

WE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh

Volume 27, No. 7

April 2021

PROGRAM by Cris Beuger, Program Chair



This month will be a very busy month for the League so mark your calendars accordingly and plan to participate! To celebrate Earth Day, we will be participating in Mt. Lebanon's Virtual Earth Day 2021 by hosting a virtual table promoting environment and voter registration/education material. The event will begin at noon on April 22, 2021 on their YouTube Channel, which will be available to the public in perpetuity to view educational and inspirational information provided by all the vendors, artists and nonprofit organizations.

Our virtual April meeting, Tuesday April 27, 7pm, will focus on the upcoming primary election to fill 9 seats on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas with 39 candidates running. For Allegheny County voters, the sheer number of candidates makes it overwhelming in educating ourselves on who would be the most qualified candidates for the bench and therefore, overwhelming when voting on May 18. But, our event, "How to Evaluate Judicial Candidates" will help voters make an informed decision. Caroline Mitchell, 35-year practicing attorney, and Heather Heidelbaugh, 36-year practicing attorney and her party's nominee for PA Attorney General in 2020, have both served on the Bar Association Judicial Committee that decides the "Bar Association Rating" assigned to Judicial candidates in the past. This event will be open to the public and will be recorded and posted on our media platforms. This educational event is beneficial to all voters across the county so please share the promotional materials, to be provided, widely to your family/friends, organizations and contacts.

Lastly, our League will join the National League along with other local and state Leagues for the April 29, 2021 "People Powered Day of Action." We will be hosting an event on that day to increase public awareness about and engagement in the redistricting process to ensure public input on how our maps are drawn. This event is still in the planning stage, more details to follow in the Blast. If you are interested in helping plan this coordinated event, please join our planning committee by contacting me at program@lwvpgh.org.

NEW MEMBERS

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Rod Elder
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CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SPRING AND ELECTIONS GO TOGETHER



As I write this, I am almost convinced that Spring is here, but since I've been fooled before by late March and early April snowstorms, I'm also skeptical. Here's hoping that won't happen again.

Spring in Pennsylvania means election season is once again upon us. And, even though it's an "off-year" election (is there really such a thing?), LWVPGH is as busy as ever setting up candidate forums, providing voter-information to hundreds of people, asking candidates to respond to Vote411.org so voters will know where they stand on a number of issues, and generally reminding people that Democracy takes work.

Right now I'm hearing two things from my friends and neighbors – where can you find a Covid shot and how can we sort through all the judicial candidates who will be on the Primary ballot? I can't help much with the former, but I can point you to some help on the latter issue.

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts along with several other organizations, including LWVPA had a great program where they asked questions of the four candidates for State Supreme Court – Judge Kevin Brobson, Judge Maria McLaughlin, Judge Patricia McCullough and Judge Paula Patrick. They plan more forums with judicial candidates in April. Check out their website for more information [here](#).

While most of us are hoping that the worst aspects of

Covid-19 are behind us, at least for Primary season, LWVPGH will still continue to use our Zoom capabilities to conduct much of our business. That includes candidate forums, LWVPGH meetings and special programs.

One of the important upcoming events in April is the call by LWVUS for a National Day of Action on April 29 focused on People Powered Fair Maps. Although this is a national event, it's particularly pertinent in PA as we continue to advocate for meaningful redistricting reform in the form of the LACRA (Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Acts, HB22 and SB222). The event on the 29th is one where we can partner with the many FDPA volunteers in our area. Whether this will be via Zoom or perhaps some socially distanced outdoor occasion is still a question. We'd really like to make this a showcase experience to call some media attention to the redistricting process. So, if you'd like to help plan and organize a special Pittsburgh event, please contact either Cris Beuger or me.

On the good news front, all the changes we made last year going from in-person to digital engagement with voters provided the impetus to approach different Pittsburgh groups for partnering and support. Most recently, LWVPGH received a \$7,000 grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation to help finance and expand our efforts. As our Development Chair, Nancy Naragon, wrote in the proposal, "Our goal is to encourage and maintain a high level of meaningful citizen engagement . . ." and to establish lasting good government practices. In practice, we hope that means our ability to expand our efforts to reach underserved communities. League members have already started by producing 1200 "Ready, Set, Vote" door hanger bags to be distributed within the Pittsburgh region. Congratulations to Nancy and all the League members who contributed to the grant effort!

Wishing everyone a lovely Spring and great Election season.

