to get back in the news for prosecuting criminals and protecting our citizens.*

**Candidate:** JOHN RAFFERTY

**Party:** REP



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 11757 HARRISBURG, PA 17108

Campaign Phone: (570) 690-1933

Website: <http://www.raffertyforag.com>

Campaign Email: [info@raffertyforag.com](mailto:info@raffertyforag.com)

Twitter: [twitter.com/RaffertyforAG](https://twitter.com/RaffertyforAG)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/RaffertyforAG/>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: 2/7/1953

Education: Bachelor's: University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Master's: Beaver College Law Degree: Temple

Qualifications: *Serving as a State Senator, a Deputy Attorney General, a private practice attorney and a small business owner has given me a wide breadth of experience that few others have. I believe my experience makes me uniquely qualified.*

**Questions:**

Q: *The Attorney General's office has been under a cloud for the last few years. Why do you believe you can restore public confidence in the office, and what steps will you take to make that happen?*

A: *My first step to regaining the public trust is announcing on day one of my campaign that I pledge to run for Attorney General to be the Attorney General...Not to be an aspiring Governor or United States Senator. If elected, I am committed to serving my full-term of four years and if re-elected eight years as Attorney General. The Office of Attorney General and the citizens of this great Commonwealth deserve nothing less from the next Attorney General. In making such a pledge I am making a full faith commitment to Pennsylvanian's that I will remove all political agenda's from my office. As the highest ranking law enforcement official of our state it is my job to be a faithful custodian of the law by enforcing and prosecuting those that break the laws. Additionally, I will implement a strict ethics code for employees based on guidelines set forth by the United State Department of Justice. I will have the strictest guidelines in the country to ensure the public has full confidence in our office moving forward.*

Q: *It is increasingly apparent that Pennsylvania's criminal justice system is deeply flawed. What do you see as the primary systemic problems within our criminal justice system and, if elected, what steps would you take to address them?*

A: *I am very supportive of the Justice Reinvestment Act which reduces recidivism, increases public safety and lowers correction costs by investing in communities to defer criminal behavior.*

Additionally, I am very supportive of the creation of specialty courts, like the Veterans Courts. In fact, I was a member of the Supreme Court's steering committee for Veterans Courts.

### ***Pennsylvania Auditor General***

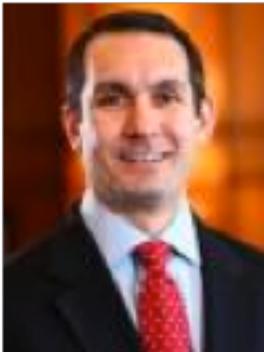
*The principal role of the auditor general is to determine whether state funds are being used in accordance with the purpose and guidelines that govern each use of the Commonwealth's dollars. The auditor general conducts financial and performance audits of individuals, state agencies, and organizations that receive state funds, including school districts, state liquor stores, and public employee pensions. 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 funds that are allocated to Pennsylvania state programs*

*Term: 4 years*

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

**Candidate:** EUGENE A DEPASQUALE

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

Municipality: WEST MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP  
Mailing Address: PO BOX 391 HARRISBURG, PA 17108  
Campaign Phone: (717) 256-2591  
Website: <http://www.eugene4pa.com>  
Campaign Email: [eugene@eugene4pa.com](mailto:eugene@eugene4pa.com)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/DePasqualePA](https://twitter.com/DePasqualePA)  
Facebook: <http://DePasqualePA>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: 8/3/1971

Education: Widener University, School of Law, J.D University of Pittsburgh, MPA College of Wooster, BA

Qualifications: Auditor General: 2013-present State Representative: 2007-2013 Deputy Secretary, DEP: 2003-2006

**Questions:**

Q: What are your top three priorities and how will you accomplish them? Please be specific.

