

1Hood Power 2024 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

1. Email: info@summerforpa.com

2. Please upload your bio and resume: 

Campaign Contact Information: Sathvik Kaliyur, (408) 601-8490, sathvikkaliyur2020@gmail.com

3. Candidate Name: Summer Lee

4. Office candidate is seeking: U.S. House of Representatives, Pennsylvania's 12th district

5. Campaign Contact Person: Sathvik Kaliyur

6. Campaign Email: sathvikkaliyur2020@gmail.com

Campaign Instagram: summerleeforpa

Campaign Twitter: @RepSummerLee

Campaign TikTok: N/A

Campaign Youtube: N/A

Background Info & Questions

14. Please list all public service positions held over your career including unpaid public service.

Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from the 34th district, January 1, 2019 – December 7, 2022. Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Pennsylvania's 12th district, January 3, 2023 – present.

15. Please describe the general background of your public service during your professional career.

I am an organizer, attorney, and progressive legislator born and raised in the Mon Valley where I attended Woodland Hills public schools before graduating from Penn State and Howard University School of Law.

I worked as an organizer and led voter mobilization efforts for the Pennsylvania Democratic Party – including against Trump in 2016. In 2017, after repeated incidents of violence against students from police and administrators, I led a successful initiative to transform the Woodland Hills School Board. Then, I ran for State House, defeating a 20-year incumbent with over 67% of the vote and making history as the first Black woman from Western Pennsylvania in the legislature. There, I brought home millions for community revitalization and championed workers rights, environmental and racial justice.

In 2019, I co-founded UNITE, a grassroots organization that transformed regional politics by electing progressives at various levels, including Pittsburgh's first Black mayor, Ed Gainey.

In 2022, I was elected to represent Pennsylvania's 12th district, again making history as the first Black woman from Western Pennsylvania in Congress. In my first year, I brought home an unprecedented >\$1 Billion in federal investments for Western PA to Western Pennsylvania, including over \$500 million for infrastructure, over \$50 million affordable housing, and over \$500 million to keep clean energy manufacturing at home in Pennsylvania. These investments will help improve Western Pennsylvania's infrastructure and transit, ensure cleaner air and drinking water, lower housing costs, fuel clean manufacturing, boost workforce development, and create thousands of good paying union jobs. I have also taken leadership positions in a number of caucuses.

Me and my team have also delivered constituent services to over 1,600 constituents with issues ranging from helping our seniors and disabled community access Medicare and Social Security, to helping folks secure housing and helping families navigate the immigration system. I have partnered with Gov. Shapiro on no-cost breakfast for students, increasing teacher pay, and the first-in-the-nation workforce training program to invest \$400 million in training and creation of 10,000 new jobs. In 2023, I passed \$10.7 million worth of community project funding through committee, responded to over 20,000 constituents, attended over 300 community events, is leading or co-leading 19 bills, and cosponsored 226 bills to address local issues ranging from cleaning our air and water to protecting abortion, combating gun violence, and fighting for voting rights, environmental justice, and Social Security.

16. Please describe your accomplishments in promoting the concept of equity for all people.

As a Black woman who grew up working class in the Mon Valley, equity is not theoretical or policy for me - it's my lived experiences and the experiences of my community. As the first Black woman to serve in the legislature from Western Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania's first Black Congresswoman in history, I bring with me perspectives that have been too long kept out of decision-making about the issues that impact our lives. I am in this work because I know that racial justice is part of every single issue area, policy, and struggle. I am committed to building a more reflective democracy, dedicated to delivering real power to all Black and brown people, to all marginalized, poor, and working-class people, and creating a future where we all can thrive.

Police accountability and challenging the abuses and harms of our criminal legal systems have been a hallmark of my work as an organizer and a legislator. In 2017, after repeated incidents of violence against students by administrators and police, I led efforts to transform the Woodland Hills School Board. In the legislature, I've advocated for police accountability measures around consent in custody and database tracking that could have saved the life of Antwon Rose, a young Black boy killed by Pittsburgh Police who would have been my constituent. I joined the board of the Alliance for Police Accountability to support community leaders advocating for a host of urgently needed reforms, pushing to end cash bail, stopping the school-to-prison pipeline, and more. This commitment is also a core reason I founded UNITE, a local grassroots PAC dedicated to endorsing progressives up and down

the ballot who will work for racial and economic justice, including a slate of Black judges who won by a significant margin.

