

Vote411 Voters' Mini-Guide

General Election November 8, 2022

Pennsylvania US Senator

All registered Pennsylvania voters may vote in this **statewide** race.

This Voters' Mini-Guide is an excerpt of the Vote411.org online Voters' Guide -- a project of the League of Women Voters. All information in Vote411 Voters' Guides is submitted by the candidates and has not been edited or altered in any way.



To vote in this election, you must register by October 24, 2022.

Description of office: The US Constitution prescribes that the Senate be composed of 100 members (two Senators from each state). One third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every two years. Senators must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years and be a resident of the State from which s/he is chosen at the time of the election. Senators write and vote in favor of or against final bills and serve on various policy committees. The Senate has several exclusive powers not granted to the House, including advice/consent on presidential nominations and treaties and conducting the trial of federal officials impeached by the House.

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$174,000

John Fetterman

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania

Education: Albright College, B.S. 1991 University of Connecticut., M.B.A. 1993
Harvard University Kennedy School, M.P.P. 1999

Qualifications: Risk-Management Insurance Underwriter, Chubb & Son
1993-1994 Member, AmeriCorps 1995-1997 Program Coordinator, Braddock
Out-Of-School Youth 2001-2007 Founder & President, Braddock Redux
2003-2017 Mayor of the Borough of Braddock, 2006-2019 Lieutenant Governor
of Pennsylvania, 2019-Presen



Campaign Website: <http://johnfetterman.com/>

Campaign Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/JohnFettermanPA>

Campaign Twitter URL: <http://twitter.com/JohnFetterman>

Link to position on abortion:

<http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/2022/07/01/naral-pro-choice-america-endorses-john-fetterman-for-u-s-senate-in-pennsylvania/>

Questions:

Q: What issue(s) would you prioritize, and how would you work with others in government to get legislation passed and signed into law?

A: Among my top issues are tackling income inequality and economic injustices; raising wages and benefits for working families; reforming the criminal justice system; codifying Roe v. Wade into federal law; passing anti-discrimination protections for the LGBTQ+ community; protecting and expanding the right to vote; and protecting and expanding the union way of life.

Q: What will you do in office to ensure all eligible voters have equal access to free and fair elections?

A: I would strongly support legislation in Congress, such as the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, the For the People Act, and the Freedom to Vote Act, which aim to expand voting rights. It is important that we make it easier for people to vote, eliminate dark money in politics, and knock down restrictions that marginalize voters, mostly voters of color. I would proudly eliminate the filibuster to do it. In the aftermath of the 2020 elections, I was removed from the floor of the PA state Senate after resisting Republican efforts to refuse to seat Senator Jim Brewster after he fairly won his election. We must enshrine the right to vote into federal law to stop Republicans from undermining it, and as Senator I will do everything to make that happen.

Q: What measures, regulations, or acts, if any, would you support to mitigate climate change?

A: Climate change is an existential threat, and we need to transition to clean energy as quickly as possible. I have never taken a dime from the fossil fuel industry, and I never will. It's a totally false choice that we have to choose between jobs and a clean environment. We can have both, that's why I am always going to fight for creating thousands upon thousands of good-paying green union jobs as we transition, all while increasing our energy independence. My plan for the transition to clean energy starts with immediate investments into research and development and innovation; expanding renewable energy sources; and ensuring clean transportation infrastructure; and investing in environmental justice measures.

Q: How do you view the role of the US in responding to challenges facing the international community?

A: I am very happy that President Biden is rebuilding the US's standing in the international community after former President Trump damaged it so much. As a world leader, America must first and foremost ensure proper diplomatic relations, protect its allies, and engage in vigorous diplomacy across the globe. In addition, where there is a need, and to the extent that we can, America must help. That includes accepting refugees fleeing war in their countries, or providing humanitarian aid, military aid, and other support to countries like Ukraine that are defending themselves from attacks on their sovereignty by brutal dictators like Putin.

Mehmet Oz

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

This Candidate Did Not Respond.

No Photo
Submitted

Questions:

Q: What issue(s) would you prioritize, and how would you work with others in government to get legislation passed and signed into law?

A: - no response -

Q: What will you do in office to ensure all eligible voters have equal access to free and fair elections?

