

Vote411 Voters' Mini-Guide

Primary Election April 23, 2024

Pennsylvania State Representative District 32 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 32nd Legislative district contains Penn Hills, Oakmont, Verona, and part of Plum Borough.

To vote in this election, you must register by April 8, 2024.

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. The House develops budget packages, makes taxation decisions, allocates spending, and passes laws (including redistricting in collaboration with the Senate). The House also has the exclusive authority to impeach public officials. Representatives also serve on various policy committees that may propose legislation.

Joe McAndrew

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: State Representative

Education: Fox Chapel High School, University of Dayton

Qualifications: Currently serving in the role

Campaign Website: <http://votejoemcandrew.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/VoteJoeMcAndrew>

X Handle: twitter.com/VoteJoeMcAndrew



Questions:

Q: *What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians, and how would you address them?*

A: How are we building the middle class? What economic, housing, and infrastructure policies are we creating to help support the growth of wealth for working Pennsylvanians. While corporations exploit us, we must push to raise the minimum wage, add protections for workers, and end wage theft, among other vital policies.

Q: *What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?*

A: Allowing for a permanent mail-in ballot list would go a long way in solving issues seniors have when applying to mail-in-vote.

Q: *What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?*

A: I look forward to reviewing the proposals put forth in the near future to resolve this issue. I believe the house democrats and the governor are working on a strong plan to solve this issue. We must come up with a solution to this issue, without increasing funding to charter schools or voucher programs.

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

A: I would bolster protections for women seeking reproductive healthcare.

Pauline Calabrese

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Mayor of Penn Hills and Family Law Attorney

Education: Duquesne University School of Law - J.D.
Penn State University - B.A.

Qualifications: As the only candidate running for this District who is an attorney, I am exceptionally qualified to serve as a law maker. As a resident for over 25 years and the Mayor in my 5th year I have measurable and verifiable success. I am distinctly qualified to represent the distinct needs of this District

Campaign Website: <http://www.paulinecalabrese.com>

Facebook: Pauline Calabrese for State Representative



Questions:

Q: *What do you see as the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvanians, and how would you address them?*

A: Education is the most pressing issue. The Commonwealth Court finding that our current structure of funding for public schools is unconstitutional, demands there be a complete overhaul. First, relying on property taxes is fundamentally unfair. It is a burden on seniors and others on fixed incomes. It disproportionately negatively affects poor children who live in areas with lower home values. While I recognize that there needs to be an alternative available for some families, the current charter school funding formula is lopsided and causes an undue drain. A top priority for the state legislature should be reworking the formula, exploring alternate sources of funding for public schools and re-evaluating the cost of higher education.

Q: *What changes would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws to expand access, ensure security, and support local election officials and processes?*

A: To expand access, I would support early voting, an expanded time frame for voting by mail, and voter registration up to and including same day registration. I would support increased funding for local election authorities to ensure security and for proper staffing.

Q: *What legislation would you support to comply with the Commonwealth Court's ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed?*

A: Please see my answer above.

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

A: In our Commonwealth, abortion is regulated by the Abortion Control Act in the Pennsylvania criminal code. Abortion is an element of women's healthcare and no government at any level should interfere with a woman's personal healthcare choices. Our legislature needs to codify the protections of Roe v. Wade and reevaluate some of the restrictions passed in Pennsylvania after the Casey v. Planned Parenthood decision in 1982.