*A: I will continue to ensure schools are held accountable to taxpayers and students through our school district audits. I plan to make sure the taxpayers dollars spent on state programs are spent effectively and efficiently while working to improve those departments. I also plan to help resolve the political budget impasse through drawing attention to lost taxpayer resources and helping the sides come together.*

**Candidate:** JOHN BROWN  
**Municipality:** BANGOR BORO  
Candidate did not respond.

**Party:** REP

## **Pennsylvania Treasurer**

*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 Years*

**Candidates (choose 1):**

**Candidate:** JOE TORSELLA

**Party:** DEM



**Contact Info:**

**Municipality:** WHITEMARSH

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 626 Flourtown, PA 19031

**Campaign Phone:** (267) 219-5629

**Website:** <http://joetorsella.com>

Campaign Email: [info@joetorsella.com](mailto:info@joetorsella.com)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/joetorsella](https://twitter.com/joetorsella)  
Facebook: <http://JoeTorsellaForTreasurer/>

**Biographical Info:**

Date of Birth: Berwick, PA

Education: Graduated with honors from the University of Pennsylvania. Studied at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

Qualifications: U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. for Management & Reform Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. Founding President & CEO of the National Constitution Center

**Questions:**

Q: What are your top three priorities and how will you accomplish them? Please be specific.

A: I've spent my life in public service doing: making public institutions more efficient, more effective, and more innovative. That's why, on Day One, I'll set the toughest ethics standards in the country. I'll make it easier for a person to go online and see not just every single state contract, but every single political contribution made by someone who got one of those contracts. And I'll require that the people trading public money in the stock market disclose the trades they make on their own accounts. Transparency is one half of the equation. Accountability is the other. I'll appoint a Chief Integrity Officer to keep everyone working at the Treasury – starting with me – on the straight and narrow. My third priority is setting up automatic, universal savings accounts for secondary or vocational training for every child born in Pennsylvania.

**Candidate:** OTTO VOIT **Party:** REP  
**Municipality:** MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP  
Candidate did not respond.

**Ballot Questions:**

**Judicial Retirement**

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to require that justices of the Supreme Court, judges and justices of the peace (known as magisterial district judges) be retired on the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 75 years, instead of the current requirement that they be retired on the last day of the calendar year in which they attain the age of 70?

Yes - For the Measure    No - Against the Measure

**What you need to know:**

- Proponents of increasing the judicial retirement age argue that:
  - The average life expectancy has increased in recent years, while medical advances allow people to remain healthy and productive for longer than ever before. Since age-related deterioration is individual, not chronological, many judges will remain active and vital well past the age of 70.

- *Judicial proficiency is honed by experience. Permitting judges to remain on the bench for longer allows the public to benefit from this increased experience, while implementing a mandatory retirement age of 75 still provides opportunities for new potential judges.*
- *The Judicial Discipline System is capable of removing unfit judges from the bench, whether their incompetency is the result of poor behavior or age-related deterioration.*
- *Opponents of increasing the judicial retirement age argue that:*
  - *It is indisputable that mental capabilities deteriorate with age.*
  - *The current senior judge system already allows older judges to continue public service and contribute their wisdom and experience after retirement.*
  - *Judges themselves may not recognize age-related mental deterioration. Removing these judges from the bench is embarrassing and can undermine public confidence in the judiciary.*
- *The ballot measure does not address the issue of senior judges.*
  - *Currently, the senior judge system uses retired judges to ease the caseload in Pennsylvania's courts. These judges receive temporary assignments and are paid on a per diem basis*
  - *The retirement age for senior judges is currently age 78. Senior judges must be certified by the Supreme Court each year.*
  - *The role and mandatory retirement age for senior judges will not be affected by the adoption of this amendment*

*Information provided by Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts.*

### **Philadelphia Traffic Court**

*Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to abolish the Philadelphia Traffic Court?*

**Yes - For the Measure   No - Against the Measure**

#### **What you need to know:**

- *The purpose of the ballot question is to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to abolish the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia. If the ballot question were to be approved, the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia would be abolished by removing all references to the Traffic Court and the judges of the Traffic Court in the City of Philadelphia from the Pennsylvania Constitution.*
- *Legislation enacted in 2013 transferred the functions performed by the Traffic Court to the Philadelphia Municipal Court.*
- *The proposed amendment would officially abolish the Traffic Court by removing all references to the Traffic Court and its judges from the Pennsylvania Constitution.*

*Information provided by the PA Department of State.*

**The following information was collected by the League of Women Voters of Washington County. Please see [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for additional information about the candidates.**

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Job description: Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is composed of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. A majority vote by both houses is necessary to pass a law. Every law concerning taxation must originate in the House of Representatives. House terms are two years.