A: - no response -

Q: What measures, regulations, or acts, if any, would you support to mitigate climate change?

A: - no response -

Q: How do you view the role of the US in responding to challenges facing the international community?

A: - no response -

Erik Gerhardt

Party: Libertarian

Biographical Info:

Occupation: master carpenter

Education: high school diploma

Campaign Website: <http://erik4pa.com>

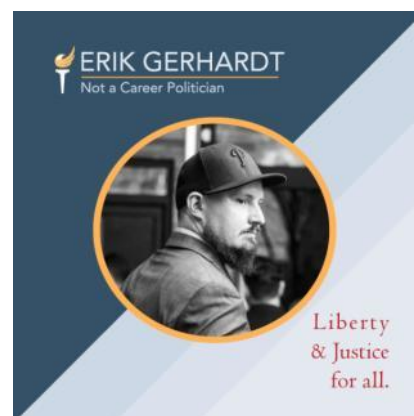
Campaign Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/erik4pa>

Campaign Twitter URL:

<http://twitter.com/erik4senate?t=S4tVUuPbGdYSknEZDoWQ&s=09h>

Link to position on abortion:

<http://twitter.com/erik4Senate/status/1555299114857938946?s=19>



Questions:

Q: What issue(s) would you prioritize, and how would you work with others in government to get legislation passed and signed into law?

A: the economy is my main issue. i would like to build small business incentives to grow the small business industry. i will work with both sides to accommodate my plans and start a true tri-partisan way forward.

Q: What will you do in office to ensure all eligible voters have equal access to free and fair elections?

A: i will back legislation that makes id for voting and add in blockchain technologies to secure elections.

Q: What measures, regulations, or acts, if any, would you support to mitigate climate change?

A: i will not support bills that move away from free market capitalism

Q: How do you view the role of the US in responding to challenges facing the international community?

A: we need to renegotiate nato or flat out leave it as it serves no purpose.

Richard L. Weiss

Party: Green

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Lawyer

Education: B.A. University of Pittsburgh; J.D. University of Denver; LL.M. American University; M.B.A. University of Chicago

Qualifications: I am born and raised in Pennsylvania. My parents owned Weiss Bakery in the Brentwood boro of Pittsburgh. My first job as an attorney was for the federal government in the General Counsel's Office of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, D.C. and I have worked overseas

Campaign Website: <http://greenslate2022.com>

Campaign Facebook URL: <http://www.facebook.com/richard.weiss.1485537>

Campaign Twitter URL: <http://twitter.com/RichardLWeiss>

Link to position on abortion: <http://ivoterguide.com/candidate?elecK=778&raceK=11199&canK=56347&>



Questions:

Q: What issue(s) would you prioritize, and how would you work with others in government to get legislation passed and signed into law?

A: The Covid-19 pandemic underlines the need for universal healthcare. Many who lose their job cannot afford to maintain their health insurance. In the modern gig economy, many do not receive health insurance through their employer. They may face the choice of paying for rent or healthcare, but not both. Current health insurance has too many deductibles, copays and limitations on coverage. Employers who provide healthcare will benefit from Medicare for All by having costs reduced. Employers who do not provide healthcare will benefit from Medicare for All by having healthier workers. Medicare for All costs less for better care. Also, Ranked Choice Voting eliminates any so-called "spoiler effect." See [ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice_voting_\(RCV\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice_voting_(RCV)).

Q: What will you do in office to ensure all eligible voters have equal access to free and fair elections?

A: Every citizen should be registered to vote at birth or be allowed to register on the spot at the polling station. If they do not have photo ID then there should be a fingerprint reader available and they should be allowed to vote after giving their fingerprint. The fingerprint readers can be connected nationwide and eliminate any chance of double voting. They should be allowed to vote first and any objections they are not entitled to vote could be filed after they vote first. Voting by mail should be allowed. Make Election Day a holiday. Paper ballots. Hand marked. On camera. The hand count on camera is the official count. Ballots on camera from the time they enter the polling place as blanks to the time they're completely counted.

Q: What measures, regulations, or acts, if any, would you support to mitigate climate change?

