

Pennsylvania State Election Guide

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PA State House Candidates (Select Districts)

District 20- Emily Kinkead (incumbent) Democrat

Personal and Professional Background

Emily was elected to serve Pennsylvania's 20th Legislative District in 2020. In a time filled with turmoil because of a raging pandemic, growing partisan strife, and ongoing attacks on our democracy and ability to vote, Emily has spent her time in office committed to being a voice for her district and advocating for the values that she believes need to be more central in our government policy - justice, equity, and diversity.

Emily was born on Pittsburgh's Northside, the child of a Pittsburgh paramedic, and after living everywhere from North Dakota to Washington, DC, returned to her roots in Pittsburgh. She learned her commitment to service from her dad who lives by the mantra that you help people if you can. Before entering public service as a legislator, she applied this lesson in her career, tackling some of our society's toughest problems - disability rights, campaign finance reform, gerrymandering reform, climate change, advocacy for HIV+ individuals, immigration, and criminal justice reform. Emily also worked in the legislative policy office at the National Institutes of Health and provided legal aid to vulnerable individuals facing eviction.

Deeply dedicated to addressing disparities in the law, Emily co-chairs a program through the Women in the Law Division of the Allegheny County Bar Association that aims to end bias in the legal profession. Emily also serves on the board of a local environmental conservation non-profit, Scenic Pittsburgh. As a member of Pittsburgh's 50 Finest 2019, she dedicated herself to increasing awareness about cystic fibrosis and raising money to fund research to find a cure.

Emily received two Bachelor's degrees - Biology and Political Science - from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She lives in Brighton Heights with her cats.

<https://www.emily4pa20.com/about/>

See the website above for details about Kinkead's position on various PA issues.

Positions Relevant to APJ

- Criminal Justice Reform

She has been affiliated with ALCOSAN and Pennsylvania Prison Society.

https://ballotpedia.org/Emily_Kinkead

District 20 - Matt Kruth Republican

Personal and Professional Background

Matt Kruth grew up in the North Hills and is a 10 year resident of Ross Township. He and his wife Danielle have been married for 11 years and are the proud parents of their two boys, Holden (12) and Harrison (10) who attend North Hills School District. Matt has been a devoted literacy teacher to students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools for the last twenty years. Being a family man and an educator provides Matt with a unique understanding of the issues and difficulties that individuals, families, and children are facing in today's society.

Matt's career as an educator has afforded him the opportunity to be a leader, a coach, a mentor, and an effective communicator to students, parents, district staff, and community leaders. These skillsets highlight Matt's abilities and qualification to serve as your State Representative and deliver results to the residents of the 20th Legislative District.

When Matt isn't teaching, he enjoys spending time with his family. Whether it's skiing with his boys in the winter, frequenting local events and parks in the spring and summer, attending his boys' football games in the fall, or a date night with his wife--Matt has a deep commitment to his family. He has been a vocal advocate in his community for neighbors and residents, and has also devoted countless hours to supporting many community and youth programs.

<https://www.mattkruth.com>

See the website above for details about Kruth's position on various PA issues.

District 25 - Brandon Markosek Democrat Incumbent

Background

Brandon is a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing District 25. He assumed office on December 1, 2018. His current term ends on November 30, 2024. Markosek (Democratic Party) is running for re-election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to represent District 25. He is on the ballot in the general election on November 5, 2024. He advanced from the Democratic primary on April 23, 2024

https://ballotpedia.org/Brandon_Markosek

https://www.pahouse.com/files/Documents/Newsletter/2022-08-12_112436_025%20Spring%20NL%206page_0522.pdf

See above website for information about Markosek's position on issues.

District 25 - John Ritter Republican Candidate

[https://ballotpedia.org/John_Ritter_\(Pennsylvania\)#cite_note-8](https://ballotpedia.org/John_Ritter_(Pennsylvania)#cite_note-8)

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Ritter-for-Rep-PA-25th-100069166690733/>

District 33 - Mandy Steele

Background

Steele is a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing District 33. She assumed office on December 1, 2022. Her current term ends on November 30, 2024. Mandy Steele was born in O'Hara Township, Pennsylvania. Steele co-founded Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy.

https://ballotpedia.org/Mandy_Steele

Issues

Climate

Our communities are facing our biggest, most complex problem yet. And there is no reason why our region shouldn't be thriving in this changing landscape. As your representative in Pennsylvania's capital, I will fight for transforming our energy system to 100 percent renewable energy, creating jobs to ensure a strong transition to a clean economy for our workers in the Allegheny Valley, and building vibrant and healthy communities in this district. Investments in public transportation and modern infrastructure will save our families money. The fossil fuel industry has been heavily monopolizing our local elected officials for far too long. We need to unlock the claws of this industry, at all levels of government. It is no longer acceptable to have an elected official that does not put bringing clean energy jobs to their communities at the center of their work.

Infrastructure

Ideological Republican budget cuts to Port Authority funding have hampered the economic development of our communities, particularly up the valley. Transit investment is critical to the economic growth and sustainability of our communities and small businesses. Route 28 is dangerous and congested, we need to be exploring light rail systems. In Harrisburg, I'll make sure we prioritize transit as an investment in our community. We should be advocating for federal funding to help subsidize the PA transportation system and explore every opportunity to connect our communities and make commutes more accessible.

Women's Rights

We are ALL entitled to basic human rights- to be educated, to earn an equal wage, to vote, to own property, to live free from violence and discrimination, to have access to good healthcare, and to be able to make decisions about our bodies. As your state representative, I will be a strong advocate for women's rights.

Economy for All

Pa has a long and proud history of energy production and manufacturing. The Commonwealth is the largest exporter of electricity in the entire country. SWPA in particular has the workforce and infrastructure we need to be a national and global leader in clean energy and manufacturing. We can create good, family-sustaining, union jobs and grow our economy, lifting all of our communities up in the process.

