

Vote411 Voters' Mini-Guide

Primary Election May 17, 2022

Pennsylvania State Representative District 33 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 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.

Tristan McClelland

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

County: Allegheny

Occupation: City Council Aide

Education: University of Pittsburgh

Campaign Website: TristanMcClelland.com



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: My top issue is jobs and economy. Too many Pennsylvanians live paycheck to paycheck and don't have adequate access to services like healthcare. As a State Representative, I want to work toward investments in infrastructure that promote the growth of small businesses. I want to protect the high-wage, union jobs we have in our community. Importantly, I want to make sure every worker has a right to organize and collectively bargain for their own empowerment. I will pursue legislation at the state level that makes organizing and forming a union easier and I will vehemently oppose policies like right to work for less and paycheck deception which weaken unions and allow companies to pay workers less

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

A: Democracy must be available to everyone and democracy only works when everyone participates. In order to accomplish this, the first major issue we must address is poll staffing. Especially in poor and rural communities, there is often one election worker running a polling place. The state needs to direct funding and training toward new election staff that help process voters at polling places faster, thereby reducing waiting times and lines at polling places. Additionally, I believe election day should be a holiday so that working people don't have to make the choice between missing a day's pay or participating in democracy. Once we achieve these, I think we can pursue more expansionary voting policies, like same-day registration.

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: The 33rd District encompasses communities which are deeply impacted by environmental degradation. Two sources of the environmental problems we face are the Parks Township nuclear waste site and the Plum injection site. In the Parks Township site, over 4,000 tons of fissile U-235 waste pollutes our air with radiation and seeps waste into our water supply. More, the cleanup effort of the site has stalled and may not be complete for decades. Additionally, the Plum injection site, which violates DEP regulations, threatens to spill fracking waste-water and toxic chemicals into our rivers and drinking supply. Local issues like these are the most environmental issues we face. As a State Representative, I will fight to address them.

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: Universal background checks are a sensible and proven reform we can implement to minimize gun-related violence and protect our communities. Every law-abiding American has a right to own a firearm and every American has just as much a right to feel safe and be free from gun violence. As a gun-owner and avid hunter, I believe we should have universal background checks and red flag laws. Firearm safety training should be free and available to everyone in our Commonwealth. We can strike a sensible balance between preserving the rights of gun owners and keeping our communities safe and I believe that balance can be achieved with universal background checks.

Mandy Steele

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

County: Allegheny

Occupation: Nonprofit Management

Education: University of Pittsburgh - B.A. in Anthropology

Qualifications: Fox Chapel Borough Councilperson

Campaign Website: www.steeleforpa.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SteeleforPA



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: Pennsylvania has a massive opportunity ahead of it with the infrastructure money that will be pumped into our state. I'm running because we need a representative in Harrisburg who has the experience and work ethic it will take to drive money and investment to our communities. We can rebuild our once vibrant economy through union clean energy jobs and green infrastructure projects. Putting working families at the center of this transition is essential to success. There is tremendous opportunity right now to make environmental and economic gains. This is our chance and I am ready to get it done.

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

A: I will support automatic voter registration or pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds and same day registrations, dropping Pennsylvania's current registration deadlines. I will support expanded early voting opportunities and adamantly oppose any forms of voter suppression, such as voter ID requirements, when any such efforts are brought forth.

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: This is an important topic that lies at the heart of my work as an elected official and community organizer. In 2020, I led my community to be the first in the state to ban application of a tier 1A human carcinogen and component of our air and water pollution using Article 1, Section 27 of the PA constitution. I went on to lead 20 other SWPA communities to take similar action, yielding significant potential improvements in the quality of our air and water. I believe many protections for our communities can be achieved at both the local and state level when we use the PA constitution. I will continue to pursue this course of action and ensure this vital constitutional right is preserved.

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: Gun ownership is a right of every American. Hunters are an important part of a healthy ecosystem. I am raising my own children to connect to our natural systems through hunting and fishing. I will advocate for responsible gun owners - supporting sensible gun safety laws like background checks, red flag laws, wait periods, and firearm safety training.