A: The latest UN report on climate change underscores the need to immediately make all efforts to stop emissions of greenhouse gases. This can be accomplished through a "just transition" to renewable energy that provides jobs, and does not cause cancer like mining and burning fossil fuels. The technology exists today. All we need to do is implement it. The first step is to halt fracking which is ruining the water and health of Pennsylvania. Fossil fuels provide fewer jobs which are temporary, produce more expensive energy, leave behind environmental disasters and cause cancer. Renewable energy provides more and permanent jobs, produces cheaper energy, preserves the environment and doesn't cause cancer. Cancer is a high tax to pay.

Q: How do you view the role of the US in responding to challenges facing the international community?

A: Negotiate peace in Ukraine, reduce overseas bases to pre-9/11 levels, bring troops home and spend that money at home. Climate change is the greatest national security threat. We should not be afraid of China and engage with them on an equal basis to reduce tensions. Stop funding terrorists and pass the Stop Arming Terrorists bill proposed by Tulsi Gabbard. The U.S. promoted radical Islamic fundamentalism in Afghanistan to fight against Russia, which was a violation of American values. Freedom of contract is a fundamental Constitutional right including the right not to purchase, i.e. boycott. Create a Palestinian state. End U.S. support for the war in Yemen. Transition to renewable energy as quickly as possible. www.GP.org/platform.

Daniel Wassmer

Party: Keystone

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Attorney / College Professor

Education: BA, MBA, JD

Qualifications: Former appointee to the DRJTBC, Assistant County Solicitor; Lecturer on Law, Government and International Business issues.

Campaign Website: <http://www.wassmer4pa.com>

Campaign Facebook URL:

<http://www.facebook.com/Wassmer4USenate>

Campaign Twitter URL: <http://www.twitter.com/4wassmer>

Link to position on abortion:

<http://www.wassmer4pa.com/about---my-positions>



Questions:

Q: What issue(s) would you prioritize, and how would you work with others in government to get legislation passed and signed into law?

A: To list all of my major concerns would be virtually impossible nevertheless there are numerous issues that I have detailed on my website. Each is quite important to me. Simply prioritizing one over the other minimizes the importance and impact of a number of very important issues. So for the sake of avoiding a declaration that I am specifically focused on one issue as opposed to a variety of interrelated issues seems more appropriate to my approach. To deal with the plethora of issues I would have to work with other like minded individuals and extend invitations to all who would be inclined to participate. Please visit my website to read more exacting responses to each inquiry in this questionnaire.

Q: What will you do in office to ensure all eligible voters have equal access to free and fair elections?

A: Suppressive behavior, long a problem in the US generally starts with a variety of fully constructed problems by the two major political parties. This has actually created an atmosphere ripe for "losers" to disparage results and seek to "mob"ilize any ideologue who will listen! The sad state of buying into the perception that any particular candidate is somehow their sole acting "savior" and the opponent is actually the "enemy" of democracy absolutely undermines the ideals we as US citizens ought to be striving for. Unfortunately both parties play this dangerous game and for quite some time have done so in a concerted fashion. To resolve "voting impediments" we need to have an honest discussion and create ease of access for voters.

Q: What measures, regulations, or acts, if any, would you support to mitigate climate change?

A: First we need a dialogue to convince even former environmental science majors such as myself that we actually are dealing with a real problem. As a student at one of the first "environmental science" universities in the US I was handed a theoretical paper known as the "Global 2000 report". The report commissioned by the Carter administration had one of the first references to the theories of "acid rain" as well as "global warming". For almost 40 years I have followed "the science" (empirical data) via actual reliable sources including: NASA, NOAA, various colleges and university studies and have asked pertinent questions related to this issue. To date these have not been satisfactorily answered. Remedies should not be potential harms.

Q: How do you view the role of the US in responding to challenges facing the international community?

A: I have listened to and follow the guidance of University of Chicago International policy Professor John Joseph Mearsheimer. Mearsheimer takes a realist view of international policy. While the US plays an important role in international leadership we also need to disconnect from having our international policy guided by the military industrial complex which often times pushes policy in the direction of improper interventionist fiascos. In addition I would note that a role of the US senate is to be engaged in advising and consenting to US treaties. I remain appalled at the leadership of both the republican and democratic parties at sidestepping those checks and balances and merely ruling by proclamation in the field of treaty making, etc..