In Congress, I have co-sponsored several pieces of legislation to fight for police accountability and real justice in this country, including legislation to end qualified immunity, disarm those convicted of hate crimes, confront police violence against children, and end solitary confinement, and so much more. I've also co sponsored resolutions to study reparations and establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

17. Please describe any particular qualification you possess that was developed either through your career or in your community that would enhance your ability in the office you seek.

My involvement in community organizing and activism demonstrates my commitment to social justice issues and ability to connect with and represent the interests of my constituents.

In 2017, after repeated incidents of violence against students from police and administrators, I led a successful initiative to transform the Woodland Hills School Board. Then, I ran for State House, defeating a 20-year incumbent with over 67% of the vote and making history as the first Black woman from Western Pennsylvania in the legislature. There, I brought home millions for community revitalization and championed workers rights, environmental and racial justice. In 2019, I co-founded UNITE, a grassroots organization that transformed regional politics by electing progressives at various levels, including Pittsburgh's first Black mayor, Ed Gainey.

Even before my career in the US House of Representatives, I advocated for issues that affected my community and showed my commitment to activism that supports my constituents.

18. Please describe any particular qualification you possess which was developed either through your career or in your community that would enhance your ability to serve in government.

My experience with civil law provides me with a deep understanding of US legal frameworks and the ability to advocate for justice and equality. I interned with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and worked as a student attorney in the Howard University School of Law Civil Rights Clinic. Through my work as a civil rights attorney, I have demonstrated a commitment to advocating for marginalized communities and promoting social justice.

19. Please list all endorsements you have received:

Federal:

- U.S. Sen. Bob Casey
- U.S. Sen. John Fetterman
- Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives

- Congresswoman Katherine Clark, Minority Whip of the U.S. House of Representatives
- Congressman Pete Aguilar, Chair of the U.S. House Democratic Caucus
- Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC
- Congressional Black Caucus PAC

State:

- State Sen. Lindsey Williams
- Former state Sen. Allen Kukovich
- State Rep. and Democratic Whip Dan Miller
- State Rep. Aerion Abney
- State Rep. Jess Benham
- State Rep. Dan Deasy
- State Rep. Emily Kinkead
- State Rep. La'Tasha D. Mayes
- State Rep. Mandy Steele
- State Rep. Arvind Venkat

Local:

- City of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey
- County Executive Sara Innamorato
- County Controller Corey O'Connor
- Allegheny Councilman for District 1 Jack Betkowski
- Allegheny Councilman for District 4 Pat Catena
- Allegheny County Councilwoman At-Large Bethany Hallam
- Allegheny Councilman for District 12 Robert Palmosina
- Allegheny County Councilwoman for District 3 Anita Prizio
- Pittsburgh City Council President Daniel Lavelle
- Pittsburgh Councilwoman for District 8 Erika Strassburger
- Pittsburgh City Councilman for District 9 Khari Mosley
- Pittsburgh City Councilman District 3 Bob Charland
- Pittsburgh City Councilwoman for District 5 Barb Warwick
- Westmoreland Dems Chair Michelle McFall

20. If elected, what are your top three priorities?

In Congress I will fight for a Green New Deal to transition to a 100% clean and renewable energy economy. I'm working to make it easier to vote, not harder – and that means federal automatic voter registration, nationwide early and mail voting, federal holidays for election days, and same day voter

registration. I continue to believe that healthcare is a fundamental human right. No one in this country should fear losing coverage because of preexisting conditions, their employment status, their immigration status, daring to start their own business, or aging off of their parent's insurance. Our healthcare system is fundamentally broken. Medicare For All wouldn't just save money, it would save lives. Another major priority for me is justice reform. Mass incarceration and police brutality perpetuate this cycle of harm and prevent us from building stronger families and communities in Western Pennsylvania. The existing criminal and juvenile justice systems are among the biggest barriers to community safety, social justice and upward mobility.

Questionnaire

Please answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Please select no opinion if you believe your position prevents you from answering a question.

