

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.

40th State Legislative District

Democratic

No Candidate Filed

Republican

John Maher, 49, Upper St. Clair

repjohnmaher@aol.com

Education: Duke University, A.B., magna cum laude; Oxford University, scholarship studies; Australian Graduate School of Management, fellowship studies

Occupation: Legislator/CPA

Qualifications: 20 plus years of real-world experience as CPA and founder of successful business. Legislator since 1997 known for fiscal conservatism and initiatives to improve government accountability.

Answer: 1. Pennsylvania has among the lowest rate of uninsured in the nation. (Better, oddly enough, than states that have so-called universal coverage.) Let's build on this success-not tear it down! Compelling the administration to enroll children eligible for CHIP who still lack coverage will improve the rate further. Allowing ALL small businesses to deduct health insurance will help make it affordable. Reducing state obstruction of health insurance competition would make considerably more affordable options available.

2. Enormous opportunities for streamlining local government exist in Allegheny County. Under current law, the city and county already have state permission to enter into cooperative agreements to merge efforts that can enhance service and control costs. Proceeding to the extent allowed already will blaze the path toward merger-or not

42nd State Legislative District

Democratic

Matt Smith, 36, Mt. Lebanon

www.votemattsmith.com

Education: 1991, Bethel Park High School 1995; Rollins College, B.A.; 1999, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: State Representative

Qualifications: I served as a small business attorney in the area of employment law for 7 years. Over the last two years in the General Assembly, I have fought aggressively for reform measures such as reducing the size of the Legislature.

Answers: 1. There are many actions that state government can take to expand access to affordable health insurance. First, it can build upon the work done previously on lowering the cost of health care via reduction in hospital acquired infections and other preventable conditions. Also, the state can address chronic conditions such as diabetes in a comprehensive manner. In addition, allowing small businesses and individuals to form pools to purchase health insurance will increase access and lower costs.

2. I am always in favor of exploring ways to make any governmental entity more efficient. I believe that a starting point of any proposed discussion of a merger between the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County is to ensure that the pension and debt liability of the City remains with the City and is not transferred to the rest of Allegheny County.

Republican

Jim Blazeck, No reply

44th State Legislative District

Democratic

Ayanna M. Lee, No reply

Republican

Mark Mustio, 51, Moon Township www.markmustio.com

Education: 1979, Grove City College, B.A. in Business Administration.

Occupation: Member PA House of Representatives, President HHM Insurors

Qualifications: Member since 2003. Served on Labor Relations, Professional Licensure, Liquor, Gaming, Oversight and Aging Committees. Served on committee to oversee the City of Pittsburgh and the future of our airport.

Answers: 1. I had legislation to do this but the Democrat leadership in the house would not “run” it. The bill would have provided tax incentives, expanded AdultBasic and utilized government matching funds. In addition hospitals would have improved their delivery system by the use of technology. Infections would be reduced and the cost of healthcare would be reduced. More information would be available to the consumer to make a choice.

2. The City and the County already have the ability to merge services. They need to do that and eliminate their debt first before any merger legislation would be considered.

45th State Legislative District

Democratic

Nick Kotik, 57, Robinson Twp

Education: 1972, B.A. Public Administration, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Occupation: State Representative, 45th District

Qualifications: I am completing my 6th year in office; worked for my predecessor as Chief District Office Legislative Asst. for 13.5 years; served 2 years as Township Manager of Robinson Twp.

Answers: 1. We are working together in a bi-partisan fashion to craft a plan that will cover the uninsured in Pennsylvania. We have expanded the scope of practice for many healthcare professionals enabling more access in previous underserved areas of the Commonwealth.

2. No reply

Republican

No Candidate Filed

46th State Legislative District

Democratic

Jesse White, 29, Cecil Twp., Washington County www.supportjesse.com

Education: 2000, Washington and Jefferson College, B.S.; 2003, Duquesne University School of Law, Juris Doctor

Occupation: Attorney-at-Law and State Representative

Qualifications: Cecil Township Supervisor, 2003-04; Cecil Township Board of Auditors, 2005-06; State Representative, 46th District of PA, 2006-Present

Answers: 1. The question itself is troublesome, because we've been conditioned to believe that the only way to access health care is through health insurance. We need to stop allowing health insurance companies to dictate who gets treatment and who doesn't. Switching to a single-payer system merits serious consideration. We also need to increase our focus on preventative care, so that patients can get help to address problems before their conditions become much more serious and costly.

2. No reply

Republican

Frank Yuvan, No reply