

# Vote411 Voters' Mini-Guide

*Primary Election May 17, 2022*

## Pennsylvania State Representative

## District 21 Democratic Primary

*This Voters' Mini-Guide is an excerpt of the [Vote411.org](http://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 21st Legislative district contains Reserve Township, Shaler Township, Etna, Millvale, and several neighborhoods in the City of Pittsburgh, including City View, Spring Hill, Spring Garden, Troy Hill, Lawrenceville, and the Strip District.**

***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.

## Sara Innamorato

**Party:** Democratic

### Biographical Info:

**Occupation:** State Legislator

**Education:** University of Pittsburgh, 2008 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

**Qualifications:** I've been a proud Lawrenceville resident for thirteen years, and actively work to coordinate with local community organizations on social services and affordable housing solutions. I devoted my career to nonprofit work in community development, job creation, and environmental justice.

**Campaign Website:** [saraforpa.com](http://saraforpa.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/SaraForPA](https://www.facebook.com/SaraForPA)

**Twitter:** [www.facebook.com/SaraForPA](https://www.facebook.com/SaraForPA)

**Other websites:** [www.instagram.com/innamo/](https://www.instagram.com/innamo/)



### 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 stand with our neighbors in fighting for affordable housing, worker's rights, guaranteeing access to affordable healthcare and reproductive rights, clean air and water, raising the minimum wage, and making smart investments in our infrastructure. Given the current composition of the statehouse, pushing transformational legislation that is needed to achieve a Pennsylvania for us all is highly unlikely. Still, I work with impacted community members, policy experts, and my colleagues to proactively draft legislation that residents can organize around. The only way to work toward these agenda items is to stand firm and work to build grassroots movements to include the government toward these goals.

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

**A:** In 2019, I introduced a bill that would raise the number of residents registered to vote in Pennsylvania. The You're Registered bill enables automatic voter registration when qualified citizens interact with state services. Additionally, I have supported and co-sponsored a package of bills that would boost statewide voter turnout and voter protections. Bills promoting voting rights and transparency are key to making it easier and safer for citizens to exercise their right to vote. I strongly believe in same-day registration for citizens and making no-excuse absentee voting a permanent part of the process.

**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:** We need to fully fund the Department of Environmental Protection's operations and maintain oversight to ensure that funding is going toward investigations, testing, and enforcement. We need to raise fines for violating clean air and clean water regulations. The

current fines are not much of a hindrance for the largest polluters. We need to require fracking companies to disclose the chemicals they use in fracking fluids and vigorously prosecute companies who dump wastewater into our waterways.

**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 strengthening background checks, closing existing loopholes, and also reinstating laws that promote responsible gun ownership. I would work to reinstate laws intended to target irresponsible gun owners and straw purchases by holding gun owners accountable for failing to report missing or stolen firearms that are later used in a crime. I would support closing the gaps in Pennsylvania that enable domestic abusers to access guns and support laws that would allow friends or family members to petition for extreme risk protective orders.