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.

34th State Legislative District

Democratic

Paul Costa, No reply

Republican

No Candidate Filed

35th State Legislative District

Democratic

Marc J. Gergely, No reply

Republican

No Candidate Filed

Libertarian

David Posipanka, No reply

36th State Legislative District

Democratic

Harry Readshaw, 67, 29th Ward, Pittsburgh

Education: Duquesne University; Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science

Occupation: Representative, General Assembly

Qualifications: Owner of business (Funeral Home) and 7 terms as an elected official as a member of the PA General Assembly (Representative)

Answers: 1. The plan for health insurance has been defined by Gov. Ed Rendell and has been and continues to be under consideration. So, there exists a plan but the controversy is how do we pay for it. The Governor will need 102 votes in the House of Representatives and 26 votes in the Senate to make the plan law. This is a difficult consideration and hopefully it will be resolved.

2. Obviously, the first hurdle will be for county and city governments to agree on a plan that is workable. After they have a work product I will make a decision.

Republican

No Candidate Filed

38th State Legislative District

Democratic

Bill Kortz, 53, Dravosburg www.billkortz.com

Education: 1977, Indiana University of PA, B.A.

Occupation: State Representative, 38th District

Qualifications: I have worked the last 13 months as the State Representative after winning 2006 General Election. Prior to that I worked approx. 30 years as a manager with U.S. Steel Corporation. I bring a vast amount of real world experience and managerial expertise to this forum.

Answers: 1. The House of Representatives passed PA Adult Basic Care (PA ABC). That bill will insure an additional 260,000 Pennsylvanians currently uninsured. The Bill is now stalled in the Senate. This must get passed if we are to make progress.

2. Several issues must be addressed: 1.) The debt burden of the City's Pension Fund is staggering. The city cannot burden surrounding municipalities with this debt. 2.) The tax millage varies greatly and cannot negatively impact surrounding communities. 3.) The municipalities must have a voluntary option to join or not in the consolidation.

Republican

Daniel Davis, 44, West Mifflin www.dandavis38.com

Education: Central Catholic High School-1982, The Ohio State University - BS Biology-1986

Occupation: Environmental Project Manager - L. Robert Kimball & Assoc. Inc.

Qualifications: No reply

AnswerS: 1. Build better alliances with health care providers while reviewing insurance costs to enable a more affordable choice for the citizens of this state.

2. That the needs of each municipality are addressed. Merger between the City and County with regards to police, EMS, fire or other overlapping services should move forward. How the governing body will function upon this merger is of great concern.

39th State Senatorial District

Democratic

David Levdansky, 54, Forward Twp.

Education: Elizabeth-Forward High School; Penn State, B.A. Political Science and B.A. Labor Studies, 1978; University of Notre Dame, M.A. Economics, 1980

Occupation: State Legislator

Qualifications: Chairman, House Finance Committee; member of Environmental Resources and Energy; Game and Fisheries; Treasurer, Legislative Budget and Finance Committee; Democratic Policy; Reform Caucus, Campaign Finance Reform Co-chair.

Answers: 1. I voted for our House Democrat plan that builds on AdultBasic and adds coverage for behavioral health and prescription drugs. The plan would subsidize insurance for low-income uninsured people ages 19 to 64 and make low-cost insurance available for people with incomes above the subsidized eligibility threshold. Small businesses could participate in the program and those that already offer health insurance for employees would receive grants to help offset insurance costs.

2. No reply

Republican

No Candidate Filed