Now more than ever, we have an incredible opportunity to create jobs and rebuild our once vibrant economy, renewing manufacturing and energy production in this region while protecting our air and water. This is an exciting time, but we will miss our chance if we do not act now. These jobs and investments will move fast. We must send representation to Harrisburg that will work to drive that investment and job creation to SWPA.

As a representative of our district, I'd continue my long history of championing the environment while prioritizing thriving communities and working families. I have a years-long track record of working with people on both sides to achieve these worthy goals. I will work with all stakeholders so that we move forward together on this energy path as a strong team.

Our moment is now to steer clean energy and infrastructure investments to our district, as Representative of District 33, I will be laser focused on making that happen, preserving our generations long history as a vital energy hub in the country.

Crime Prevention and Response

As an ally to my own community's police department, I know that when the safety of our children, parents, and neighbors is a top priority, thriving communities are possible. We must support local law enforcement and equip them with all the necessary tools to protect our families and community. At the same time, we must work to end the school to prison pipeline by decreasing suspensions, increasing the number of mental health counselors available in our schools and communities, and implementing restorative justice practices in our schools. As your state representative, I will work to fund programs that divert people from prisons into community settings while supporting and funding our police departments.

Gun Ownership

Gun ownership is a right of every American. Hunters are an important part of healthy ecosystems. I am raising my own children to connect to our natural systems through hunting and fishing. As your representative, I would advocate for responsible gun owners. Supporting sensible gun safety laws like background checks and wait periods while encouraging a new generation of hunters and increasing protections for our wild places is the way forward.

Safe and Strong Schools I am the mother of 4 children in our public schools and a product of the public schools myself. I am passionate about our schools, children are able to reach their full potential when they can stand on the foundations of a strong education. I believe a quality public education should be accessible to every child in our district. I will fight for funding for our districts, work to expand job training programs that meet the needs of our new economy, and champion affordable higher education options for our children. I am committed to finding the answers we need to make our schools safer.

<https://www.steeleforpa.com/platform>

Positions Relevant to APJ

• Criminal Justice Reform

...we must work to end the school to prison pipeline by decreasing suspensions, increasing the number of mental health counselors available in our schools and communities, and implementing restorative justice practices in our schools. As your state representative, I will work to fund programs that divert people from prisons into community settings

<https://www.steeleforpa.com/platform>

District 33 - Gary Lotz Republican

Issues

EDUCATION

Gary Lotz supports school choice because he knows it is the only sure way to provide the competition and variety needed to make failing public schools accountable. He remains steadfast in his commitment to advocate for parents and students, ensuring their voices are

heard and their needs are met.

TAXES

Gary Lotz knows that Pennsylvania doesn't have a shortage of tax revenues. Our legislature has a shortage of self-control when it comes to spending those tax dollars. He will support budgets that spend carefully and understands that taxes don't create prosperity. Jobs do. That's why he knows we must stop driving away job-creators with high taxes and overregulation.

ENERGY

Gary Lotz supports our energy industry and recognizes it as a cornerstone for job creation here in Western Pennsylvania. With a deep understanding of the region's economic landscape, Gary knows that by investing in innovative technologies we can grow our energy economy while continuing to respect our environment.

PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Gary Lotz is not a career politician. He won't take the per diem or the perks and he'll limit himself to three terms in office. He knows that public service is supposed to be a part of every citizen's life — not their entire lives.

District 40 - Peter Kohnke Democrat

Background

Peter Kohnke is running for election to represent District 40. He is on the ballot in the general election on November 5, 2024. He advanced as a write-in from the Democratic primary on April 23, 2024.

https://ballotpedia.org/Peter_Kohnke

The district, which Mihalek has represented since winning her first election in 2018, includes Peters Township in Washington County and Bethel Park and the southern area of Upper St. Clair in Allegheny County.

District 40 - Natalie Mihalek

Mihalek is a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing District 40. She assumed office on December 1, 2018. Her current term ends on November 30, 2024.

Mihalek is running for re-election to the to represent District 40. She is on the ballot in the general election on November 5, 2024. She advanced from the Republican primary on April 23, 2024

https://ballotpedia.org/Natalie_Mihalek

<https://nataliemihalek.com/new-about/>

Issues

Education

Our most important asset is our future generations. As a mother of three, Natalie knows how important it is to ensure our children are receiving a top-notch education. She believes that parents are in charge of their kids' education, not Harrisburg bureaucracy. In addition, the current schools funding system needs a overhaul. Natalie is committed to working on greater transparency and a more efficient funding mechanism to ensure schools in the 40th House district receive their fair share of funding.

Healthcare

Now more than ever, we're seeing the flaws in our healthcare system and the need to ensure we have a patient-centered approach that focuses on quality care and better health-outcomes. Natalie has championed key legislation to put the patients' needs first and ensure we have healthier communities.

Jobs

Natalie has fought to reinvigorate the Western Pennsylvania economy, bring greater economic freedom to small businesses and create more jobs. She'll continue to work to de-regulate our complex economy, revive our manufacturing industry, and work to keep government out of the way of business.

Safety

As a former prosecutor, Natalie has seen the impact that dangerous and violent criminals have on our communities. Now, due to senseless policies and extreme rhetoric in Harrisburg and across the country, we've seen a terrifying spike in violent crime across Western PA. Natalie has fought in the courtroom to protect victims and their families, and now she's fighting for them in Harrisburg. She will always protect victims, not criminals, and put our safety first.

Western PA Values

Born and raised here, now raising a family of her own here, Natalie understands everyday Western Pennsylvanians. She will always put the needs of her constituents first and focus on serving our community. From here, for here – she'll always fight for our values in Harrisburg.