1. Do you feel the government has done its job of making our region more equitable? Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

2. What is within the government's ability to make our region more equitable, and what in your view, is its role?

The government should fight for fairer voter registration laws. Fixing our democracy goes beyond stopping Trump, elected Republicans, and right-wing judges from engaging in voter suppression and abusing their power to overturn the results of free and fair elections. It also includes working to end racist voter ID and suppression laws, restoring the full power of the Voting Rights Act, and ending gerrymandering.

Marginalized communities are the most affected by the unfair voting laws, and the first step to making our region more equitable is to make these communities feel represented.

On any given day, our region suffers from some of the poorest air quality in the nation. CEOs get wealthy while the people of Western Pennsylvania--particularly in our Black and brown communities--experience higher rates of asthma, cancer and other diseases. That's why the

government needs to combat the climate crisis and guarantee clean air and drinking water in our black and brown communities.

3. Do you believe the government has a role to play to address our region's longstanding racial, gender and sexual identity inequities? Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

4. What is that role? What specific policy decisions could help address these inequities?

As the first Black woman elected to the Pennsylvania legislature, racial justice is one of the key components of my campaign. That's why I support the Green New Deal, which helps promote sustainability and clean air and water for marginalized communities. It creates clean job opportunities for minorities and helps areas facing the brunt of environmental racism. We must also end the numerous inhumane practices across our justice system that disproportionately affect black and brown communities. That means eliminating cash bail because our current system, which imprisons people based on their ability to pay, is a barbaric relic that punishes the poor for their poverty. Additionally, we must abolish the death penalty and life without parole—the state should not have the power to end someone's life or sentence them to death by incarceration.

The struggle for LGBTQ+ rights is among the defining civil rights issues of our time. Congress must pass the Equality Act to provide long overdue federal protections for LGBTQ+ people and their families. Right now there are no federal standards to prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in health care, housing, employment, etc. Beyond these fundamental protections, we must focus on meaningful representation for the LGBTQ+ community in politics, ward off a right-wing Supreme Court that could poke holes in LGBTQ rights based on "religious liberty," and address the many disparities that the LGBTQ+ community faces in affordable, inclusive health care.

We must continue fighting back against LGBTQ+ and gender discrimination in all forms. That's why I introduced the Equality in Laws Act—because gendered, rather than gender-neutral, language has resulted in further discrimination for women, gender-nonconforming, nonbinary, and intersex folks.

In Congress I've helped introduce legislation that directly addresses the issues facing the LGBTQ community, including a resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment, because we've waited too long for its passage and must not allow an arbitrary deadline to move us backward.

5. Should individual members of government focus on addressing the root causes of the racial and other inequities within the Pennsylvania region? Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

26. How do you feel you may do this for your district and the people you represent?

No human being is illegal. Our immigration system is a broken web of xenophobic policies that seek to punish brown and Black people and treat them as political pawns instead of building pathways to citizenship. Here in Pittsburgh, where we face declining population growth, our immigrant families are not only essential to our communities, but also our economy. Immigrants in Western Pennsylvania are essential to our ability to meet our labor force demands, meeting rising needs in key industries, contributing to taxes, and growing our manufacturing sector so that our economy can thrive. We need to restore humanity in our immigration system by ending the separation of families and reversing roadblocks for asylum-seekers and refugees. Millions of undocumented immigrants, from Dreamers to people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), deserve a pathway to citizenship because their home is here.

Right now, our economy works for the wealthy few and corporations at the expense of the working poor. Corporate tax breaks, unregulated Wall Street and Big Tech companies, and handouts to corporate polluters as social services continue to be underfunded have only reinforced the deep systemic inequalities that we continue to face as a nation. Economic growth has left behind marginalized communities and racial inequity and it's time we center working people in our economic policies.

That's why I've continued to advocate for legislation that supports a livable wage and aims to close the unnecessary gap between skyrocketing corporate profits and working people's poverty wages. There is no reason why the people in our community - or in any community - should be unable to afford a home on the wages they earn after working a full-time job.

I joined the board of the Alliance for Police Accountability to support community leaders advocating for a host of urgently needed reforms, pushing to end cash bail, stopping the school-to-prison pipeline, and more. This commitment is also a core reason I founded UNITE, a local grassroots PAC dedicated to endorsing progressives up and down the ballot who will work for racial and economic justice, including a slate of Black judges who won by a significant margin.

