



# JUST VOTE



## The 2018 Election Voter Guide for Allegheny County

Published by the  
Just Harvest Education Fund

**VOTE on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 | Polls open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm**

This Voters Guide presents information about the upcoming election, including key policies relating to hunger and poverty that will likely be addressed in the next federal and state legislative sessions, and, when possible, the stances on these issues by all Allegheny County candidates on the ballot.

This guide has been created to help you make informed choices on Election Day so you can help influence these critical policies.

This information is strictly to inform and educate our community. Just Harvest does not endorse or oppose any particular candidate or political party.



Just Harvest is a membership organization which educates, empowers and mobilizes people to eliminate hunger, poverty, and economic injustice in our communities by influencing public policy, engaging in advocacy, and connecting people to public benefits.



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## About Voting

### **AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?**

Find out using the Check Your Registration Status link at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or by calling (412) 350-4500 ext.2. **The deadline to register for the November 2018 election was Tuesday, October 9.** If you're not registered be sure to register at this link so you can vote in the next election in 2019.

### **WHERE IS MY POLLING PLACE / WHAT'S MY WARD AND DISTRICT?**

Find out using the Find Your Polling Place link at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or by calling (412) 350-4510. The first line of the polling place address contains your ward and district info. (Ex.: "Bethel Park 08 03" = ward 8, district 3)

### **WHAT IF I NEED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?**

If you are registered to vote but will not be able to get to your polling place in person on election day, you can apply for an absentee ballot. Those eligible include people who are incarcerated for a misdemeanor or are awaiting trial. **The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is 5:00pm on Tuesday, October 30.** Learn more about who is eligible and get the absentee ballot application at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or call (412) 350-4500 ext.3.

### **WHAT IF I NEED AN ALTERNATIVE BALLOT?**

If you are registered to vote and have a disability *or* are age 65 or older, and were assigned to a polling place that the County Board of Elections says is not accessible, you can apply for an alternative ballot. **The deadline to apply for an alternative ballot is 5:00pm on Tuesday, October 30.** Learn more and get the application at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or call (412) 350-4500 ext.3.

## USEFUL TIPS FOR ELECTION DAY:

- **You only need to show an approved form of photo or non-photo ID (listed below) the first time you vote at a particular polling place.**

### PHOTO ID *(must be valid)*

- PA driver's license or ID Card issued by PennDOT
- ID issued by US government
- ID issued by any Commonwealth of PA agency
- US Passport
- US Armed Forces ID
- Student ID
- Employee ID

### NON-PHOTO ID *(must include your name and current address)*

- Your voter's card
- Firearm permit
- Current bank statement
- Current utility bill
- Current paycheck
- Government check

- You cannot lose your job, or your benefits, or be evicted for voting.
- If you are registered and in line at your polling place by 8pm poll workers must permit you to vote.
- If poll workers do not accept your registration as valid, ask for a *provisional ballot*. By law, they must let you vote on a provisional ballot and straighten out the problem later.
- In PA, people with felony convictions who are registered can vote if they are no longer incarcerated.
- People who are homeless can vote if they are registered.
- People with disabilities and those who speak another language or cannot read are allowed to vote

**If you have trouble asserting your right to vote or want to report an incident, call the Election Protection Hotline at (866) OUR-VOTE / (866) 687-8683, now through Election Day.** Spanish, Asian, and Arabic language hotline numbers and more info are available at [www.866ourvote.org](http://www.866ourvote.org).

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## About This Election

### WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRIMARY AND A GENERAL ELECTION?

In a primary election, voters who are members of a specific party vote for who will be on the ballot in the general election in November. Your primary election ballot will only list candidates who are running in your party (though you can write in other candidates). In some districts, the primary is the deciding election as there may be no opponents from another party running in the general election. In general elections, everyone can vote, no matter their party (or lack of party) affiliation. Whoever wins will hold office starting in January of the following year.

### IS THIS ELECTION A GENERAL OR PRIMARY ELECTION?

The November 6, 2018 "midterm" (the middle of the U.S. President's term) election is a general election. This election determines who will be in office starting in January 2019.



## WHAT POSITIONS ARE WE VOTING FOR IN THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION?

Each voter will get to vote for **one** candidate for each of the following offices:

United States Senator

United States Representative

Governor (and Lt. Governor) of Pennsylvania

State Senator (*only in some State Senate districts*)

State Representative

## WHO'S ON MY BALLOT?

Find out at [bit.ly/ACballot](http://bit.ly/ACballot). Input your city name, ward number, and district number (see *Where Is My Polling Place* on page 1).