<https://nataliemihalek.com/new-issues/>

Positions Relevant to APJ

• Family Supportive Policies

PA HB1150 AI Summary

This bill establishes the Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Program and the Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Fund in Pennsylvania. The program, administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, provides grants to county district attorneys' offices to develop and implement domestic violence resources, such as crisis hotlines, safe homes, and victim assistance services. The bill also defines key terms, including "domestic violence" and "domestic violence resources," and outlines the process for applying for and awarding grants. Additionally, the bill requires the Commission to submit annual reports on the program's activities and progress.

https://ballotpedia.org/Natalie_Mihalek

Note: The following PA State House districts (19, 21, 23, 24, 27, 32, 34) are represented by incumbent members who are running unopposed.

District 19 - Aerion Abney Incumbent Democrat

Personal and Professional Background

Aerion Abney was born in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#), and lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Abney graduated from Cardinal O'Hara High School in 2006. He earned a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010 and 2012, respectively. Abney's career experience includes working in social work and as the Pennsylvania director of special projects with Access Democracy.^{[1][2]}
https://ballotpedia.org/Aerion_Abney

Aerion is a native of Philadelphia and moved to Pittsburgh when he was 18 years old, where he has spent his entire adult life. Currently he lives in Manchester on the Northside of Pittsburgh where he has been for nearly 10 years.

Aerion has a Bachelor's degree in Communications and a Master's degree in Social Work both from the University of Pittsburgh. Aerion is married to his wife Tamara and they have two sons Aerius and Amari.

Aerion is a social worker who currently lives his professional life at the intersection of civil rights, philanthropy and politics. He serves as the Pennsylvania Director of Special Projects for a national voting rights advocacy organization. In this role he has led efforts to expand voting access to people in jail and work with elections officials to break down barriers to the ballot so every eligible Pennsylvanian can exercise their right to vote.

Prior to working in the voting rights space, Aerion served as a Program officer at the POISE Foundation a Black owned and operated institution where he was responsible for identifying strategic grantmaking opportunities aligned with the Foundation's mission and priority areas. He authorized more than \$1.2 million in grants to non-profit organizations supporting critical programming across the region.

Aerion is politically engaged within the City of Pittsburgh having served as a Committeeman for the 21st Ward 4th District. He currently sits on the boards of: Hill District Federal Credit Union, and Human Services Center Corporation, as well as the advisory board for the African American Achievement Trust Collective Focus. Additionally, he serves on the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's My Brother's Keeper task force, an initiative to create action plans around the opportunity gaps that impact young men and boys of color.

<https://voteaerionabney.com/about/>

See the website above for details about Abney's position on various PA issues.

District 21 - Lindsey Powell Democrat Incumbent PA

Lindsay Powell earned a B.A. in sociology and political science from Wheaton College in 2013 and an M.S. in public policy from Carnegie Mellon University in 2017.^{[1][2]} Powell's career experience includes working as the director of workforce strategies of InnovatePGH, an assistant chief of staff and policy analyst with the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a legislative fellow with the Office of U.S. Representative [Hakeem Jeffries](#).^[1]

Passionate about social justice initiatives and addressing inequality, Lindsay Powell has been a dedicated advocate and community servant for all of her life.

She is the Director of Workforce Strategies for InnovatePGH focused on creating employment opportunities for underrepresented technologists in the Pittsburgh tech ecosystem. She previously worked at the City of Pittsburgh for five years as the Assistant Chief of Staff overseeing legislation and policy for city departments. During her tenure at the city, some of the programs Lindsay oversaw include the creation of the first citywide digital equity initiative, the expansion of the summer free meal program during the pandemic and the implementation of Avenues of Hope initiative that revitalizes city main streets with small business activation. . Lindsay has also worked at the federal level for progressive officials like US Senator Chuck Schumer and Representative Hakeem Jeffries. She is also a proud recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship that took her to Malaysia to teach English in rural high schools.

Lindsay is an alumna of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the New Leaders Council and a Board Member of NeighborWorksSWPA, YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Lindsay received a Bachelor of Arts from Wheaton College in Sociology and a Master's of Science in Public Policy Management from Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College where she won the Otto A. Davis Award that recognizes graduate's commitments to racial and social justice. Lindsay resides in Lawrenceville with her beloved dog, Willow.

https://ballotpedia.org/Lindsay_Powell

<https://www.lindsaypowellforpa.com/>

See the website above for details about Powell's position on various PA issues.

District 23- Dan Frankel Democrat, Incumbent

Personal and Professional Background

Frankel graduated from Pennington School in 1974. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science in 1978 from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. In 2000, he completed a certificate program for senior executives in state and local government at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Formerly an insurance executive, he served as vice president of Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton Co., and as vice president of the Frankel Co., a regional insurance brokerage firm. Dan and his wife Debra have three children.

He started working on political campaigns as a teenager, and he was selected as a delegate to the 1976 Democratic convention at just 20 years old.

When he returned to Pittsburgh to work for the family insurance company after college, Dan invested himself in his community. He served as chairman of the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition and president of the Jewish Family and Children's Services board. As a member of the Urban Redevelopment Board, he joined efforts to revitalize the city after the collapse of the steel industry.

Dan saw Pittsburgh as a modern city in the making, with new industries and progressive values, where residents believed in equality and social justice. Voters responded to that vision and elected Dan to the Pennsylvania House in 1998.

<https://electdanfrankel.com/about-dan/>

See the website above for details about Frankel's position on various PA issues.

District 24 - La'Tasha Mayes Democrat, Incumbent

Personal and Professional Background

Latasha Mayes was born in Fort Riley, Kansas. Mayes earned a B.S. in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003 and an M.S. in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University in 2005. Her career experience includes founding New Voices for Reproductive Justice and working as its CEO; as a consultant; in a family law clinic at the YWCA; for a county government's Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise; and as a trainer and educator at the Center for Victims. Mayes has been affiliated with New Voices Action, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the JUDAH Fellowship, and Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania.^{[1][2]}

https://ballotpedia.org/La%27Tasha_Mayes

La'Tasha was raised by a single Mother in West Philadelphia and it is her Mother who was an Army veteran, food service worker and UNITEHERE union member, who instilled the values of service and justice in La'Tasha. La'Tasha came to Pittsburgh in 1999 to attend the University of Pittsburgh and from her first year in this city to this day, she has been serving and organizing the people of the 24th legislative district.