In Congress, I have co-sponsored several pieces of legislation to fight for police accountability and real justice in this country, including legislation to end qualified immunity, disarm those convicted of hate crimes, confront police violence against children, and end solitary confinement, and so much more. I've also co-sponsored resolutions to study reparations and establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

7. Do you support efforts to increase the minimum wage? * Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

8. Do you support efforts to legalize cannabis in PA? * Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Comments: I co-sponsored the Raise the Wage Act to raise the minimum wage to \$17 by 2028 for nearly 28 million Americans.

9. Do you support the expungement of records related to cannabis sale, possession, and or/usage? Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

10. Do you support the expansion of our public transit system (ex. Pittsburgh Regional Transit) into neighboring counties and the potential use of new methods of transit (Rail rapid transit, light rail expansion etc)?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

11. Do you support a pathway for immunity for those with cannabis related conditions and an inclusion of such individuals in the emerging cannabis industry? Why? Why Not?

Yes I do. This is a major part of national drug reform and a step towards justice for so many people, many of whom are Black and brown, who were convicted on marijuana charges. We also need to fight to legalize marijuana nationally, expunge these records, and free all the disproportionately Black and brown folks serving time for outdated, racist laws.

12. Should the Commonwealth pass new laws to protect voting rights in light of new challenges against the recently passed ACT 77? Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

13. What, if any, is the biggest threat to voting rights in Pennsylvania?

PA voters face higher barriers to casting a ballot than most other states. I'm working to make it easier to vote, not harder – and that means federal automatic voter registration, nationwide early and mail

voting, federal holidays for election days, and same day voter registration. Everyone deserves a say in our democracy—and that includes immigrants and folks who are incarcerated. Current voter registration laws make it difficult for marginalized communities to exercise their right to vote. I want to ensure that every voice in Pennsylvania is heard. The state lacks same-day registration and pre-registration for 16- and 17- year-olds. .

14. Do you support the creation or continuation of universal health programs, such as Medicare for All?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

15. If you answered yes, do you believe this should be permanent or a stepping stone to single payer healthcare?

I continue to believe that healthcare is a fundamental human right. No one in this country should fear losing coverage because of preexisting conditions, their employment status, their immigration status, daring to start their own business, or aging off of their parent's insurance. Our healthcare system is fundamentally broken. Medicare For All wouldn't just save money, it would save lives.

Medicare for All would eliminate fees and expand coverage, which means no one has to live in fear of bankruptcy in the event of a medical emergency or even just seeking preventative care. No more copays, deductibles and premiums. It would include not just medical, but also vision, dental, reproductive, mental health, and long-term care coverage. In too many cities like ours, we see mental health care and addiction crises criminalized through mass incarceration instead of supported in our healthcare system--Medicare for All would ensure a federal investment in mental healthcare and addiction services at the scale our communities need. Medicare for All will also lower prescription drug prices by allowing the government to negotiate drug prices and allowing consumers to buy directly from cheaper markets, forcing Big Pharma back to the negotiating table.

The COVID-19 pandemic only further exposed the inequities in our healthcare system. Black, brown, and indigenous adults are more likely to be uninsured than the national average. At the same time, Black people have higher maternal mortality, infant mortality, asthma rates among kids, and are more likely to die from cancer than anyone else. For marginalized communities, access to healthcare is a decision between life and death.

That's why I believe that Medicare for All should be permanent.

16. Should the government require local law enforcement agencies to ban chokeholds and no knock style raids in order to receive assistance?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

17. Do you believe the affordable, fair housing crisis includes having the government address issues with zoning, rent control, and eviction alternatives?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

18. What do you believe the solutions to the housing and eviction crisis should be?

As we've seen in Western Pennsylvania, we can't address the affordability crisis without finally addressing the rising cost of housing. Homelessness has continued to rise in Allegheny County, as over 900 people in Allegheny County are experiencing homelessness, including 155 who are unsheltered. In addition, the rent is getting too damn high, as more people are housing insecure, and rents continue to increase faster than people's wages are growing.

