

LWV Voters Guide to Fall '08 General Election

Representative in Congress

(Vote for one)

Term: 2 years

Salary: \$169,300

Duties: The Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government. It 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 concerned with taxation must originate in the House of Representatives.

Questions: 1. What should the federal government do to ensure that every American has health insurance coverage?
2. List your top legislative priority and what you will do to accomplish it.

12th Congressional District

Democratic

John P. Murtha, 76, Johnstown PA

www.murtha.org

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in Economics, University of Pittsburgh

Occupation: U.S. Congressman, since 1974

Qualifications: Vietnam veteran

Answers: 1. I fully support the goal of ensuring affordable health care for every American. The rising cost of health care is an urgent problem we face as a nation and I've continually looked for solutions. I've funded programs to improve early diagnosis and treatment for a wide variety of diseases. This reduces health care costs by keeping people healthier and out of the hospital.

2. I will continue to press for a change in direction and a redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq. Our military has accomplished all that has been asked of them and more. But to date, with over 4,100 Americans killed and over 30,000 injured, we continue to spend over \$10 billion a month with no end in sight. It's time for a change.

Republican

William Russell, 46, Johnstown

www.russellbrigade.com

Education: BA Russian Studies, Louisiana State University, 1985

Occupation: US Army (Retired), small business owner

Qualifications: I'm a husband, father, small business owner, and American soldier who has spent almost 29 years supporting and defending the constitution with service in Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, The Balkans and the Pentagon on 9/11.

Answers: 1. Extend the same tax exempt health insurance benefits to all people, not just those with employer provided coverage. Allow for coverage portability and purchase across state lines. Implement health savings accounts to encourage "best care for price" shopping by putting care and cost decisions back in the hands of doctors and patients

2. Achieving American energy independence by developing PA's coal and natural gas resources to include clean coal, coal to liquid fuel, and the development of coal fired electricity.