Term: 2 years, Salary: \$174,000

**Question:** What ideas do you have to prevent gridlock in Congress?

#### 9<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Part of Washington County: City of Monongahela; Townships of Carroll, East Bethlehem and Fallowfield District 01,02 all blocks except 1030 of tract 781700, 03, and 04; and Boroughs of Allenport, Bentleyville, California, Centerville, Charleroi, Coal Center, Donora, Dunlevy, Elco, Long Branch, New Eagle, North Charleroi, Roscoe, Speers, Stockdale, Twilight and West Brownsville.

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

No candidate

REPUBLICAN

**BILL SHUSTER**



Everett, PA

D.O.B.: NA Web:

Web: [www.billshusterforcongress.com](http://www.billshusterforcongress.com)

Phone: 814-317-5408

**Education:** BA Dickinson College, MBA American Univ.

**Occupation:** US Congressman

**Qualifications:** I've spent my entire life in this region and I am honored to represent a district full of such hardworking people the care deeply about their country. I'm working every day to halt President Obama's disastrous agenda and to advance the conservative policies that you ...

**Answer to question:** While the Obama Administration has done their best to put up a roadblock to Republican efforts to significantly downsize the government we have had some important successes including the first real entitlement reform in nearly two decades, which saves nearly \$2.9 trillion and a major tax cut package that protected 99 percent of Americans from tax increases. We can break gridlock by remaining committed to conservative policies that benefit the American people.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

**ART HALVORSON**



Harrison Township

D.O.B: NA

Web: [www.rescueusa.org](http://www.rescueusa.org)

Phone: 814-515-8894

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Economics Management from US Coast Guard Academy, MBA from the College of William and Mary, Mater's of Science in Strategic Studies at the US Air War College

**Occupation:** Retired Coast Guard Capt., Small-business owner, farmer

**Qualifications:** Served his country as a Helicopter Search and Rescue Pilot and Base Commanding Officer during 29 year career in the US Coast Guard

**Answer to question:** Term limits must eliminate career politicians who prioritize serving special interest groups and getting reelected. I supervised overhauling the Coast Guard and integrating it into the newly minted Department of Homeland Security in the wake of 9/11. I will provide real conservative leadership in Congress. Congressman Shuster and other members of the Washington cartel work for special interest groups and compromise with the liberal agenda rather than representing the conservative party of Lincoln and Reagan.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Includes part of Washington County: City of Washington; Townships of Amwell, Blaine, Buffalo, Canton, Cecil, Chartiers, Cross Creek, Donegal, East Finley, Fallowfield District 02 only block 1030 of Tract 781700 , Hanover, Hopewell, Independence, Jefferson, Morris, Mount Pleasant, North Bethlehem, North Franklin, North Strabane, Nottingham, Peters, Robinson, Smith, Somerset, South Franklin, South Strabane, Union, West Bethlehem, West Finley, West Pike Run; Boroughs of Beallsville, Burgettstown, Canonsburg, Claysville, Cokeburg, Deemston, East Washington, Ellsworth, Finleyville, Green Hills, Houston, Marianna, McDonald (Washington Co. portion), Midway & West Middletown.

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT  
No Candidate

REPUBLICAN

**TIM MURPHY**

Did not reply.

#### PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY - SENATOR

Job description: The General Assembly, the legislative branch of state government, is composed of two houses – the Senate and the House of Representatives. A majority vote by both houses is necessary to pass a law. Every law concerning taxation must originate in the House of Representatives.

Term: 4 years, Salary: \$85,339

**Question:** What ideas do you have to prevent gridlock in the legislature?

#### SENATE DISTRICT 37

Includes part of Washington County: consisting of the TOWNSHIP of Peters.