Maureen Grosheider

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National	202-429-1965	lwv.org	
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Your Board in Action – A Board Meeting on Zoom



Standing Meetings

Board Meetings

- ✓ **Second Monday** of the month. Lunch at 11:30 a.m., at Einstein Bagels in the Koppers Building. Meeting: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the LWVGP CIC (office) conference room at 436 Seventh Ave., Suite 350

Local Area Unit Meetings

- ✓ **Pittsburgh Central:** 2nd Friday, 1:30 p.m. at the Squirrel Hill Public Library, 5801 Forbes Ave., Pgh. PA 15217. Contact Martha Raak at 412-477-7572 or marbiker1@gmail.com
- ✓ **North Hills:** 3rd Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. at St Paul's Methodist Church at 1965 Ferguson Road in Hampton. Contact Nancy Mott at 412-779-3089 or namott001@gmail.com
- ✓ **South Hills:** 1st Thursday, 12:30 p.m. at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pgh, PA 15228 (unless otherwise announced). Contact Maureen Mamula at 412-760-9642 or mamula159@hotmail.com

Other Ongoing Meetings

- ✓ **Education Committee**
4th Wednesday, 1 pm. Contact Phyllis Dreyfuss, 412-808-6028, lpdrey@verizon.net.
- ✓ **Voter Service Committee**
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 12:30 pm. Contact Judy Clack at 512-731-0280 or voterservice@lwvpgh.org.
- ✓ **Gun Safety Committee**
Dates TBD. Contact Nancy Naragon at 412-366-2446 or development@lwvpgh.org
- ✓ **Non-fiction Book Club**
3rd Friday, 10:15 am. Contact Joan Cucinotta, 412-708-2335 or joancucinotta@gmail.com

APRIL-MAY CALENDAR

April

6 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30-2:30 PM by videoconference
8 Thu	Pittsburgh Mayoral Forum #1, 7-8:30 PM, on Zoom
12 Mon	Board meeting by Zoom, 12:30 PM
16 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, 10:15 AM, Location TBA
20 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30-2:30 PM by videoconference
22 Thu	Virtual table at Mt. Lebanon's Virtual Earth Day 2021
27 Tue	Virtual meeting, "How to Evaluate Judicial Candidates" - 7 PM
28 Fri	Education Committee Meeting, 1:00 PM
28 Fri	Pittsburgh Mayoral Forum #2, 7-8 PM live on WTAE-TV
29 Sat	"People Powered Day of Action" event - details to come, see Blast

May

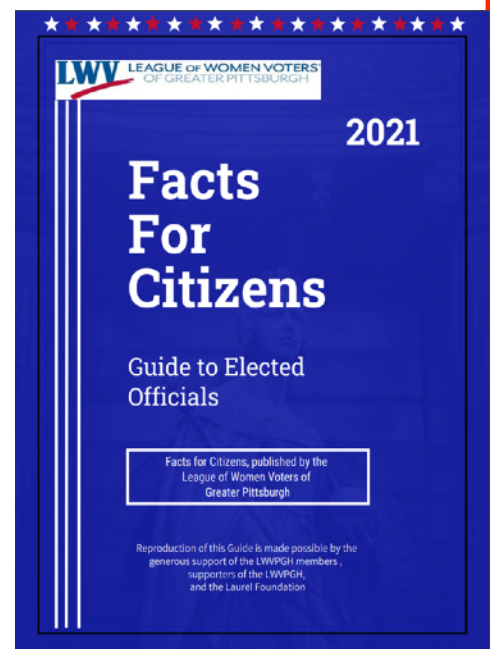
4 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30-2:30 PM by videoconference
4 Tue	Mt. Lebanon School Board Forum, 7-8:30 PM, on Zoom
10 Mon	Board meeting by Zoom, 12:30 PM
21 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, 10:15 AM
26 Wed	Education Committee Meeting, 1:00 PM

The 2021 edition of "**Facts For Citizens**" is NOW available in **DIGITAL format!**

"Facts for Citizens" is a directory of election information and government officials for residents of Allegheny County. It contains:

- **contact information** for key officials in National, State, County, and City of Pittsburgh government,
- **election dates and information for 2021**, and
- **live links to PA voter registration and voter service forms.**

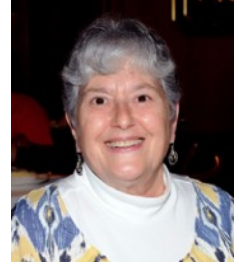
Just **CLICK ON** www.lwvpgh.org/ffc to view, download or share your directory.



