

Vote411 Voters' Mini-Guide

Primary Election May 17, 2022

Pennsylvania State Representative District 36 Democratic Primary

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.



You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in this Democratic Primary contest. The winner of this election will be the Democratic nominee on the November ballot.

The 36th Legislative district contains Brentwood, Mt. Oliver, and several neighborhoods in the City of Pittsburgh, including Beechview, Brookline, West Liberty, Overbrook, Carrick, South Side Slopes, Arlington, Arlington Heights, and St. Clair.

To vote in this election, you must register by May 2, 2022. You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in the Democratic Primary or as a Republican to vote in the Republican Primary. Candidates of other parties are not included in Pennsylvania's Closed Primary.

Description of office: The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The PA House of Representatives consists of 203 members representing one district each, with an equal number of constituents. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been a citizen and a resident of the state four years and a resident of their respective districts one year before their election, and shall reside in their respective districts during their terms of service.

Jessica Benham

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: State Representative

Education: University of Pittsburgh

Campaign Website: www.benhamforpa.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/benhamforpa

Twitter: twitter.com/jessicalbenham



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: I would prioritize decreasing cost of living, and increasing access to healthcare, funding for public education, and community safety. As a member of the minority party, I have to work across the aisle as no bills authored by House Democrats have been enacted in the current session. I have been able to get my ideas into legislation by introducing amendments to Republican bills and by providing suggestions to Republican legislators on ideas to include in their bills. If Democrats take the majority, passing legislation will become easier for members of my party, though working together to create good legislation that addresses issues facing Pennsylvanians across the state will always be necessary.

Q: What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws?

A: I will continue to fight for election day voter registration, automatic voter registration, and more opportunities for early voting. When it comes to other democracy reforms, I support a ban on gifts to elected officials, limits on contributions to political candidates, and full disclosure of all spending meant to influence the outcome of elections. I support a redistricting commission to draw fair lines for Congressional, State House, and State Senate districts.

Q: Article 1, Section 27 of the PA constitution guarantees the rights to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the environment. What actions would you take to protect these rights?

A: : In Harrisburg, I have stood up to protect the Department of Environmental Protection from attacks that would have weakened its ability to enforce environmental regulations. I believe the state needs to pass laws to address stormwater management, fossil fuel pollution, and corporate disregard for our environment. We can address environmental pollution while also investing in family-sustaining, union jobs.

Q: There are several pieces of gun legislation being considered on comprehensive background checks, red flag laws, and firearm safety training. What is your position on these measures?

A: I support commonsense gun legislation, including comprehensive background checks, extreme risk protection orders, firearm safety training, and safe storage laws.

Stephanie Fox

Party: Democratic

Biographical Information:

This candidate has not responded.

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 changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws?

A: No response

Q: Article 1, Section 27 of the PA constitution guarantees the rights to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the environment. What actions would you take to protect these rights?

A: No response

Q: There are several pieces of gun legislation being considered on comprehensive background checks, red flag laws, and firearm safety training. What is your position on these measures?

A: No response