La'Tasha is running for Pennsylvania State Representative to disrupt politics as usual in Harrisburg and to unapologetically advocate for racial, gender and economic justice that will center marginalized communities and the entire district.

<https://www.latashaforpa.com/>

Positions Relevant to APJ

• Family Supportive Policies

I am running because the fight to defend Reproductive Justice, Roe v. Wade and abortion access is in Harrisburg, the fight to protect our most unprotected communities including our youth, LGBTQ+ and elderly is in Harrisburg.

https://ballotpedia.org/La'Tasha_Mayes

District 27 - Daniel Deasy Jr. Democrat Incumbent

Personal and Professional Background

Dan Deasy was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 2008. He attended Canevin Catholic High School and the University of Pittsburgh, worked as a supervisor at Pittsburgh's Public Works Department, and served four years as a Pittsburgh city councilman. He is the Democratic chairman of the House Liquor Control Committee.

His legislative priorities include, but are not limited to, expanding access to health care; supporting funding for education; strengthening penalties for crimes against children; supporting economic development that leads to job creation; expanding services for senior citizens and veterans; and addressing blight and abandoned properties in communities.

Deasy has a long history of community service, working to address housing concerns; securing funding for playgrounds and other community resources; obtaining grant money for neighborhood revitalization; and advocating for public safety. While serving on Pittsburgh City Council, Deasy fought for the reopening of Pittsburgh's Zone 6 Police Station, which remains

open today. His community service continues as he serves on many local nonprofit boards of directors.

A lifelong native of the 27th Legislative District, Deasy is married to the former Kelly Skeba. They have four children and reside in Westwood.

<https://www.pahouse.com/Deasy/InTheNews>

• Family Supportive Policies

Apr 15, 2024 - [Deasy and advocates take pledge against domestic violence](#)

Bills Sponsored By: Dan Deasy

PA HB2127 - Requiring information relating to perinatal or postpartum mood and anxiety disorders and resources to be provided to pregnant patients; and providing for powers and duties of the Department of Health.

Requiring information relating to perinatal or postpartum mood and anxiety disorders and resources and screening to be <-- provided to pregnant patients; and providing for powers and duties of the Department of Health.

10/02/2024: Senate Amendment A05737 (PN 3258) - Senate Am

PA HB126 - Establishing the First-time Homebuyer Savings Account Program and the First-time Homebuyer Savings Account Program Fund; and imposing duties on the Treasury Department.

Establishing the First-time Homebuyer Savings Account Program and the First-time Homebuyer Savings Account Program Fund; and imposing duties on the Treasury Department.

10/01/2024: First consideration

PA HB2548 - Providing for the accrual and use of earned paid leave; establishing the Small Business Grant Program; imposing duties on the Department of Labor and Industry; and imposing a penalty.

Providing for the right for employees to paid sick leave from <-- employers and for civil penalties and remedies.

09/30/2024: Laid on the table

https://ballotpedia.org/Daniel_Deasy_Jr.

District 32 - Joe McAndrew Incumbent

Personal and Professional Background

Joe McAndrew's career experience includes working as a partner with Onpoint Operations & Consulting, an account executive with Sparq Designs, and a senior account manager with Avanti Consulting Group.

https://ballotpedia.org/Joe_McAndrew

Joe McAndrew was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2023 to represent the 32nd Legislative District in Allegheny County.

Joe grew up in a hard-working family - his mom is a bus garage manager, and his dad is a union mechanic - and he honors the values of hard work in his own career. Joe worked in the private sector as an entrepreneur before more recently serving as the Allegheny County Democratic Committee's Executive Director and working for Congressman Chris Deluzio. In addition, he

brings with him the experience of working in Harrisburg, as he served on the former Democratic House Minority Leader's team from 2012-14.

Joe's public service has crossed over across all communities in his district; he currently resides in Penn Hills, representing the Boroughs of Plum (part), Oakmont, and Verona, as well as the Municipality of Penn Hills.

<https://www.pahouse.com/McAndrew/About/Biography>

<https://www.pahouse.com/McAndrew/NewsCenter>

See the website above for details about McAndrew's position on various PA issues.

District 34 - Abigail Salisbury Incumbent

Personal and Professional Background

Abigail Salisbury was born in [Conneaut, Ohio](#). Salisbury graduated from Fairview High School in 2000. She earned a bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University in 2004, a master's degree in public policy and management from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007, and a juris doctor from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013. Salisbury's career experience includes working as an attorney with Salisbury Legal, LLC, the head of operational functions of Track Up Bookkeeping, LLC, and the program director of the Pittsburgh Haiti Symposium.

https://ballotpedia.org/Abigail_Salisbury

Abigail Salisbury is the incumbent State Representative for District 34. She was elected in the February 2023 special election. She previously served on Swissvale Borough Council for five years, where she focused on improving police hiring practices, governmental transparency, environmental initiatives, and activities for children.

Abigail is also a small business owner. She started a solo law practice for nonprofits and small businesses in Wilkinsburg in 2015. She worked in the field of international human rights and academia prior to starting her law practice, and later taught an undergraduate course on First Amendment Law at Pitt as an adjunct for two years, during which time she participated in the unionization efforts.

She graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 2004 with a B.A. in French and Art History, completed her law degree at Pitt Law School in 2007, and finished her Master's in Public Policy and Management at Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs in 2013 while employed at the university.

In her first year as a state representative, Salisbury worked to deliver on her commitment to the 13 municipalities in her district, working to increase availability of grant information, providing grants training, and hosting inter-municipal meetings of elected officials.