VOTER SERVICE by Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair

Candidate Forums

The LWVPGH Voter Service Committee is planning to hold multiple virtual candidate forums before the 2021 Primary Election on Tuesday, May 18. Three forums are set, four are in the planning stages, and two others may be organized. We can use more members to help in the planning and executing processes. Email Judy Clack at voterservice@lwvpgh.org to get on the email list for virtual meetings.



Three confirmed candidate forums:

Thurs. April 8, 7 – 8:30 pm, Pittsburgh Mayoral Forum # 1, with candidates Mayor Bill Peduto, State Representative Ed Gainey, Tony Moreno, and Michael Thompson, broadcast live on Zoom, available thereafter on LWVPGH Facebook and YouTube pages, organized by Pittsburgh United with the LWVPGH and co-sponsors: 1Hood, Alliance for Police Accountability, Bend the Arc Pittsburgh, Black Political Empowerment Project, Casa San Jose, Group Against Smog and Pollution, Homewood Concerned Citizens Council, Just Harvest, Kingsley Association, Lawrenceville United, League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network, Pittsburghers for Public Transit, PittVotes, Sierra Club, UrbanKind, and Women for a Healthy Environment. Questions regarding three main topics will be asked: Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, and Housing Justice. Register here to be sent the Zoom link to watch the event live: bit.ly/PghMayor21.

Wed. April 28, 7 - 8 pm, Pittsburgh Mayoral Forum # 2, recorded live by WTAE-TV, broadcast in its entirety on April 28 on WTAE, co-sponsored by WTAE and LWVPGH.

Tues. May 4, 7 – 8:30 pm, Mt. Lebanon School Board Forum, broadcast live on Zoom, available thereafter on LWVPGH Facebook and YouTube pages, co-sponsored by Mt. Lebanon Library, LWVPGH, and the Denis Theatre Foundation. Registration for live broadcast TBA.

Four – six in the planning stages:

We have begun planning for four of these six forums. Each will be recorded on the LWVPGH Zoom account and released in its entirety on the LWVPGH Facebook and YouTube pages. Use these links to find our Facebook and YouTube pages: <https://www.facebook.com/lwvpgh> or <https://www.youtube.com/c/lwvpgh>. You do not need an account to see them. In short, **just type in “LWVPGH”** and the page will load!

1. **Fox Chapel Area School Board**, sponsored by LWVPGH
2. **Magistrate Judge 05-3-04** covering Aspinwall, Fox Chapel Borough, Indiana and O'Hara. Co-sponsored by LWVPGH and Fox Chapel Area High School AP US History Classes.
3. **Plum School Board Forum** sponsored by LWVPGH.
4. **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas Judge** (Multiple Candidate Forums) to feature the 39 candidates for the 9 open judicial positions, sponsored by LWVPGH. (These forums will be recorded and released simultaneously on the LWVPGH Facebook and YouTube pages.)
5. **Allegheny County Sheriff**
6. **Pittsburgh School Board Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.**

Voter Service Meetings

From March until the May 18 Primary, the **Voter Service Committee will meet at least twice a month** to prepare for a series of Primary Candidate forums and provide voter information to the public. Dates are Tuesdays March 30, April 6, April 20, and May 4 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm. Also, various subcommittees will continue to meet on their own schedules. Contact Judy Clack, voterservice@lwvpgh.org, to receive agendas and Zoom invitations.

Continued next page

Listening across the Aisle: Skills for Bridging the Divide

The LWVPGH is one of six co-sponsoring organizations for an online workshop “Skills for Bridging the Divide, Monday, April 19, 7-9 pm. To register, click on this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skills-for-bridging-the-divide-hybrid-registration-147665486445>

Our country has become increasingly polarized over political issues recently. This FREE workshop will teach you strategies for both listening and speaking with people who have differing political opinions – but not to try to change anyone's mind. You will learn and practice skills for having respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of meaningful dialogue. Come to learn new skills (or reinforce existing skills) and practice in a comfortable, low-stakes environment. This workshop is being facilitated by the national organization, Braver Angels, <https://braverangels.org/>. It is open to anyone interested in having better conversations with people on the other side (or the same side!) of the political aisle.