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

**EDWARD H. EICHENLAUB**

Did not reply

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

REPUBLICAN

**GUY RESCHENTHALER**

Did not reply

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

#### PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY – REPRESENTATIVE

Term: 2 Years, Salary: \$85,339

**Question:** What ideas do you have to prevent gridlock in the legislature?

## HOUSE DISTRICT 15

Includes part of Washington County: Townships of Amwell, Blaine, Buffalo, Cross Creek, Donegal, East Finley, Hanover, Hopewell, Independence, Jefferson, Morris, South Franklin and West Finley; Boroughs of Claysville, Green Hills and West Middletown.

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

### **MICHAEL ROSSI**

Center Township, (Beaver Co.)

D.O.B.: 9/21/59

Web: [RunwithRossi15.wix.com/Run with Rossi](http://RunwithRossi15.wix.com/Run%20with%20Rossi)

Facebook: "Run with Rossi"

**Education:** Center H.S. – 1977, Gateway Technical Inst. – 1985

**Occupation:** Verizon Communications Technician

**Qualifications:** Over 30 years of Public Service – School Board, Education Foundation, Union President, Inducted into Center High School Hall of Fame – 2015, for Public Service

**Answer to [question](#):** Propose legislation that would set a deadline for public monies to be released in a timely manor or the General Assembly, or the branch that has met its obligation, would not be paid until they have fulfilled their obligations.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

### **DENNIS NICHOLS**



Brighton Twp.

D.O.B.: 7/4/48

Web: [dennisenichols.com](http://dennisenichols.com)

Phone: 724-601-9865

**Education:** BS Electrical Engineering, Bucknell Univ., MBA, Univ. of Pittsburgh

**Occupation:** Business Consultant

**Qualifications:** Over 10 years of elected government experience as a county commissioner, township supervisor and school board director. Thirty-five years industry experience in engineering, sales, marketing, and executive management

**Answer to question:** We must promote co-operation and reasonable compromise in government. We need to be less partisan and more open to ways we can come together to do good work for the benefit of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

REPUBLICAN

**JIM CHRISTIANA**

Did Not Reply

### HOUSE DISTRICT 39

Includes part of Washington County: Townships of Nottingham, Somerset and Union; Borough of Finleyville

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

**PETER THADDEUS KOBYLINSKI**

Did not reply

REPUBLICAN

**RICK SACCONI**



Elizabeth Twp.

D.O.B.: 2/14/58

Web: RICKSACCONI.COM

**Education:** PH.D Univ. of Pittsburgh - International Relations; MS Naval Postgraduate School - National Security Affairs; MPA Univ. Of Oklahoma - Public Administration; BS Weber State College - Psychology

Occupation - State Representative, Professor - St Vincent College

Qualifications - Diverse Background and Experience. While on Local School Board I actually cut property taxes. While serving in the legislature I have kept my promises and passed five on time budgets with no ...

**Answer to question:** Prevent Gridlock in legislature. We must educate the media to present both sides of the arguments on our no tax increase budgets which the Governor insists on vetoing. The people do not want increased taxes and the Governor actually wants to close down the schools as leverage to raise taxes. We have passed legislation to drive money out to the schools and the governor vetoed it. We must get out our message to break that impass.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 40

Includes part of Washington County: Peters Township

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

### ANDREW J. ZAHALSKY



Upper St. Clair Twp.

D.O.B.: 45

Web: [cureforthecommonpolitician.com](http://cureforthecommonpolitician.com)

Phone: 724-413-9813

**Education:** College and Medical School at Brown Univ. in Providence, RI.

**Qualifications:** I am well trained in the art of evaluating problems, gathering data, and then developing and implementing a treatment plan. I have the ability to intelligently address the issues facing Pennsylvania and to seek out solutions.

**Answer to question:** My strong interpersonal skills and compassionate bedside manner enable me to deal with patients of all backgrounds and their families. I am able to earn their trust and facilitate consent to and compliance with appropriate medical interventions. In a similar fashion, I can be a consensus builder among my House colleagues in a way that will break through partisan gridlock and accomplish real change that will benefit my constituents.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

REPUBLICAN

### JOHN MAHER

Upper St. Clair Twp.