That's why in my first year in Congress, I've secured a \$50 million HUD Choice Housing grant to revitalize Bedford Dwellings and the Hill district neighborhood, righting past wrongs of racist development decisions by funding much needed rehabilitation and building new affordable housing units. I've also secured \$500,000 in upcoming Community Project Funding for the TRI-COG Land Bank to revitalize disinvested, abandoned land in McKeesport and build affordable housing.

I believe that in order to combat the housing and eviction crisis, we need to fund rehabilitation and prioritize affordability. I also support the Green New Deal, which focuses on a jobs guarantee, a guaranteed living wage, and strengthening the U.S. labor movement. Transitioning American society to 100% clean and renewable energy will create millions of good-paying union jobs to combat the housing crisis. No worker will be left behind.

19. Should Pennsylvania end qualified immunity for government officials, including law enforcement agents, in civil actions alleging deprivation of rights?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

20. Should Pennsylvania pass legislation requiring the commonwealth to focus on the ability to release net-zero carbon emissions into the atmosphere by the year 2050?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Comments: In Congress, I've fought tirelessly for a Green New Deal to transition to a 100% clean and renewable energy economy and create thousands of good-paying, union jobs in Western Pennsylvania. This includes ending fracking, which poses a disproportionate threat to communities like ours. The Green New Deal allows us to center our frontline and marginalized communities facing the brunt of environmental racism. Communities with poisoned water, high rates of asthma, etc. Communities like ours.

21. Do you support public investment and funding of the public schools and public community schools?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: Every child deserves access to a first-rate, free public education - regardless of their zip code or socioeconomic background. Unfortunately, the way public schools are funded is deeply inequitable, leaving behind working-class communities and communities of color.

In the State House and now in Congress, I've fought tirelessly for equitable funding for our schools. That means a fair funding formula that guarantees that children will not be punished for growing up in the "wrong" zip code – and it means raising teachers' pay so that our educators have what they need to provide every child with a quality public education.

I'm also fighting for universal free pre-kindergarten, including early childcare, free school meals for every child, and dramatically expanding teacher-training programs with a focus on generating high-quality teachers with cultural competency among an increasingly diverse student population.

22. Do you support investment into green energy and green energy jobs at the local level?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: I secured nearly \$400 million as part of a clean energy financing program loan for EOS, a clean battery storage manufacturer employing thousands of workers in PA-12. Their \$500 million Project AMAZE, will create over 1000 clean energy and union construction jobs.

23. Do you support investment into business education and sustainability into underserved and underrepresented communities?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: I secured a \$1.4 million 'Reconnecting Communities' Infrastructure investment to reconnect Pittsburgh's North Side neighborhood, righting the historic wrongs of economic redlining while boosting small business growth, development, and access to STEM education, training, and jobs.

24. Should the ICE detention facilities in the United States be subject to greater local oversight?

Mark only one oval.

- Strongly Agree**
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

25. Should the Commonwealth work within its power to ensure access to banking for locally regulated cannabis businesses?

Mark only one oval.

- Strongly Agree**
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

26. Do you agree gun legislation can be used to combat the health epidemic of mass shootings and community gun violence? Mark only one oval.

- Strongly Agree**
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Comments: Like communities across the country, Western Pennsylvania is facing a gun violence epidemic. In Congress, I've helped lead the fight to pass an assault weapons ban, expanded background checks, end protections for corporate gun manufacturers and bold gun-safety legislation to stop the mass shootings that have become all too common across schools, synagogues, churches, mosques, stores and cities across America.

When a dozen Pennsylvania schools were forced to go on lockdown and evacuate students due to swatting calls later determined to be false – just days after the horrific Nashville elementary school shooting, I spoke on the House floor about the need to address the trauma our students, parents, teachers experience due to gun violence, even when they are not killed or injured. I'm now working to introduce legislation to track and study the impact of gun trauma on those impacted but not killed or injured, which the Center for Disease Control currently does not account for.

I helped introduce legislation to open the Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy. The Biden administration listened, and opened the office months later – which is now beginning the work of coordinating various gun violence prevention efforts that are administered by the Department of Justice, recommending policy options to promote evidence-based gun violence prevention strategies, and promote related data collection.