Building on her past experience counseling nonprofits and her tenure as an executive director of a nonprofit, she founded the PA Charitable Nonprofit Caucus, a bipartisan and bicameral entity aimed at improving the state's relationship with and services to charities in the Commonwealth. Salisbury passed bills aimed at fighting blight and providing grant writing assistance to municipalities with low-income census tracts in 2023, among other legislative initiatives. She hopes to continue building on these successes in 2024 and beyond.

Salisbury's State House Committee assignments are Appropriations, Liquor, Environmental Resources & Energy, Commerce, and Local Government. She is the first Jewish person to serve in District 34 and is the only Jewish woman in the PA House. She is also the first openly-identifying non-neurotypical person to serve the district and the first openly-identifying LGBTQIA person to serve the district.

<https://salisburyforpa.com/about/>

<https://salisburyforpa.com/issues/>

See the website above for details about Salisbury's position on various PA issues.

PA State Senate Candidates (Select Districts)

These PA State Senate districts (21,41,& 43) are represented by incumbent senators who are running unopposed.

District 21 - Scott Hutchinson Republican Incumbent since 2012

Hutchinson earned his B.S. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Finance in 1983. His professional experience includes working as the chief deputy county treasurer for Venango County from 1984 to 1992 and as the vice president of the Oil City Area School Board from 1985 to 1992.

https://ballotpedia.org/Scott_Hutchinson



Scott E. Hutchinson was re-elected in November 2020 to his third term representing the 21st Senatorial District in the Pennsylvania State Senate.

Senator Hutchinson serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Vice Chairman of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and as a member of the Senate Game and Fisheries, Health and Human Services and Local Government committees.

He also serves as the Chairman of the Local Government Commission. Furthermore, the Senator was appointed as a member of the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory Council and the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council.

Senator Hutchinson is committed to improving Pennsylvania's business climate by supporting efforts to lift the onerous burdens placed on employers, particularly small companies, by creating an environment that encourages economic development and job creation.

Senator Hutchinson was the prime sponsor of Act 52 of 2016 which established the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory Council. The council is charged with promoting the long-term viability of the conventional oil and gas industry, which has been an integral part of the regional economy in Northwest Pennsylvania for over a century and a half.

In 2014 Senator Hutchinson sponsored Act 78 which created the Medical Officer or Health Officer Incentive Program within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide educational stipends to retain eligible medical officers or health officers.

A strong opponent of proposals to toll Interstate 80, Senator Hutchinson supports efforts to develop common sense plans to improve the state's transportation network and infrastructure to enhance the health, welfare, safety and quality of life for all Pennsylvania residents.

Senator Hutchinson previously represented the 64th Legislative District in the state House of Representatives from 1992 to 2012. Prior to election to the House, he served as the Chief Deputy County Treasurer for Venango County from 1984 to 1992.

While serving in the House, Senator Hutchinson led the fight to repeal Act 44, which would have imposed tolls for Interstate 80. He promoted economic development and job growth by sponsoring legislation repealing the two percent Annuity Premiums Tax, and grandfathering the Oil and Gas Act bonding provisions for pre-1984 wells. He was also a prime mover in shaping legislation to increase the safety of workers in emergency response areas and he worked to enact changes in the County Code to allow for "cafeteria" employee benefit plans, and revisions concerning the election of county auditors.

In an effort to support our homeland heroes, Senator Hutchinson sponsored Act 59 of 2005 which increased the death benefits for the families of firefighters, police officers, National Guard members and emergency responders who gave their lives to keep the public safe. This law increased the family death benefits paid by the state to those who die in the line of duty from \$62,000 to \$100,000, with future increases tied to inflation.

Among his many community activities, Hutchinson is active in St. Joseph Church and was a member of the Oil City Lions Club, Venango Video, Inc. Board of Directors, and the Oil Heritage Region Board. He is a former board member of the Venango County Association for the Blind.

The 21st Senate District includes all of Clarion, Forest, Venango and Warren Counties; as well as parts of Butler County consisting of the City of Butler and the Townships of Allegheny, Brady, Buffalo, Butler, Center, Cherry, Clay, Clearfield, Clinton, Concord, Connoquenessing, Donegal, Fairview, Franklin, Jefferson, Marion, Mercer, Muddycreek, Oakland, Parker, Penn, Slippery Rock, Summit, Venango, Washington, Winfield and Worth and the Boroughs of Bruin, Cherry Valley, Chicora, Connoquenessing, East Butler, Eau Claire, Fairview, Harrisville, Karns City, Petrolia, Portersville, Prospect, Saxonburg, Slippery Rock, West Liberty and West Sunbury; and parts of Erie County consisting of the City of Corry and the Townships of Concord and Wayne and the Borough of Elgin.

<https://www.senatorscotthutchinson.com/biography/>

<https://www.senatorscotthutchinson.com/>

See the above campaign website for information on issues.

District 41- Joe Pittman Republican Incumbent



Joe Pittman ([Republican Party](#)) is a member of the [Pennsylvania State Senate](#), representing [District 41](#). He assumed office on June 10, 2019. His current term ends on November 30, 2024.

Pittman ([Republican Party](#)) is running for re-election to the [Pennsylvania State Senate](#) to represent [District 41](#). He is on the ballot in the general election on [November 5, 2024](#). He advanced from the Republican primary on [April 23, 2024](#).

Pittman was selected as [state Senate majority leader](#) in January 2023.^[1]

Pittman was born in [Indiana County, Pennsylvania](#) in 1977. He was appointed to the Purchase Line School Board when he was 18 years old and continued to serve on the board until graduating from Penn State University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in political science.^[2] Pittman also worked as chief of staff for former Pennsylvania Sen. [Don White](#) (R) from 2000 to 2019.^{[3][4]}

Pittman served as chairman of the [Senate Urban Affairs & Housing Committee](#) and vice chairman of the [Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee](#). He was a member of the [Appropriations](#), [Banking & Insurance](#), [Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure](#), and [Judiciary](#) committees. Pittman was also a member of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Board of Directors.^[3]

Pittman said he ran for office "to continue a legacy of being a committed, problem-solving Senator who will place the needs of constituents first. I believe the resolution to our state's financial issues should be cemented in the belief that we must get government out of the way of job creators by eliminating needless regulations, reducing the tax burden and keeping money where it belongs... in the hands of hardworking Pennsylvanians."^[2]

On his 2024 campaign website, Pittman said his priorities as Senate leader were "advancing legislative initiatives to create jobs, implement infrastructure improvements, support law enforcement and limit government overreach.

https://ballotpedia.org/Joe_Pittman

<https://pasenator41.com/>

See the above website for information on issues.