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# Elected Positions and Responsibilities

## FEDERAL

### United States Senator

Term Length: 6 Years

Cabinet, Ambassadorial and Judicial Nominations: The Senate holds the power to vet and approve all presidential Cabinet, Ambassador and federal and Supreme Court Judge appointments.

Treaties: The Senate ratifies all presidentially negotiated treaties, and holds the power to amend treaties.

Laws: Senators are responsible for writing and passing federal law, including federal spending and taxes, and upholding or overriding presidential vetoes. Bills cannot become laws without approval from the Senate. The Senate also has the power to confirm judicial nominees and cabinet members.

### United States Representative

Term Length: 2 Years

Laws: Representatives are responsible for writing and passing federal law, including federal spending and taxes, and upholding or overriding presidential vetoes. Bills cannot become laws without approval from the House.

## STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

### Governor

Term Length: 4 Years

Chief Executive: The governor is the state's chief executive.

Veto: The governor has power to veto bills passed by the PA Legislature subject to a two-thirds override

Pardons: The governor may grant pardons of state law offenses except in cases of impeachment.

Appointed Positions: Appoints the secretaries of all the state's departments and all offices not otherwise provided for, subject to the two-thirds consent of the Senate. These appointed secretaries, including the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, are responsible for guiding and overseeing the management of programs and services. The governor and these secretaries can make many decisions that direct how programs are carried out. They also decide whether to opt into or out of federal policies that can improve or reduce access to services, like expanding Medicaid.

Special Sessions: Can convene the Senate and the House by special proclamation for purposes of transacting executive business.

### **Lieutenant Governor**

Term Length: 4 Years

President of the Senate: The lieut. governor takes over as governor if the governor becomes unable to complete their term. In the meantime, the lieut. governor serves as President of the Senate. In the event of a tie in the state Senate, they have the ability to cast a tie-breaking vote. While they cannot vote on or sponsor legislation, they can work with advocates in the Senate to introduce legislation on their behalf.

### **State Senator**

Term Length: 4 Years

Laws: State senators pass bills on public policy matters, set levels for state spending, raise and lower state taxes and vote to uphold or override the governor's vetoes. They can choose to pass bills that make decisions about certain state requirements for federal programs like SNAP, Medicaid, etc. Bills can originate in either chamber of the General Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives), but must pass both. The Senate also has the power to confirm the governor's appointed secretaries.

### **State Representative**

Term Length: 2 Years

Laws: State representatives pass bills on public policy matters, set levels for state spending, raise and lower state taxes, and vote to uphold or override the governor's vetoes. They can choose to pass bills that make decisions about certain state requirements for federal programs like SNAP, Medicaid, etc. Bills can originate in either chamber of the General Assembly (Senate and House of Representatives), but must pass both.

**Every voter can write in the name of the candidate of their choice for each of these seats on their ballot if they don't want to vote for the candidates listed on the ballot.**

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## **ABOUT THE FEDERAL & PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURES**

	<b>FEDERAL</b>		<b>STATE</b>	
<b>Legislative Chamber</b>	U.S. Senate	U.S. House of Representatives	Pa. Senate	Pa. House of Representatives
<b># Total Legislators</b>	100	435	50	203

Republicans have held the majority in both chambers of Congress since 2015, and both chambers of the PA General Assembly since 2011.



# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

We've only detailed the stances of candidates in contested races where voters will have a choice. Candidates with an asterisk (\*) next to their name are the incumbent in that race. The last page lists candidates who are running unopposed for Pa. legislative seats that represent Allegheny County. Their party affiliations are noted as follows:

(D) = Democratic

(R) = Republican

(G) = Green

(L) = Libertarian

## Questions Asked to Candidates

We asked all the federal and state candidates running in contested races questions about their stance on key policy issues that cause hunger in Allegheny County. Their summarized stance on each issue in this guide is based on their responses, or, if they did not respond, their public statements and recent votes, if available. **Full candidate responses can be found in the online version of this guide at [www.justharvest.org/just-vote](http://www.justharvest.org/just-vote).**

### FEDERAL

**Reduce SNAP (Food Stamps) Funding:** *Do you support reducing funds for SNAP, a program that helps feed over 40 million people in the United States?*

**Blocking Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Expanding Work Requirements:** *Do you support work requirements as a condition to access public benefit programs, even though they would block otherwise eligible people from getting healthcare or food assistance?*