D.O.B: 11/4/58

Web: [VoteJohnMaher.com](http://VoteJohnMaher.com)

Phone: 412-831-9051

**Education:** Duke Univ., A.B., magna cum laude; Oxford Univ. and Australian Graduate School of Management, scholarship studies

**Occupation:** Legislator/CPA

**Qualifications:** Legislator who leads by example – fighting waste and improving government accountability and transparency. Authored pioneering sunshine laws so the public can see government records and regulating lobbyists.

**Answer to question:** I have 60,000 bosses. My job is to represent them! Legislators must remember their duty is to represent the people at home – not a caucus, not a party. The solution to excessive gridlock is simple: more reasonable adult behavior and less lockstep partisanship. I aim to lead by example. Whether written by democrats or republicans, I support those bills that I believe my 60,000 bosses would support.

## HOUSE DISTRICT 46

Includes part of Washington County: Townships of Canton, Cecil, Mount Pleasant, Robinson and Smith; Boroughs of Burgettstown, McDonald (Washington Co. portion) and Midway.

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

**JESSE WHITE**



Cecil Twp.

D.O.B.: 6/24/78

Web: [www.supportjesse.com](http://www.supportjesse.com)

Phone: 724-743-4444

**Education:** Washington & Jefferson College, B.A. in Political Science (2000); Duquesne Univ. School of Law, J.D. (2003); Harvard Univ., JFK School of Government, Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program (2003)

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Qualifications:** State Representative 46th Dist. (2006-14), Practicing law since 2003

**Answer to question:** I spent 8 years navigating the State Capitol, so I know how dysfunctional state government really is. The way to change the culture of Harrisburg is to elect people willing to tackle controversial issues despite the political consequences. The unrelenting pressure of special interests perpetuates a status quo rewarding lawmakers willing to play the game, so

career politicians help maintain that status quo. I will speak truth to power on behalf of the people.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

## JOE SZPARA



Collier Twp.

D.O.B.: 9/25/54

Web: JoeForStateRep: Facebook

Phone: 412-294-8052

**Education:** Studied at Community College of Allegheny County, Emergency Medical Technician, Federal law enforcement training, Allegheny County Police Academy.

**Occupation:** Transportation Coordinator, semi-retired.

**Qualifications:** Retired Teamster, Former Federal law enforcement officer, former successful business owner. I have the background, experience and knowledge to get the job done.

**Answer to question:** Having previously passed a State mediator's exam I believe that both sides have to be professional and put their constituents ahead of their personal feelings. I would like to see the legislature reduced to 151 members and make a pledge that no budget means no pay for the House Representatives. I feel that this would resolve most issues fairly quickly.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

REPUBLICAN:

## JASON ORTITAY



South Fayette Twp.

D.O.B.: 3/14/84

Web: [www.CitizensForJasonOrtitay.com](http://www.CitizensForJasonOrtitay.com)

**Education:** Avella H.S – 2002; Robert Morris Univ. - Business Administration 2004; Stetson Univ. - MBA 2005

**Occupation:** State Rep. of the 46<sup>th</sup> District, President /Owner of Jason’s Cheesecake Company  
**Qualifications:** Business owner, experienced one term in the House, involved in non-profits helping people.

**Answer to question:** When I ran for this office, I promised I would serve the people of the 46<sup>th</sup> District, not divide them. That is why I have worked with Republicans and Democrats alike to cut through the partisan gridlock in Harrisburg to boost job creation, reduce taxes, and strengthen education. After all, when it comes to improving our community, party affiliation does not matter. What does matter is providing real solutions to the challenges we face.

#### HOUSE DISTRICT 48

Includes part of Washington County: City of Washington; Townships of Chartiers, North Franklin, North Strabane & South Strabane; Boroughs of Canonsburg, East Washington & Houston.

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

**BRANDON P. NEUMAN**



North Strabane Twp.

D.O.B.: 11/1/81

Web: [www.voteneuman.com](http://www.voteneuman.com)

Phone: 724-263-1311

**Education:** I earned: B.A., Univ. of Richmond, Masters in the Study of Law; Univ. of Pittsburgh; J.D., Duquesne Univ. School of Law.