District 43 - Jay Costa Democrat Incumbent State Senate

Jay Costa ([Democratic Party](#)) is a member of the [Pennsylvania State Senate](#), representing [District 43](#). He assumed office on May 13, 1996. His current term ends on November 30, 2024.

Costa ([Democratic Party](#)) is running for re-election to the [Pennsylvania State Senate](#) to represent [District 43](#). He is on the ballot in the general election on [November 5, 2024](#). He advanced from the Democratic primary on [April 23, 2024](#).

Costa completed Ballotpedia's [Candidate Connection](#) survey in 2024. [Click here to read the survey answers](#).

Costa has served as [state Senate minority leader](#) since 2011

https://ballotpedia.org/Jay_Costa

<https://jaycosta.org/>

See the website above for information on issues.

PA State Attorney General Candidates

Dave Sunday (R)

Professional and Personal Background

Dave Sunday served in the U.S. Navy. He earned an undergraduate degree in finance from Penn State University in 2002 and a J.D. from Widener Law School in 2007. Sunday's career experience includes working as an attorney, specifically as a prosecutor with the York County District Attorney's Office.

https://ballotpedia.org/Dave_Sunday

After high school, Dave joined the Navy as an enlisted recruit and was deployed to the Persian Gulf, where he participated in Operation Desert Strike. Dave was also deployed to South America and conducted numerous counter-narcotics operations in the Caribbean. Those four years changed his life forever. While serving, Dave learned what it takes to be an effective leader under tremendous pressure. He proudly carries on the Navy's core principles of honor, commitment, and courage to this day.

Dave received his undergraduate degree in Finance from Penn State University in 2002 and graduated from Widener Law School in 2007. During Law School, Dave worked as a legal intern at the United Nations Office of the Secretariat in New York, where he was assigned to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

After graduation from law school, he worked as Law Clerk for the Honorable Joseph C. Adams, former President Judge of the York County Court of Common Pleas. For the last fifteen years, Dave has been a prosecutor with the York County District Attorney's Office and prior to being sworn in as the elected District Attorney, served as the Chief Deputy Prosecutor of Litigation. In that capacity, Dave supervised Major Crime cases and the Felony Narcotics Unit. Additionally, Dave served as the Legal Advisor to the District Attorney's Drug Task Force and York County Quick Response (a.k.a. SWAT) Team.

In 2013, Dave was appointed by the United States Department of Justice as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, where he assisted in prosecuting gang, illegal gun, and drug cases in Federal Court. During this time, Dave led the prosecution of Operation Sunrise, a large-scale multi-jurisdictional arrest and prosecution of over 100 members and affiliates of the "Latin Kings," a violent criminal gang operating in York County.

Dave is leading York County's fight against the heroin/fentanyl epidemic. He and the York County Coroner co-founded the York County Heroin Task Force, now the York County Opioid Collaborative, where Dave served as board chair. Dave's leadership was also instrumental in the expansion of the District Attorney's Drug Task Force to fight the heroin/fentanyl trade throughout the entirety of York County.

Dave protects our seniors through his role on the Elder Abuse Task Force. In addition to conducting numerous Scam Prevention seminars throughout the county, Dave has successfully prosecuted scam artists targeting senior citizens. Since taking office, Dave further strengthened this priority by appointing an elder abuse special prosecutor that collaborates with strategic partners, including the York County Area Agency of Aging.

Dave is a career litigator and has personally tried approximately fifty felony jury trials to verdict, including the successful prosecutions of over ten of the most high-profile York County murders in recent memory. Dave has obtained many First Degree Murder Convictions, including a multi-defendant gang murder, a targeted multi-victim shooting, and a domestic violence killing.

In addition to homicides, Dave has successfully tried to verdict Murder Conspiracies, multiple Attempted Murders of Police Officers, multiple Murders for Hire, Felony Narcotics Deliveries, a complex Embezzlement, Aggravated Assaults, Burglaries, Armed Robberies, Bank Robberies, Insurance Fraud Cases, Thefts and Elder Fraud Scams to name a few.

Beyond trial work, Dave is the Immediate Past President of the York County Bar Association and serves on the Board of the York County Children's Advocacy Center. He also chairs the Education and Training Committee of the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association (PDAA) and was elected by his colleagues to the Board of Directors for both the PDAA and the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Institute. Also, Dave previously served on behalf of the PDAA on the Pennsylvania Commission for Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) statewide Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee.

Nationally, Dave serves on the American Conservative Union's prosecutor advisory board and has spoken across the country on effective public safety initiatives.

Additionally, Dave was a founding member of the York Group Violence Initiative (GVI) and now serves on the governance committee. He is a key leader with the Community Action for Recovery and Diversion (CARD) initiative and his office co-chairs the York County Reentry Coalition.

In January 2020, Dave was appointed by Speaker of the House Mike Turzai to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and was subsequently re-appointed by Speaker Bryan Cutler. DA Sunday is the only prosecutor on the commission, comprising state judges, members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and State Senate, legal professors, and a criminal defense attorney.

Since he was elected District Attorney, Dave has been called upon to provide expert testimony on the heroin epidemic and human trafficking before the York County State House Delegation Public Hearing on Human Trafficking; the US House of Representatives – Committee on Homeland Security – Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency; the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Law & Justice Committee; and the Pennsylvania State House Majority Police Committee.