**Tax Cuts for the Wealthy:** *Do/did you support the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act? This legislation will cost the federal government around \$1.5 trillion over ten years, with over 80% of its tax cuts expected to go to corporations and wealthy families.*

### STATE

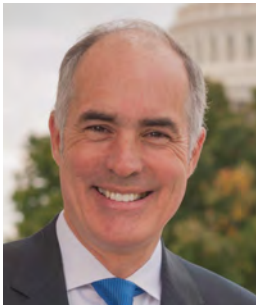
**Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements:** *Do you support work requirements as a condition to access public benefit programs, even though it would prevent people from accessing healthcare or food assistance?*

**Raise the State Minimum Wage:** The Pennsylvania minimum wage is \$7.25/hr, the lowest allowed by law and lower than the minimum wage in PA's six bordering states. *What should the state minimum wage be?*

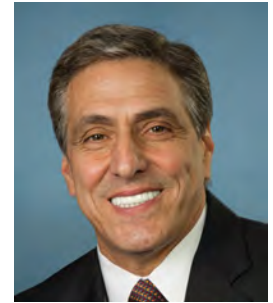
**Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers:** *Do you support state laws that preempt laws on local taxes, local public health regulations, or local labor protections? In particular, do you support HB 861? This bill would override Philadelphia's law requiring employers to provide paid sick days and would prevent Pittsburgh from establishing a similar law.*

**Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Natural Gas Production:** PA has for years faced a lack of funds for government services due to an unfair tax system in which the overall tax burden on low-income people is effectively three times that of wealthier citizens. *Do you support the Fair Share Tax Plan? It would increase taxes on unearned income (wealth from capital gains, dividends and rents) while reducing taxes on wages. In addition, PA is the only major gas-producing state that taxes gas drillers on the number of wells they drill ("impact fee") rather than the amount of gas the wells produce (severance tax). Do you support the Marcellus Shale severance tax, as proposed in Gov. Wolf's budget, as a way to provide sustained revenue for Pennsylvania?*

# FEDERAL OFFICE CANDIDATES



## United States Senator Pennsylvania



Robert Casey (D)*	Key Policies That Cause Hunger	Louis Barletta (R)
Opposes	Reducing SNAP Funding	Supports
Opposes (is against work requirements)	Blocking Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Expanding Work Requirements	Supports (is for work requirements)
Opposes	Tax Cuts for the Wealthy	Supports



## United States Senator Pennsylvania



Neal Taylor Gale (G)	Key Policies That Cause Hunger	Dale Kerns Jr. (L)
Opposes	Reducing SNAP Funding	Supports
Opposes (is against work requirements)	Blocking Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Expanding Work Requirements	Opposes (is against work requirements)
Opposes	Tax Cuts for the Wealthy	Supports



# United States Congressional Representative

District 17

Beaver County, Cranberry, northern and western Allegheny County, and some parts of the South Hills and Pittsburgh's eastern suburbs



Conor Lamb (D)*	Key Policies That Cause Hunger	Keith Rothfus (R)*
Opposes	Reducing SNAP Funding	Supports
Opposes (is against work requirements)	Blocking Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Expanding Work Requirements	Supports (is for work requirements)
Mixed record/statements	Tax Cuts for the Wealthy	Supports

\* Both Lamb and Rothfus are current U.S. Reps but due to redistricting are now running to represent the same district.



# STATE OFFICE CANDIDATES



## Governor and Lt. Governor Pennsylvania



Tom Wolf (D)* John Fetterman(D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Scott Wagner (R) Jeffrey Bartos (R)
<b>Support</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	<b>Oppose</b> (is for work requirements)
<b>Support</b> raise to \$12/hour	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	<b>Support</b> raise to \$8.75/hour
<b>Support</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	<b>Oppose</b> (is for HB 861)
No position on Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Support</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	No position on Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Oppose</b> a severance tax



## Governor and Lt. Governor Pennsylvania



Paul Glover (G) Jocelyn Bowser-Bostick (G)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Kenneth V. Krawchuk (L) Kathleen S. Smith (L)
<b>Support</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	Mixed record/statements
<b>Support</b> raising to \$15/hr	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Support</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	<b>Oppose</b> (is against all laws regulating employers)
<b>Support</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Oppose</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	<b>Oppose</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Oppose</b> a severance tax



# Pennsylvania State Senator

38th District

Northern Allegheny County, Pittsburgh wards 11 & 12 (East Liberty, Highland Park, Larimer, Lemington)



Lindsey Williams (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Jeremy Shaffer (R)
<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> raising to \$15/hr	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	No response nor info found on Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Opposes</b> a severance tax



