

## 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.

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

#### Democratic

**Steve O'Donnell**, 62, Monroeville [www.electodonnell.com](http://www.electodonnell.com)

**Education:** 1971, Duquesne University, B.S.; 1973, West University, M.S.

**Occupation:** Business owner

**Qualifications:** Navy veteran; 25 years Executive Director of non-profits serving children, adolescents, and adults with mental retardation; managing partner/owner of a private holding company for nine years

**Answers:** 1. We need a Universal Health Care plan that takes the profit motive away from the health care industry. The plan needs to be portable for all Americans and it should be a single payer entity. It would include the following services: in-patient/out-patient, prescription drugs, long-term care, chiropractic, substance abuse, dental, vision, and mental health services.

2. No reply

#### Republican

**Tim Murphy**, 55, Upper St. Clair [www.timmurphyforcongress.com](http://www.timmurphyforcongress.com)

**Education:** Ph.D., Psychology, University of Pittsburgh, 1979; M.A., Clinical Psychology, Cleveland State University, 1976; B.S. Psychology, Wheeling Jesuit University, 1974.

**Occupation:** U.S. Congressman (2002 - present)

**Qualifications:** As state senator (1996-2002) wrote PA's Patient Bill of Rights. In Congress, serves on Energy and Commerce committee. Co-Chair of both Congressional 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Care Caucus and the Congressional Mental Health Caucus. Psychologist Faculty, University of Pgh. School of Medicine.

**Answers: 1:** Our healthcare system is broken. Simply funding a broken system will not solve the problems that result in rising costs and lives lost. With more than \$400 billion in waste, redundancy, and errors in our healthcare system, it must be fixed as well as financed. Government must be a driving force for change and the system overhaul must include improving patient safety, eliminating infections, implementing disease management, electronic prescription and records technology, and integrated care.

2. Our economic crisis is directly linked to rising energy costs, threatening the security of families, jobs, the economy, and the nation. I helped to write a bipartisan, comprehensive national energy policy that will generate an economic boom; keep and create high-paying jobs in the local clean-coal, natural gas, and nuclear industries; and promote conservation and new energy technologies. This bill calls for exploring for US sources of oil, stopping the \$700 billion the US spends on OPEC and foreign oil, and using new revenues to fund the transition away from oil. Americans cannot afford more tax increases, more dependence on foreign oil, or more Wall Street messes. Energy independence will be the Apollo Project of our generation - creating jobs and reducing debt to foreign countries.