Dave has received multiple awards recognizing his dedication to public service including:

- Widener University Commonwealth Law School Excellence in Public Service Award – 2018
- York County Economic Alliance: Spirit of York County Awards – Elected Official of the Year – 2019
- US Department of Justice: Middle District of Pennsylvania – Cooperative Law Enforcement Award – 2020

Dave is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, American Legion, and the VFW. Dave lives with his wife and son in Spring Garden Township, York County.

<https://www.davesundayforag.com/about>

Issues

See above record of issues during Sunday's service in York County

On his campaign website, Sunday listed a 30% decrease in crime during his first term, and a 40% reduction in the prison population since its peak among his accomplishments as district attorney.^[5] Sunday said his top priority is the opioid epidemic: "My philosophy of criminal justice is accountability and redemption. You have to have both. You must hold people accountable, but on the other side of it, we have to embrace redemption, and we have to do work that encompasses prevention as well."

https://ballotpedia.org/Dave_Sunday

Positions Relevant to APJ

• Criminal Justice Reform

My philosophy of criminal justice is accountability and redemption. You have to have both. You must hold people accountable, but on the other side of it, we have to embrace redemption, and we have to do work that encompasses prevention as well."^[6]

https://ballotpedia.org/Dave_Sunday

Eugene Pasquale (D)

Professional and Personal Background

DePasquale earned his B.A. in political science from the College of Wooster in 1993. He went on to receive his MPA from the University of Pittsburgh in 1997. He then received his J.D. from Widener University School of Law in 2002.

After earning his law degree, DePasquale began work as an attorney. He also worked for the City of York as Director of Economic Development from 2002 to 2003. He then worked as Deputy Secretary for the Department of Environmental Protection from 2003 to 2006.

DePasquale served as Chair of the York County Democratic Party from 1998 to 2002. He then joined the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2007, representing the 95th District until 2013. In 2012, he ran simultaneously for auditor and re-election to the House. He won both races, but chose to relinquish his seat in the House in order to assume the auditor's office.^[1] A special legislative election was then called to fill the seat left vacant by DePasquale's decision move to the executive branch.^[2] On May 21, 2013, fellow Democrat Kevin Schreiber won the special election to replace DePasquale in the House.^[3]

DePasquale was Pennsylvania's Auditor General from 2013 to 2021. Previously, he served in the state House and chaired the York County Democratic Party. He is running on his record and personal story. DePasquale said, "People know I've got the spine to take on big corporations, big insurance companies, and to run complex investigations. And that's what I'll do as your attorney general."^[5]

https://ballotpedia.org/Eugene_DePasquale

Born and raised in the blue-collar city of Pittsburgh, Eugene knows the value of hard work putting himself through law school at night. Eugene is a lifetime Democrat and a principled leader who will stand up to both parties to protect Pennsylvanians. As a former state legislator and two-term Auditor General, he's earned a reputation as a transparent, independent watchdog of the taxpayer's money. He takes on tough challenges and holds each and every bully, cheat, and criminal accountable. This year, Eugene asks for your support in his campaign for Attorney General.

<https://www.depasqualeforag.com/>

Issues

As attorney general, he said his first priority would be protecting democracy and making sure every vote is counted as well as protecting "abortion rights, protecting consumers, protecting our environment and also making sure that we have public safety across the state."⁶¹

https://ballotpedia.org/Eugene_DePasquale

DEFENDING REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Eugene is unapologetically pro-choice. When politicians try to limit our reproductive rights - whether access to abortion services, IVF, or contraception - Eugene will be there to defend our rights. He has a 100% rating with Planned Parenthood of PA. [Here's Eugene in his own words.](#)

FIGHTING PUBLIC CORRUPTION

As Attorney General, Eugene will take on corruption by elected officials, agencies, and those doing business in PA. As Auditor General, he uncovered \$2 billion in waste, fraud and abuse, standing up to leaders of both parties to stop it. He will always do what's right to preserve the public's trust.

ADVOCATING FOR CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

As Attorney General, Eugene will be your legal advocate against corporate greed. He will crack down on businesses and CEOs taking advantage of consumers and defend workers from wage theft, stop price gouging, and go after predatory scammers. [Here's Eugene in his own words.](#)

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION

Eugene believes everyone deserves a chance to succeed, no matter your zip code, circumstance, or ability. Eugene will hold the government and our school districts accountable so that every Pennsylvania student gets an equal opportunity at a quality public education.

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE Eugene supports universal background checks, banning sale of 'ghost guns' and red flag laws to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, terrorists, and domestic abusers. Eugene will work with local and state authorities to get weapons of war off the streets and end retaliatory violence in our communities.

CRACKING DOWN ON CRIME As Attorney General, Eugene will work with law enforcement to invest in proven crime prevention tactics and go after violent criminals. He will work to restore

trust between citizens and local law enforcement to ensure our police can best serve and protect the Commonwealth.

PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY As our Attorney General, Eugene will defend every Pennsylvanian's right to vote, make sure your vote is counted accurately and fairly, and fight attempts at voter suppression.

BACKING UNIONS Eugene is himself a member of the United Steelworkers union and believes strongly in every worker's right to organize. As our Attorney General, Eugene will prosecute wage theft and defend collective bargaining rights.

FIGHTING FOR A FAIR ECONOMY Eugene will fight for an economy that works for every Pennsylvanian, no matter who you are, where you live, or what your abilities. He'll go after companies that are price gouging Pennsylvanians, tackle corporate greed and corruption that costs taxpayers, and keep the top 1% from rigging the rules against us.

PROTECTING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY Eugene is a lifelong champion of inclusive policies to safeguard the rights of the LGBTQ community and promote equality in law enforcement, healthcare, and education. As Attorney General, Eugene will vigilantly prosecute hate crimes and enforce civil rights laws to create a safer and more inclusive PA.