# Pennsylvania State Representative

23rd District

Parts of Pittsburgh wards 4, 7, 14 & 15



Dan Frankel (D)*	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Jay Ting Walker
<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)
<b>Supports</b> raising to \$15/hour including tipped workers	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	<b>Supports</b> raising to \$15/hour including tipped workers, and raising cap on overtime
<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)
<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax



# Pennsylvania State Representative

28th District

Bradford Woods, Franklin Park, Marshall, McCandless, Pine



Emily Skopov (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Mike Turzai (R)*
<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	<b>Opposes</b> (is for work requirements)
<b>Supports</b> raising to \$15/hr	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	<b>Opposes</b>
<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	<b>Opposes</b> (is for HB 861)
<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	<b>Opposes</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Opposes</b> a severance tax



# Pennsylvania State Representative

30th District

Fox Chapel, Hampton, O'Hara (part), Richland (part), Shaler (part)



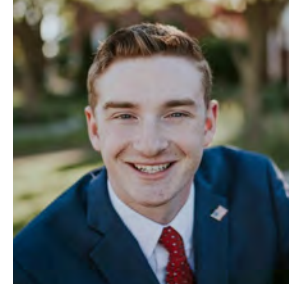
Elisabeth (Betsy) Monroe (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Lori Mizgorski (R)
<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> raising to \$15/hr	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found



# Pennsylvania State Representative

33rd District

Brackenridge, Cheswick, East Deer, Frazer, Harmar, Harrison (part), Indiana, Oakmont, Plum (part), Springdale, Springdale Twp., Tarentum, and part of Westmoreland County



Francis (Frank) Dermody (D)*	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Joshua Nulph (R)
Supports (is against work requirements)	Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Supports raising to \$15/hour	Raise the State Minimum Wage	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Supports (is against HB 861)	Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Supports Fair Share Tax Plan Supports a severance tax	Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers	Candidate did not respond / No info found



# Pennsylvania State Representative

39th District

Bethel Park (part), Elizabeth, Elizabeth Twp., Forward, Jefferson Hills, West Elizabeth, South Park (part), and part of Washington County



Robert Rhoderick (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Michael Puskaric (R)
Supports (is against work requirements)	Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Supports raising to \$15/hr	Raise the State Minimum Wage	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Supports (is against HB 861)	Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Supports Fair Share Tax Plan Supports a severance tax	Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers	Candidate did not respond / No info found





# Pennsylvania State Representative

40th District

Bethel Park (part), Upper St. Clair, and part of Washington County



Sharon Guidi (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Natalie Mihalek (R)
<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> raising to \$12 immediately, \$15 by 2024	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found



# Pennsylvania State Representative

44th District

Aleppo, Bell Acres, Crescent, Edgeworth, Findlay, Glen Osborne, Glenfield, Haysville, Moon, North Fayette, Ohio, Sewickley, Sewickley Heights, Sewickley Hills



Michelle Knoll (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Valerie Gaydos (R)
<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> raising to \$15	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found





# Pennsylvania State Representative

46th District

Bridgeville, Collier, Heidelberg, McDonald (part), Oakdale, South Fayette, and part of Washington County



Byron Timmins (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Jason Ortity (R)*
<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	<b>Opposes</b> (is for work requirements)
<b>Supports</b> raising to \$15/hr	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	<b>Opposes</b>
<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	<b>Opposes</b> (is for HB 861)
<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	No response nor info found on Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Opposes</b> (is against additional taxes on natural gas drilling)



# Pennsylvania State Representative

54th District

Fawn, Harrison (part), West Deer, and part of Westmoreland County



Jonathan McCabe (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Robert Brooks (R)
<b>Supports</b> (is against work requirements)	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> raising to \$10.10/hour with adjustment to inflation	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> (is against HB 861)	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
<b>Supports</b> Fair Share Tax Plan <b>Supports</b> a severance tax	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found



# Pennsylvania State Representative

## 25th District

East McKeesport, East Pittsburgh, Monroeville, North Versailles, Pitcairn, Plum (part), Trafford (part), Wall, Wilmerding,



Brandon Markosek (D)	Key Policies to Combat Hunger	Stephen Schlauch (R)
Candidate did not respond / No info found	<b>Protect Access to SNAP and Medicaid by Opposing Work Requirements</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Candidate did not respond / No info found	<b>Raise the State Minimum Wage</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Candidate did not respond / No info found	<b>Pass Local Laws to Protect Workers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found
Candidate did not respond / No info found	<b>Raise Taxes on the Wealthy and on Marcellus Shale Drillers</b>	Candidate did not respond / No info found

