

Vote411 Voters' Mini-Guide

Primary Election May 17, 2022

Pennsylvania State Representative District 33 **Republican Primary**

This Voters' Mini-Guide is an excerpt of the [Vote411.org](https://www.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 Republican to vote in this Republican Primary contest. The winner of this election will be the Republican nominee on the November ballot.

The 33rd Legislative district contains East Deer, Fawn, Frazer, Harmar, Harrison, Indiana, O'Hara and Springdale, Aspinwall, Blawnox, Brackenridge, Cheswick, Fox Chapel, Sharpsburg, and Tarentum.

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.

Ted Tomson

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

County: Allegheny

Occupation: Self Employed

Education: Master of Science in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University, Bachelor of Science in Finance from Penn State University
Qualifications: 20+ years of management experience in the private sector. Academic study of public policy.

Campaign Website: www.tedforpa.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tedforpa



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: Economy-We need to have our commercial centers thrive again. By rebuilding infrastructure through government and private industry improvements that support high paying jobs and assist small businesses, we can restore the economic benefits and influence our district once enjoyed.

First Responders - A solution to having a strong and thriving community, is by supporting those that protect and serve that community. It is imperative that our police, fire rescue, and EMS have the resources to do their jobs.

Opioid Crisis - The opioid crisis is still affecting many families. A lot of politicians seemed to have moved on from this issue, but it is still present and it is still wreaking havoc on all of us.

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

A: Act 77, from my understanding, is in violation of the PA Constitution, so that would have to be repealed and the Constitution amended first. That being said, I do like how ACT 77 eliminated someone from choosing one box to vote for everyone from one party. Moving forward, I support the maintaining of the integrity of the election process and that we need to discuss appropriate and fair ways that we can uphold a standard where everyone feels confident in its results. Losing faith in our election process is one of the biggest detriments democracy could suffer.

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: Pennsylvania is rich with natural resources. The ability to realize the huge potential gains from extracting them can lead to economic and social development in many of our disenfranchised communities. That being said, I feel that with a good working communicative relationship between government and the oil and gas industry, we won't compromise Article 1, Section 27 of the PA Constitution. In fact, I believe with a good working relationship, we can do more to protect those rights, than when government and industry are adversarial.

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: Comprehensive background checks can help protect our citizens without jeopardizing anybody's right to own a gun. A problem with red flag laws is that the burden of proof is generally low. This sets up a lot of instances of abuse that can unjustly affect law abiding citizens. I don't feel firearm safety training should be a requirement to own a gun. I do, however, feel that PA should vigorously promote firearm safety training so that those with less exposure to firearms have the opportunity to learn handling, storage, and cleaning safety.