This is a two-part workshop combining an online eLearning course and an online, interactive workshop offered over Zoom. Part one consists of a 40-minute, interactive course which you must complete online before the workshop. Part two is practicing what you've learned in the 90-minute, online live workshop. You will practice the listening and speaking skills in a pair with someone of your own political persuasion—red or blue. “Reds” lean conservative and tend to vote Republican. “Blues” lean liberal and tend to vote Democratic. If you fall somewhere in the middle, you can choose a side for purposes of practicing the skills.

This Braver Angels project is built on these words from Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865: “*With malice toward none, with charity for all...*”

See this page: <https://braverangels.org/what-we-do/with-malice-toward-none/>.



NEWS FROM NATIONAL from Carol Walton

Late in February, **LWVUS** joined a broad coalition of organizations filing an amicus brief in support of plaintiffs in three U.S. Supreme Court cases challenging the imposition of work requirements on Medicaid recipients.

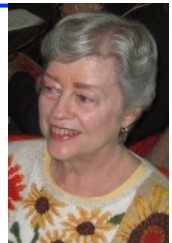
States can request waivers to test new approaches to Medicaid; Arkansas and New Hampshire have received permission to impose work requirements for receiving Medicaid benefits.

Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, LWVUS President, stated, “The data show that Medicaid work requirements severely harm women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals. The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear the cruelty of tying essential social benefits to employment. This must change.”

Your action is being requested by **LWVUS** to encourage your Senators to support the “For the People Act” (S11). This legislation will put power back into the hands of American voters by making voting easier and more accessible and by modernizing future elections. It will restore the Voting Rights Act, modernize the voter registration system, restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated individuals, curb partisan gerrymandering, and make campaign contributions more transparent. The House has already passed the “For the People Act.”

You can take action by going to the LWVUS website (lww.org) and clicking on the link to “For the People Act.”

The LWVUS website also offers two opportunities to sign petitions on issues of priority to the League: statehood for Washington, D.C. and stopping voter suppression.



Air Quality – Again! by Annette Shimer

“Action in support of effective air pollution control and stronger enforcement capabilities in Allegheny County ...” from the LWVPGH Air Quality position

Zooming this week, the Allegheny County Health Department held a public hearing on a number of air quality permits. Among them were draft installation permits for U.S. Steel’s cogeneration plan, PEC Baghouse replacement and Endless Casting and Rolling facility.

While GASP submitted formal technical comments, another two dozen individuals living in Clairton, Squirrel Hill to the North Hills testified as to the job killing and health effects of the on-going stream of manganese and benzene coming from the Edgar Thompson plant and the Clairton Coke Works.



“Anyone who uses the Smell Pittsburgh smart phone app knows that most of the time this pollution flows north to Pittsburgh and makes the place where good jobs and new businesses want to be, stink of rotten eggs. Before you grant these permits, make US Steel **spend real money** to invest in these plants, make them comply with the **strongest air pollution standards** and enable clean, breathable air everywhere in the region so that we can attract the investment and people who want to be here, but won't come until they can breathe safe, healthy air.” [Statement from Preston Shimer 3/15/21]

What is US Steel really up to? Previous promised improvements from US Steel touted its commitment to major facility upgrades, “during US Steel’s quarterly earnings call this past January, the company suggested at least the Cogen and ECR projects will be on hold for a time. “ [Rachel Flippini, Executive Director of GASP]

Here is a new resource that shows you on a map where bad air is coming from and where it is blowing. We think you will be fascinated. Click this link: <https://plumepgh.org/index.html?date=2021-03-10>.

BOOK CLUB REPORT by Joan Cucinotta

Another classic LWV Club Meeting, and a quote from Montaigne in the book we just discussed, *The Genius of Birds*, describes this group well: we “rub and polish our brain by contact with those of others.”

Our next reading is *The System: Who Rigged it, How We Fix It* by Robert B. Reich. Our Carnegie library has several copies, but only five seem to be available at this writing. The ebook is also currently unavailable. A copy from Amazon is \$12. It’s also available on Audible.

Our next meeting is on April 16 with the location TBA. If it is fine weather, we may meet in the park shelter, or perhaps in Norma’s meeting room, or perhaps still by Zoom. More info as the date draws near.