TAKING ON HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE COMPANIES Everyone should have access to quality, affordable healthcare. As Attorney General, Eugene will represent victims of deceptive policies, price gouging, or other unethical practices. He'll take on insurance companies that unlawfully deny patients coverage or drug companies that fuel the opioid crisis.

FIGHTING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Every Pennsylvanian has a constitutional right to clean air and water. As Attorney General, Eugene will hold polluters accountable, fight against environmental degradation, and defend sustainable practices to combat climate change.

TACKLING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC As Attorney General, Eugene will fight to make sure PA's share of the opioid manufacturers settlement money is spent on proven prevention and treatment programs. He will fight to break the hold addiction has on communities across PA. [Here's Eugene in his own words.](#)

<https://www.depasqualeforag.com>

Positions Relevant to APJ

• Family Supportive Policies

Eugene is unapologetically pro-choice. When politicians try to limit our reproductive rights - whether access to abortion services, IVF, or contraception - Eugene will be there to defend our rights. He has a 100% rating with Planned Parenthood of PA.

Justin Magill (Constitution Party)

Constitution Party candidate Justin Magill doesn't appear to have a campaign website, but the state party's platform [highlights seven principles](#): life, liberty, family, property, the Constitution, state's rights and American sovereignty.

Eric Settle (I)

Professional and Personal Background

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- Eric was Deputy General Counsel to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, leading efforts in Healthcare and Environmental Affairs.
- Eric led the successful effort for the passage of Act 62, requiring insurance companies to pay for services for children with Autism.
- Eric was a founding member of the Republicans for Josh Shapiro Committee and served on the Governor's Healthcare Transition Team for Health and Human Services.
- Eric was the Policy Director for a leading democratic candidate for Philadelphia Mayor, a Healthcare Advisor for the Republican nominee for Pennsylvania Governor.
- Eric was elected as a Republican Committeeperson in Philadelphia and then Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County.
 - Eric was the president of Main Line Reform Temple, a Trustee of Colgate University, Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital and the Endowment Corporation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.
- Eric is a governing board member of the Early Head Start Program of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Specializing in the crucial area of healthcare law, Eric has worked with some of the most important law firms and companies in Pennsylvania's legal community, including AmeriHealth Caritas, United Healthcare and Aetna U.S Healthcare, starting his career at Wolf Block and Fox Rothschild where he also served as a young lawyer leader for both the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations.
- Eric attended Lower Merion Public Schools graduating from Harriton High School. He received his J.D. with Honors from the George Washington Law School where he was a member of the Law Review and received his B.A. cum laude from Colgate University. Eric has been married to his wife Robin, a healthcare consultant, for 37 years. They have two sons, Adam, an attorney in Berwyn, Pa. and Alex, a Ph.D. Candidate in cancer biology.

Issues

As an independent Attorney General who is not beholden to either major party, only Eric can impartially defend and protect the outcome of the very contentious 2024 Presidential election, the results of which may turn on the decision of Pennsylvania's voters.

Eric has worked to elect the right people regardless of label. But so many people, because they are not registered to a party like Eric is now, cannot participate in making sure the best candidates are available. The result of closed primaries is candidates that cater to the extreme voices in their party. It's time for Pennsylvania to have open primaries so that all voters have the opportunity to express their preferences. Ranked-Choice voting would also allow voters to express their wishes which will build consensus in the actions of their elected officials. Finally, we need to have legislative districts that fairly represent the people who live in those districts. We need to end gerrymandering and try to have competitive districts so that elected officials have to represent their entire population, not just extremes of one party.

Richard Weiss G

Richard L. Weiss was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A and obtained a B.A. at the University of Pittsburgh in 1989, J.D. at the University of Denver 1992, LL.M. at the American University in 1993 and a MBA at the University of Chicago in 1998. He is a Ford Foundation Fellow in Public International Law (1992-93); and member of the State Bars of Pennsylvania and New York. He is proficient in English, Indonesian and German (written). His practice areas include Corporate Law, Finance, Mergers & Acquisitions, Investment Law, Securities Law,

Energy, Contracts, Business Law, Commercial Law, Intellectual Property Licensing, Natural Resources. Technology & Science.

http://www.mkklaw.net/attorneys_eng.asp?attorney_id=133

Rob Cowburn (L)

As a candidate for Pennsylvania Attorney General, my journey is deeply rooted in a dedication to service and a firm belief in the principles of the Libertarian Party. My focus on economic development, education, and removing regulatory barriers stems from a comprehensive understanding of the issues facing our state today.

Economic development is paramount. As a staunch advocate for attracting and retaining businesses, I've witnessed firsthand how state and federal regulatory overreach has stifled American industry. I firmly believe that by eliminating these barriers, we can reignite economic prosperity and invite job-creating industries back to Pennsylvania. My commitment is to work tirelessly to ensure that our state becomes a beacon of opportunity once again.

Education is another critical area of focus. The current state of public education deeply concerns me, as it often prioritizes conformity over critical thinking. After years of mandatory schooling, too many students emerge unprepared for adulthood. This, coupled with the alarming trend of educators withholding information from parents, undermines the fundamental rights of parents in their children's education. As Attorney General, I will champion the rights of parents to choose and actively participate in their children's education, ensuring transparency and accountability at every turn.

My career has been a testament to my commitment to these issues. As the elected Chair and President of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, I've spearheaded regulatory and legislative reform initiatives, worked closely with public policy committees, built coalitions, and influenced public policy for the betterment of our state. My legal practice, particularly in public policy and statutory reform, has prepared me to tackle these challenges head-on. I've litigated federal lawsuits under Section 1983 of the Civil Rights Act, pushing back against government overreach and defending the rights of individuals.

My journey to becoming Pennsylvania's next Attorney General is driven by a passion for service, a commitment to principle, and a proven track record of advocacy and reform. I am dedicated to making Pennsylvania a better place for all its residents through economic growth, educational reform, and the protection of our liberties.

<https://cowburnforag.com/>