**Occupation:** Currently, I am the State Representative for the 48<sup>th</sup> District. I also keep my license to practice law active.

**Qualifications:** As your representative, I’ve been able to work through the partisan atmosphere in Harrisburg. Even though the partisan culture in Harrisburg has taken the headlines, I’ve continued to work in a bipartisan fashion to get significant legislation passed. ...

**Answer to question:** We need is to increase the influence of rank and file members and decrease the influence of special interest groups. The partisan process allows a select few individuals to control just about every action that comes before the Legislature and control when Legislators are in session. Also, because of the lack of campaign finance reform in Pennsylvania, special interest groups have too much influence to control an agenda.

REPUBLICAN

No candidate

#### HOUSE DISTRICT 49

Includes part of Washington County: City of Monongahela; Townships Carroll, Fallowfield, North Bethlehem, West Bethlehem and West Pike Run; Boroughs of Allenport, Beallsville, Bentleyville, California, Charleroi, Coal Center, Cokeburg, Deemston, Donora, Dunlevy, Elco, Ellsworth, Long Branch, Marianna, New Eagle, North Charleroi, Roscoe, Speers, Stockdale, Twilight, and West Brownsville.

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

#### ALAN BENYAK



Carroll Twp.

D.O.B.: 12/31/63

Web: Alan Benyak on Facebook

Phone: 724-483-3919

**Education:** The Judge Advocate General's School, U.S. Army; Capital Univ. Law School, J. D.; Waynesburg Univ. B.A.; Southmoreland Senior H.S.

**Occupation:** Attorney at Law

**Qualifications:** Attorney at Law, former Major, U.S. Army; former Special Assistant U.S. Attorney; Community and Volunteer Leader.

**Answer to question:** Gridlock is going to continue to be a problem in Harrisburg as long as extremist candidates are elected. Everybody who is elected to the Legislature needs to go into the position with an open mind and sincere willingness to listen and to work cooperatively with colleagues across the aisle.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

## **BRENDAN GARAY**



California Boro

D. O.B.: 11/25/92

Web: [brendangarayforpa.com](http://brendangarayforpa.com)

Phone: 724-513-0154

**Education:** B.S. Business Administration California Univ. of PA

**Occupation:** Graduate Student/Building Manager

**Qualifications:** 2-term Student Government President, Vice-Chair of PASSHE's Board of Student Government Presidents

**Answer to question:** Harrisburg is ready for new blood in the Capitol with fresh energy. I am ready to dedicate 100% of my time to the taxpayers. I will go to work every single day until the job is done. We have been electing career politicians for years and where has that gotten us? We have been subject to part time legislators that don't take their work seriously. A vote for me is a vote for someone who...

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

## **BOB KEPICS**



City of Monongahela

D.O.B: 12/10/56

Web: [slowcooker54@net.com](mailto:slowcooker54@net.com)

Phone: 724-469-1817

**Education:** Graduate Ringgold H.S. Class 1975; Assoc. Degree as a Certified Electrician; Triange Tech 2003

**Occupation:** Retired Steelworker – Electrician; Current Mayor of Monongahela

**Qualifications:** I have been 18 consecutive years in Political Arena. 10 years on Council and 8 years as Mayor of Monongahela.

**Answer to question:** By making Better Working Policies. If I am elected my platform – To Bring more jobs Back to 49<sup>th</sup> district – work on getting money to take care of the Blighted Areas. – Stricter Laws on Drug Dealers.

## MARK ALTERICI



Charleroi Boro

D.O.B.: 1/23/63

Web: [MarkAlterici.com](http://MarkAlterici.com)

Facebook: [Mark Alterici.Candidate for State Rep.](https://www.facebook.com/MarkAlterici.Candidate)

**Education:** 1981 Graduate of Mon Valley Catholic H.S., 1983 Graduate of California Univ. of PA

**Occupation:** Self employed, retail phone sales with 3 locations in Washington County

**Qualifications:** I have over 20 years of Public service, including but not limited to, current chairman of the board of Washington County Tourism board, Charleroi borough council member, 8 being President. Current Chairman...