Here are the items we also wanted to share with each other following our discussion of birds that lead to climate change and then to domestic terrorism:

- RGGI – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for PA and nearby states to cap and reduce CO2 emissions from the power sector. <https://www.rggi.org/>
- A list of environmental organizations newer than the Sierra Club: Climate Reality, 350Pittsburgh, GASP, Breathe Collaborative, Pittsburgh Against Single Use Plastic (PASUP), PennEnvironment, and PennFuture
- An article which unearths a missing piece of research on the health impacts of fracking <https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/report-shows-natural-gas-fracking-didnt-produce-promised-jobs-to-pa-and-appalachia/Content?oid=18902088>

And finally, a couple of sharp eyed members (Barb and Martha) saw, registered, and shared this information about attending a Zoom conversation with Judy Woodruff, Tuesday, April 13, 7-8 PM. To attend, you will have to register first here: <https://www.chatham.edu/events/details.cfm?eventID=28996>.

BALLOT QUESTIONS ON THE MAY PRIMARY BALLOT

Ballot Question #1:

Pennsylvania Legislative Resolution to Extend or Terminate Emergency Declaration Amendment

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law and increase the power of the General Assembly to unilaterally terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration—and the powers of Commonwealth agencies to address the disaster regardless of its severity pursuant to that declaration—through passing a concurrent resolution by simple majority, thereby removing the existing check and balance of presenting a resolution to the Governor for approval or disapproval?

If you vote **YES**, you agree to give the Legislature, by a simple majority vote, the sole power to take away the Governor's existing authority to make disaster emergency declarations and coordinate with relevant Pennsylvania agencies..

If you vote **NO**, you disagree with giving the Legislature, by a simple majority vote, the sole power to take away the Governor's existing authority to make disaster emergency declarations and coordinate with relevant Pennsylvania agencies..

Background on proposed amendment: This amendment arises from the conflict between the Governor and Legislature over the Governor's Covid-19 emergency declarations, including stay-at-home orders, school and business restrictions, etc. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that under current law, the Governor could veto the Legislature's concurrent resolution to end the Governor's emergency declaration. The Legislature then fell short of the two-thirds legislative vote required to overturn the veto.

Background on legislative procedure: Currently, under Article III, Section 9, all bills and concurrent resolutions by the General Assembly must be presented to the Governor for his approval or veto. If approved by the Governor, the bills or concurrent resolutions, become law. If the Governor exercises a veto, the bills or concurrent resolutions do not become law unless two-thirds of the House and Senate vote to override the Governor's veto. The proposed amendment with respect to emergency disaster declarations would create a fourth exception to the customary legislative procedure of a two-thirds legislative vote to override a Governor's veto.

Other: Only four states require a legislative vote to extend or terminate a governor's emergency declarations (Alaska, Kansas, Michigan and Minnesota).

Arguments FOR:

- strengthens legislative power to act to end or continue an emergency declaration
- weakens the Governor's powers during an emergency to extend declaration and coordinate with relevant PA agencies
- disperses authority for creating and ending a disaster emergency declaration
- removes customary legislative procedure requiring a two-thirds legislative vote to override a Governor's veto for emergency declarations

Arguments AGAINST:

- reduces executive power of an individual elected by entire state to act in an emergency and coordinate with relevant PA agencies
- increases impact of partisan and regional influence of legislators during an emergency situation
- creates logistical and administrative hurdles for overseeing disasters and coordinating relevant agencies
- maintains check and balance of the two-thirds legislative vote to override a Governor's veto

Ballot Question #2

Pennsylvania Emergency Declarations Amendment

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law so that: a disaster emergency declaration will expire automatically after 21 days, regardless of the severity of the emergency, unless the General Assembly takes action to extend the disaster emergency; the Governor may not declare a new disaster emergency to respond to the dangers facing the Commonwealth unless the General Assembly passes a concurrent resolution; the General Assembly enacts new laws for disaster management?

If you vote **Yes**, you agree to change existing law to limit any Governor's disaster emergency declaration – no matter the severity – to 21 days (from 90), unless, and until, the Legislature votes by a simple majority to extend the disaster emergency declaration; and take away the Governor's authority to manage new emergency and disasters situations.

If you vote **No**, you disagree with changing the existing law that provides any Governor with the power to issue emergency declarations without a 21-day limitation or a simple majority vote by the Legislature; and any Governor retains authority to act in emergency and disaster situations.

