

LWV Voters Guide to Fall '08 General Election

Representative in the General Assembly

(Vote for one)

Term: 2 years

Salary: \$76,163

Duties: The General Assembly is the legislative branch of the state government. It is composed of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. A majority vote of both houses is necessary to pass a law. Every law concerned with taxation must originate in the House of Representatives.

Questions: 1. What should state government do to ensure that every Pennsylvanian has health insurance coverage?
2. What must be accomplished before you could support legislation to enable a merger between the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

25th State Legislative District

Democratic

Joseph F. Markosek, 58, Monroeville

www.markosek.com

Education: B.S., Notre Dame, 1972

Occupation: State Representative

Qualifications: 13 terms in office

Answers: 1. The PA House has passed a measure that will address the problem. No easy solution. Feds must take the lead.

2. No reply

Republican

No Candidate Filed

27th State Legislative District

Democratic

Daniel J. Deasy, Jr., 42, 28th Ward, Pittsburgh

www.dandeasy.org

Education: Canevin Catholic High School, University of Pittsburgh

Occupation: Pittsburgh City Councilman

Qualifications: As Councilman, I have developed a strong working relationship with Federal, State and County leaders. This experience will enable me to work collectively to better our region.

Answers: 1. I will work together with Federal legislators for a system that ensures coverage for all Pennsylvanians, but is sensitive to systems such as PACE and existing labor agreements. It is important to have healthcare, but we don't want to establish agreements that are detrimental to the labor force that has made Pennsylvania strong. It is my solemn oath to work hard on retrofitting this process to ensure existing coverage is considered.

2. my goals to accomplish this would be: 1.) Consolidation must demonstrate cost savings for residents of the region. 2.) There can be no interruption in level or quality of service. 3.) Con-census among elected leaders to support and grow the region.

Republican

Frank J. Liberatore, No reply

28th State Legislative District

Democratic

Brad Cline, 40, Gibsonia

brad@bradcline.com

Education: 1990, Carnegie Mellon, B.S.; 1998, University of Pittsburgh, MBA

Occupation: Project Manager

Qualifications: Richland Democratic Chair; Democratic State Committee; 18 years Pittsburgh business and technology community.

Answer 1. The state should create tax incentives for small businesses to cover their employees. Anyone not covered by their employer, those who are self employed and the unemployed should have tax credits available to reduce the cost of opting into the same coverage available to state government employees.

Answer 2. I want to see a plan with a detailed implementation process and thorough review of cost and service impacts to citizens of Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh. Most importantly, a plan to address the long term debt of the city must be detailed.

Republican

Mike Turzai, No reply

30th State Legislative District

Democratic

No Candidate Filed

Republican

Randy Vulakovich, No reply

32nd State Legislative District

Democratic

Anthony M. DeLuca, 64, Penn Hills

Education: Westinghouse High School, 1955; Community College of Allegheny County, Real Estate & Political Science

Occupation: State representative, 32nd District

Qualifications: Two years Government Study Commission Penn Hills; 61/2 years Penn Hills Council; 2 years Deputy Mayor; 25 years state representative serving on Appropriations, Labor, Consumer Affairs and Local Government Committees; Chairman of House Insurance Committee

Answers: 1. The state house passed in March a comprehensive approach in S.B. 1137 to cover and fund health insurance. Coverage for more than 250,000 uninsured Pennsylvanians. The PA ABC plan along with H.B. 2005 which will eliminate medical underwriting and provide a much fairer system of rating for underwriting small groups in a plan that is sustainable and doable.

2. We need to protect the integrity of the suburban communities by making sure that we have a plan to deal with the city's debt.

Republican

Joseph F. O'Connor, 66, Penn Hills

mickey062@verizon.net

Education: Allegheny Community College, Associate in Science, 1975 Penn Hills High School, Class of 1961

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: Concerned resident of the 32nd Legislative District who sees a need for reform in State government at all levels.

Answers: 1. Provide an environment that would assure healthcare providers and healthcare users will be able to provide and secure good, safe and affordable coverage's. This should be accomplished without any **NEW** taxes on the already overtaxed residents and property owners of this commonwealth.

2. A research committee should be formed, utilizing the existing Allegheny County COG's, to determine the benefits and disadvantages of such a merger. The committee should be given a time specific deadline for the formulation of their report to the legislature. All aspects of the local governments should be taken into consideration, with the overall benefit of the citizens their first consideration, and the politics of the local communities their least important consideration. "Government of the People and by the People"

33rd State Legislative District

Democratic

Frank Dermody, 57, Oakmont

Education: B.A., Columbia University, New York, NY; J.D., Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana

Occupation: State Representative

Qualifications: Former Assistant District Attorney, Allegheny County; former District Justice, Oakmont and Verona; former Legal Advisor, Allegheny County District Justices; Chairman, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing

Answers: 1. I support Governor Rendell's plan to make affordable health insurance available to all Pennsylvanians by utilizing the surplus in the Medical Malpractice Fund to subsidize health insurance for employees of small business and uninsured individuals.

2. There must be a plan to deal with the city's debt and protect the integrity of suburban communities.

Republican

Jason Davidek, 29, Fawn

www.jasondavidek.com

Education: 2003, Pennsylvania State University, B.A.

Occupation: Public Relations/Communications

Qualifications: Serving in 5th year as a township supervisor in Fawn Township. Elected by colleagues to serve on the Board of Directors of the Allegheny Valley Council of Governments and the Allegheny County Association of Township Officials.

Answers: 1. Access to health care begins with creating and sustaining good jobs. In the Allegheny Valley, we have been affected by a declining job base, and job creation is an important focus of my campaign. Additionally, Pennsylvania State Representatives do not pay anything for healthcare. If elected, I will commit to pay for a portion of my healthcare and will support such legislation so that legislators understand the burdens placed on their constituents.

2. Currently, there are no restrictions that limit intergovernmental cooperation between municipalities with regard to streamlining services. County and city officials need to take responsibility to show effective cost savings for taxpayers before asking for a formal merger. As a township supervisor, my colleagues and I in the Allegheny Valley have exercised fiscal responsibility for many years. We cannot be asked to enter into a city county merger without proof that the city and county will also be committed to fiscal discipline. To date, a clear plan has yet to emerge regarding how debt would be handled. Responsible citizens in the Allegheny Valley cannot shoulder debt stemming from years of city government inefficiency.