I joined the Congressional Gun Violence Prevention Task Force so members of the House of Representatives from various backgrounds can come together to create concrete solutions to the gun violence epidemic that has afflicted Western Pennsylvania and continues to take our loved ones across the country.

I have also championed investments in youth programs, centers, and other initiatives that address the root causes of gun violence.

27. Do you support a path to citizenship for “Dreamers”?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Comments: We need to restore humanity in our immigration system by ending the separation of families and reversing roadblocks for asylum-seekers and refugees. Millions of undocumented immigrants, from Dreamers to people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), deserve a pathway to citizenship because their home is here.

Right now, our immigration system is built like our broken criminal legal system - it is punitive, relies on private prisons for detention, has built up an over-militarized border, and has turned ICE into a violent policing agency. All of that must end for us to prioritize the people getting lost, abused, and deported by our current immigration system.

I've cosponsored legislation in Congress that helps ensure immigrants are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve, and fix our backlogged and deliberately overburdened immigration system.

28. Do you support creating incentives for green technology innovation in opposition to working to revive the coal industry? Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

29. Do you support expanding access to affordable, accessible housing for low-income people and those experiencing displacement? Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

30. Do you support diversion or community based alternatives for people with mental illness from the criminal justice system, and to increase access to community mental health services?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: We know the best way to improve community safety is to invest in poverty-prevention, mental health, and wraparound services in communities. That's why, In Congress, I've fought for legislative solutions and investments in community safety that address the root of the problem by investing in our people and neighborhoods to secure a safer region for generations to come.

I've delivered nearly \$9.5M for criminal justice reform initiatives, including efforts to prevent trafficking of black girls and programs to reduce recidivism. I've also Secured \$963,000 for the City of Pittsburgh Criminal Justice Diversion Program to be included in the FY2024 Appropriations bill (likely passing in February) to provide people with substance use disorder and mental and behavioral health challenges with person-centered social services and intense case management to keep our communities safer. And, I've co-led the People's Response Act to create a public safety agency within the Department of Human Health and Services to emphasize an inclusive, holistic, and health-centered approach to public safety

31. Do you believe the Commonwealth has a role to play in reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates for the Black community in Pennsylvania?

Mark only one oval.

- Strongly Agree**
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- No Opinion
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments: Early in my first term, I helped issue a report on the Maternal Health Crisis and Access to Midwife Care with my colleagues on the House Oversight Committee, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) – detailing the need to invest in midwifery health care coverage, midwifery education programs, and support for midwifery workforce to address the Black maternal health crisis.

I'm fighting to pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act to end the Black maternal health epidemic critical investments in the social determinants of health, extend WIC eligibility, provide funding for community-based organizations, improve maternal health care for veterans, invest to grow and diversify the perinatal workforce, improve data collection, support maternal mental health, improve maternal health care and support for incarcerated moms, and so much more to address the maternal health crisis that disproportionately affects Black women across the country.

32. According to the FBI, White Supremacy is on the offensive both in government and in our socio-political rhetoric. What can be done to protect communities of color, LGBTQ folk, Women, Immigrants and other at risk communities from this very real threat?

White supremacy is an epidemic that puts marginalized communities at risk. We need to spread awareness by conducting public awareness campaigns to counteract misinformation and stereotypes. That's why I fought for \$1,000,000 in funding for the Tree of Life Educational Space Rebuild to educate against antisemitism and white supremacy in all its forms and over \$500,000 for 10/27 Healing Partnership to continue meeting the trauma and mental health needs of the community.

We need to continue to advocate for legislation that supports a livable wage and aims to close the unnecessary gap between skyrocketing corporate profits and working people's poverty wages. Leveling the playing field is the best way to combat white supremacy and ensure that black and brown communities are protected. There is no reason why the people in our community - or in any community - should be unable to afford a home on the wages they earn after working a full-time job. Reducing the minimum wage and investing in marginalized communities will help protect people of color, LGBTQ+, and other disadvantaged groups.

Members of the LGBTQ+ community - particularly trans women of color and non-binary people - also experience major disparities in sexual and reproductive health care and worse health outcomes overall. We need to address these inequities in healthcare access and outcomes to ensure that all people have access to safe, inclusive, and affordable health care, as is their human right.