**Answer to [question](#):** I would stress the importance of an open line of communication to all parties, regardless of affiliations, as I have shown that I have been able to accomplish over the last 20+ years in local Politics.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

## DONN R. HENDERSON

Fallowfield Twp.

D.O.B.: 9/24/60

Web: [DonnHenderson.com](http://DonnHenderson.com)

Phone: 724-483-2269

**Education:** Bethany College, California Univ., Charleroi H.S.

**Occupation:** Self Employed, Entertainment 33 years

**Qualifications:** Borough Manager 5 years, Township Supervisor 12 years, Main Street Manager 9 years Irwin + Charleroi

**Answer to [question](#):** Full Time Representative – Enable Communities to Improve – Stand up for Working Class – Compromise

## RANDY J. BARLI



Coal Center Boro

D.O.B.: 4/24/55

Web: [smartvoter.org/vote/Barli](http://smartvoter.org/vote/Barli)

Phone: 724-621-0965

**Education:** Penn State EET, Cal U Continuing Education

**Occupation:** Retired Electrical

**Qualifications:** See [smartvoter.org/vote/Barli](http://smartvoter.org/vote/Barli). Also: Council 83-89, Candidate 02-16, Committeeman 02-18

**Answer to question:** 1) Place family, law enforcement, health, and education as Top Priorities!

2) Eliminate the bad and turn the good into the best! 3) Tactics need not be revealed!

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

## REPUBLICAN

### BUD COOK



West Pike Run Twp.

D.O.B.: 6/29/56

Web: [www.4wethepeople-cook.com](http://www.4wethepeople-cook.com)

Google-Vote for Bud Cook

**Education:** 1974-1978: B.S., WV Wesleyan College, Student Body President; 1970-1974: California Area H.S. Class President

**Occupation:** 1BCEP Coach and teach nationally successful high income professionals how to market using internet tools. I tell clients what they need to hear not what want to hear.

**Qualifications:** Team builder: Lifetime experience of Proven Leadership; Most qualified business candidate ...

**Answer to question:** I am lifelong businessmen interviewing for the public servants position as your Representative of the 49<sup>th</sup> District. I am uniquely qualified to address our most pressing issue, the drug epidemic. If granted the opportunity, I will be happily to discuss in detail, my plan to address the issues. We must all acknowledge and accept that new and innovative ideas are what are needed to change our course. We must create jobs by utilizing our natural and manmade ...

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

## **MELANIE S. PATTERSON**

Did not reply

### HOUSE DISTRICT 50

Includes part of Washington Co.: Township of East Bethlehem; Borough of Centerville.

(Vote for one)

DEMOCRAT

## **PAM SNYDER**



Morgan Twp.

D.O.B: 11/20/55

Web: [www.votepamsnyder.com](http://www.votepamsnyder.com)

Email: [votepamsnyder@gmail.com](mailto:votepamsnyder@gmail.com)

**Education:** Honorary B.A. - Waynesburg Univ.; Jefferson-Morgan H.S.

**Occupation:** State Representative – PA-50

**Qualifications:** I am a sitting member of the PA House of Representatives serving in my second term. I served 9 years as chairman of the Board of Greene County Commissioners. I served 8 years as deputy District Director to U.S. Congressman Frank Mascara.

**Answer to question:** Too often Democrats and Republicans see themselves as winners and losers on policies. Legislators must change this way of thinking. When we make government a competition, the people lose every time. I did not cash a paycheck during Pennsylvania's recent budget impasse. All pay should be withheld from legislators during any stalemate until the

elected officials perform their constitutional duties. We can achieve responsible government if we leave egos and partisan politics outside the door.

See also [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for more information.