# FEDERAL & STATE CANDIDATES RUNNING UNOPPOSED

Uncontested Candidate	Office	District
Mike Doyle (D)*	U.S. Congress	<a href="#">18**</a>
Wayne Fontana (D)*	State Senator	<a href="#">42</a>
Robert Matzie (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">16</a>
Jake Wheatley (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">19</a>
Adam Ravenstahl (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">20</a>
Sara Innamorato (D)	State Representative	<a href="#">21</a>
Ed Gainey (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">24</a>
Daniel Deasy (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">27</a>
Anthony DeLuca (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">32</a>
Summer Lee (D)	State Representative	<a href="#">34</a>
Austin Davis (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">35</a>
Harry Readshaw (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">36</a>
William Kortz (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">38</a>
Dan Miller (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">42</a>
Anita Kulik (D)*	State Representative	<a href="#">45</a>

\*\* This district was the 14th in the prior election and after redistricting became the 18th.



# About the Ballot Question

You can vote YES or NO on the following special election question that will appear on page two of your ballot before the candidate write-in section:

*“Shall the Allegheny County Home Rule Charter be amended to establish the Allegheny County Children’s Fund, funded by Allegheny County levying and collecting an additional 0.25 mills, the equivalent of \$25 on each \$100,000 of assessed value, on all taxable real estate, beginning January 1, 2019 and thereafter, to be used to improve the well-being of children through the provision of services throughout the County including early childhood learning, after school programs, and nutritious meals?”*

Just Harvest has chosen to remain neutral on this question. If the question is approved, we will work to hold the new funding structure accountable for effective use and oversight of the funds. You can read the full amendment at [bit.ly/2018-charter-amendment](http://bit.ly/2018-charter-amendment). We provide the following info and statements about the ballot question for educational purposes only.

## SUPPORTING

**Steering committee members of the Our Kids Our Commitment campaign** wrote the amendment and turned in 63,499 signatures on August 7 petitioning the Allegheny County Board of Elections to add the Allegheny County Children’s Fund to the Nov. 6, 2018, General Election ballot. **They urge voters to vote YES** on this amendment, stating:

Here in Allegheny County, we believe that by giving our kids every opportunity to succeed, we’re giving our region a brighter future. We believe that investing in our kids is an investment that will pay dividends for generations to come. We believe in what’s proven to work for our kids: early learning, after school programs and good nutrition. By creating the Allegheny County Children’s Fund, we will provide dedicated funding for these critical areas.

The Allegheny County Children’s Fund steering committee includes Allies for Children, Allegheny Partners for Out of School Time (APOST), Higher Achievement, Human Services Center Corporation, The Mentoring Partnership, Pressley Ridge, PUMP, Trying Together, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh, along with numerous community-based partners.

You can learn more at [OurKidsOurCommitment.org](http://OurKidsOurCommitment.org)

## OPPOSING

**Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network urges voters to vote NO** on this amendment in a formal statement that reads in part:

In Allegheny County, we already have an existing process for raising taxes through county government, and we don’t need additional layers of bureaucracy. Furthermore, we believe that if the Allegheny County Children’s Fund Initiative were truly a public process, we’d have access to basic information such as how the fund’s advisory commission would be appointed, or how they would oversee what is estimated to be nearly \$18 million in annual revenue. Unfortunately, those questions don’t have answers.

You can read the full statement at [piin.org](http://piin.org)



**One Pennsylvania’s Education Rights Network urges voters to vote NO** on this amendment in a formal statement that reads in part:

Without protections for necessary accommodations guaranteed by law, many children will never be able to access the programs that may be funded by this initiative. We believe strongly in investing in high-quality, inclusive programs that benefit all children across Allegheny County. We do not believe in initiatives that fail to simultaneously and aggressively eliminate barriers to access for marginalized communities. The ballot initiative refers to “fair and equitable allocation,” but provides no structure to ensure that funds are distributed with explicit protections and oversight for our most vulnerable children.



You can read the full statement at [onepa.org/ern\\_okoc/](http://onepa.org/ern_okoc/)



**ACTION AGAINST HUNGER**

(412) 431-8960

[www.justharvest.org](http://www.justharvest.org)

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**JUST VOTE**

*Thank you to Just Harvest interns Jorge Alvarez, Katie Gascoine, Connor Hayes, and Kimberly Johnston for their work on this guide.*