

PENNSYLVANIA

INFORMED VOTER'S GUIDE TO THE 2020 ELECTION



NOV 3RD 2020

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHAT THEY DO

Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government, is composed of two houses: the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. A majority vote by both houses is necessary to pass a law. The U.S. House is made up of 435 members redistributed every 10 years after the Census.

WHY IT MATTERS?

Recently, legislation from the House has touched on issues such as healthcare, criminal justice reform, immigration and COVID-19 relief.

PA STATE SENATORS & STATE REPRESENTATIVES

WHAT THEY DO

In Pennsylvania, the legislative branch of government is split into two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. A majority vote by both houses is necessary to pass a law.

The House and the Senate share similar powers to create legislation, but only the House of Representatives can introduce tax bills, and the Senate alone has the power to confirm the Governor's nominations for positions, including cabinet posts, state university boards, and judicial vacancies.

Senators are elected every 4 years, while Representatives are elected every 2 years.

WHY IT MATTERS?

PA State Senators and State Representatives have written legislation to fund SNAP benefits, reform police, fund schools, and generally allocate money from taxes into communities.

Now, you have all the information you need to vote. See who is on your ballot. Learn more about the candidates running for office in your area here:

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AUDITOR GENERAL

WHAT THEY DO

The main responsibility of the Auditor General is to ensure that state dollars are being used appropriately, efficiently, and effectively. The Auditor General conducts audits of individuals, organizations, and state agencies that receive money from the state.

WHY IT MATTERS?

The Auditor General follows up with state liquor stores, school districts, and corporate tax returns to ensure they are contributing and spending their fair share.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

WHAT THEY DO

The Attorney General serves as Pennsylvania's chief law enforcement officer. This means that the Attorney General represents the state government in cases brought against or by it and reviews the rules and regulations proposed by state agencies. The Attorney General holds seats on several state boards and commissions, including the Board of Pardons, Board of Finance and Revenue, and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

WHY IT MATTERS?

In the past, the Attorney General has investigated price gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic, scams targeting seniors, and environmental hazards. The Attorney General also has the power to intervene if a local district attorney doesn't pursue a case that they believe should have been pursued.

STATE TREASURER

WHAT THEY DO

The State Treasurer directs the Pennsylvania Treasury in managing nearly \$100 billion in state funds. The State Treasurer invests state money, processes payments for state government agencies, reviews real estate contracts with state agencies, and follows up on potential loss, fraud, and theft of state funds.

Also, the State Treasurer chairs the Board of Finance and Revenue, which decides which banks will store state money.

WHY IT MATTERS?

The State Treasurer has launched programs for PA residents that might promote financial literacy, save residents' money for college, or return billions of dollars in unclaimed property to their rightful owners.

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