REPUBLICAN

**BETSY ROHANNA McCLURE**



Franklin, Waynesburg

D.O.B.: 1/17/59

Web: [www.teamrohannamcclure.com](http://www.teamrohannamcclure.com)

Phone: 724-998-3702

**Education:** BSN, Waynesburg College; Master's in Education, California Univ. of Pennsylvania, K-12 Principal Certification

**Occupation:** Certified School Nurse, Trinity H.S.

**Qualifications:** As a wife, mother, hospice nurse and supervisor, and certified school nurse, I've always done what's in the best interest of my patients and students. It's never been about politics. As representative, I'll be a strong voice for residents, and ...

**Answer to question:** I'm not a politician so I'll be able to work with like-minded officials from either party on the issues important to our area. However, I'll never compromise when it comes to saving our energy jobs, opposing billion dollar tax increases on middle class families, or on needed government reforms to protect taxpayers. Career politicians continue to make decisions that are in their best interest, not ours. I'll bring a different perspective to the debate in Harrisburg.

**DELEGATE TO DEMOCRAT NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

**(Vote for not more than FIVE. TWO Males and THREE Females to be elected.)**

MADELINE MADDIE SNYDER, Greene County; Female: Committed to Hillary Clinton

MIKE CORDARO, Fayette County; Male: Committed to Bernie Sanders

KATHLEEN HENDRICKS, Fulton County; Female: Committed to Bernie Sanders

GILLIAN KRATZER, Blair County; Female: Committed to Hillary Clinton

ALEXIS WAKSMUNSKI, Cambria County; Female: Committed to Bernie Sanders

MELINDA DEAL, Fayette County; Female: Committed to Hillary Clinton

VINCENT A VICITES, Fayette County; Male: Committed to Hillary Clinton

JAMES T DAVIS, Fayette County; Male: Committed to Hillary Clinton

SHERI MORGAN, Franklin County; Female: Committed to Bernie Sanders

**DELEGATE TO REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

**(Vote for not more than THREE)**

LOIS KANESHIKI, Blair County  
BILL SHUSTER, Bedford County  
DEBBIE TAYLOR, Franklin County  
JUDY WARD, Blair County  
CODY RAYMOND KNOTTS, Fayette County  
DAVID SHOW, Fayette County  
BOB THOMAS, Franklin County  
JOSEPH LAMANTIA, Indiana County

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

**(Vote for not more than THREE)**

AUGUST C STICKEL IV, Blair County

**DELEGATE TO DEMOCRAT NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

**(Vote for not more than SIX, THREE Males and THREE Females to be elected)**

TED KOPAS, Westmoreland County; Male: Committed to Hillary Clinton  
NORMA JEAN MCCUEN, Allegheny County; Female: Committed to Hillary Clinton  
MYKIE REIDY, Allegheny County; Female: Committed to Bernie Sanders  
MICHELLE ZMIJANAC, Allegheny County; Female: Committed to Hillary Clinton  
JOAN M BUCHEWICZ, Allegheny County; Female: Committed to Bernie Sanders  
DAVE CODER, Greene County; Male: Committed to Hillary Clinton  
CRAIG GRELLA, Allegheny County; Male: Committed to Bernie Sanders  
JOYCE ANN BENDER, Allegheny County; Female: Committed to Hillary Clinton  
FRANCO HARRIS, Allegheny County; Male: Committed to Hillary Clinton

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO DEMOCRAT NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

**(Vote for ONE)**

ROBERT RENDAR, Westmoreland County; Male: Committed to Hillary Clinton

**DELEGATE TO REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

**(Vote for not more than THREE)**

JUSTIN DEPLATO, Allegheny County  
SCOTT AVOLIO, Westmoreland County  
AL QUAYE, Allegheny County  
VIRGINIA STRAIN, Westmoreland County  
CHUCK KONKUS, Westmoreland County  
JOHN PETRARCA, Westmoreland County

RICK SACCONI, Allegheny County  
MARY JO SILVIS, Westmoreland County  
SUE MEANS, Allegheny County  
JIM MEANS, Allegheny County  
THOMAS J URAM, Washington County

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**18th Congressional District**

**(Vote for not more than THREE)**

LOIS WOLF-GEER, Westmoreland County  
THOMAS J URAM, Washington County  
LAURA J SCHISLER, Allegheny County  
JOHN J WINK, Allegheny County  
AL QUAYE, Allegheny County