Background on proposed amendment: This amendment arises from the conflict between the Governor and Legislature over the Governor's Covid-19 emergency declarations, including stay-at-home orders, school and business restrictions, etc. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that under current law, the Governor could veto the Legislature's concurrent resolution to end the Governor's emergency declaration. The Legislature then fell short of the two-thirds legislative vote required to overturn the veto. Current law sets an emergency declaration at 90 days and gives the Governor to act on, and manage, emergencies and disasters. The Legislature does have the ability to end the Governor's emergency declarations by passing a concurrent resolution to end the emergency declaration and if vetoed by the Governor, vote by two-thirds to override the Governor's veto.

Other: Only four states require a legislative vote to extend or terminate a governor's emergency declarations (Alaska, Kansas, Michigan and Minnesota).

Arguments FOR:

- grants the legislature, elected from different districts throughout the Commonwealth, the sole power to manage a disaster
- limits an emergency declaration to 21 days (from 90) unless legislature extends by a simple majority
- removes customary legislative procedural requirement of a two-thirds legislative vote to override a Governor's disaster declaration
- provides sole authority to extend a declaration to lie with the Legislature; presently, this power rests with the Governor

Arguments AGAINST:

- creates logistical and administrative hurdles of convening a 253-member legislature, every 21 days (and in disaster conditions)
- reduces the power of the executive, elected by entire state, to act in an emergency
- increases impact of partisan and regional influence of legislators
- provides opportunities for possible delays that could worsen a disaster
- weakens ability to access federal funding and support tied to declaring emergency disasters
- promotes uncertainty of appropriate disaster response due to shortened timeframe

Ballot Question #3

Pennsylvania Equal Rights Regardless of Race or Ethnicity Amendment

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended by adding a new section providing that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of an individual's race or ethnicity?

If you vote **Yes**, you agree that all Pennsylvania state, county, and local governmental agencies and institutions be prohibited from discriminating against individuals because of their race or ethnicity.

If you vote **No**, you disagree with changing Pennsylvania law since current state and federal laws, including the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, already provides protections against discrimination by all levels of Pennsylvania government, entities, and institutions.

Background on proposed amendment: This constitutional amendment was introduced in the wake of police brutality cases and protests as an amendment to a different constitutional amendment bill to restrict a Governor's emergency declaration powers (See Ballot Question 1).

Article 1, Section 26, of the Pennsylvania Constitution currently prohibits discrimination by the Pennsylvania government "against any person in the exercise of any civil right." This proposed amendment focuses on protecting individuals from racial and ethnic discrimination by Pennsylvania governmental entities. The PA Constitution and federal laws, such as the Equal Protection Clause, provide broad protections against discrimination. However, this amendment focuses on prohibiting discrimination against the individual under PA law solely for race and ethnicity. This is a state-specific change separate from federal law (Fourteenth Amendment). If passed, this law could add opportunity to bring "reverse discrimination" cases. Thus, if a Caucasian person felt they were discriminated against by a State-run operation or agency in hiring, admissions, or denied opportunities, they could sue under this new law.

The language of this amendment does not outright ban racial and ethnic considerations by all levels of Pennsylvania government, entities, and institutions. However, it could be construed that the specific prohibition against individual racial and ethnic discrimination could open the door to elimination, or the support of, race and ethnic-conscious considerations by State-run agencies or operations for under-represented groups under Pennsylvania Law. Any interpretation of this law would be decided by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. However, if passed, any resulting consequences, good or bad, would likely be upheld because this is an amendment ballot question voted on by the Pennsylvania voters. In 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Michigan ballot initiative which resulted in a ban on race considerations in state-run schools because the case was not about the merits of race-conscious policies. Rather, as Justice Kennedy stressed in the controlling opinion, it is about "whether, and in what manner, voters in the States may choose to prohibit the consideration of racial preferences in governmental decisions..."

Arguments FOR:

- promotes states' rights – independent of the US Constitution and federal laws
- specifies the prohibition against individual racial and ethnic discrimination under PA law
- could eliminate preferential treatment to under-represented groups by all levels of PA government, entities, and institutions
- prohibits future legislation that is inconsistent with this law on protecting individuals from racial and ethnic discrimination by all levels of PA government, entities, and institutions

Arguments AGAINST:

- Adds opportunities to bring "reverse discrimination" cases (i.e., a Caucasian can claim race discrimination by all levels of PA government, entities, and institutions)
- provides potential opportunity for all levels of PA government, entities, and institutions to no longer consider race and ethnicity in hiring, admissions, contracting and access to other opportunities
- existing law in the PA Constitution already forbids discrimination "against any person in the exercise of any civil right"