33. How do you define community safety? How can your position work to keep the community safe?

Community safety, for me, involves not just protection from violence and discrimination but also advocating for systemic changes like police reform and investment in social services to address inequality within marginalized communities. It's about empowering and representing these communities while fostering collaboration to create safer, more equitable spaces for all. If elected, I can help ensure that we have accountability and oversight of police departments. It's time we center working people in our economic policies in order to promote job growth and keep communities secure. I'm also working to make it easier to vote, not harder - and that means federal automatic voter

registration, nationwide early and mail voting, federal holidays for election days, and same day voter registration. Everyone deserves a say in our democracy—and that includes immigrants and folks who are incarcerated. This will help communities feel represented and more secure in their future.

34. Outside of policing and prisons, what are some of the solutions to reducing the amount of violence that happens in the commonwealth?

Like communities across the country, Western Pennsylvania is facing a gun violence epidemic. In Congress, I've helped lead the fight to pass an assault weapons ban, expanded background checks, end protections for corporate gun manufacturers and bold gun-safety legislation to stop the mass shootings that have become all too common across schools, synagogues, churches, mosques, stores and cities across America.

In communities like ours, gun violence even more often means the widespread violence that happens in our streets with handguns. That violence is rooted in poverty, rooted in communities that have gone underfunded and ignored for too long. We need an investment in our schools, after-school programs, and wrap-around services. We need an investment in jobs and higher wages, so people have a choice in shaping their future. Gun violence cannot be addressed in isolation, it's rooted in every social service funding we cut and must be combatted at that level too.

I joined the Congressional Gun Violence Prevention Task Force so members of the House of Representatives from various backgrounds can come together to create concrete solutions to the gun violence epidemic that has afflicted Western Pennsylvania and continues to take our loved ones across the country.

35. Do you support expansive ballot access to include drop boxes, ballots translated into multiple languages, and extended voting opportunities on the weekends?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

36. Do you believe the process to reinstate the right to vote for returning citizens (those returning from government detainment) should be streamlined and automated to inform participants upon release?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

37. What can you do to improve the quality of life of the average Black 22 year old man in your district?

I will support the Green New Deal to transition to a 100% clean and renewable energy economy and create thousands of good-paying, union jobs in Western Pennsylvania. This includes ending fracking, which poses a disproportionate threat to communities like ours. The Green New Deal allows us to center our frontline and marginalized communities facing the brunt of environmental racism. Communities with poisoned water, high rates of asthma, etc.

In communities like ours, gun violence even more often means the widespread violence that happens in our streets with handguns. That violence is rooted in poverty, rooted in communities that have gone underfunded and ignored for too long. We need an investment in our schools, after-school programs, and wrap-around services. We need an investment in jobs and higher wages, so people have a choice in shaping their future. Gun violence cannot be addressed in isolation, it's rooted in every social service funding we cut and must be combatted at that level too.

I'm working to make it easier to vote, not harder – and that means federal automatic voter registration, nationwide early and mail voting, federal holidays for election days, and same day voter registration. Everyone deserves a say in our democracy—and that includes immigrants and folks who are incarcerated.

Supporting the Green New Deal, combating violence prevalent in black communities, and making voting more accessible will not only improve the living quality of an average black man, but make it so that he feels secure in his future.

38. Why should voters trust you to operate differently? How will you ensure transparency if elected?

Unlike other politicians, my voting record has reflected my opinions on issues and campaign promises. Me and my team have delivered constituent services to over 1,600 constituents with issues ranging from helping our seniors and disabled community access Medicare and Social Security, to helping folks secure housing and helping families navigate the immigration system. I helped increase

teacher pay, and create the first-in-the-nation workforce training program to invest \$400 million in training and creation of 10,000 new jobs. In 2023, I passed \$10.7 million worth of community project funding through committee, responded to over 20,000 constituents, attended over 300 community events, is leading or co-leading 19 bills, and cosponsored 226 bills to address local issues ranging from cleaning our air and water to protecting abortion, combating gun violence, and fighting for voting rights, environmental justice, and Social Security.

During my campaign, I promised to represent my constituents and raise money for my community and that is exactly what I've done.

39. Do you believe art is a vital resource for education, tourism, violence intervention, and cultural competency ?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

40. Do you believe in funding the arts as a general practice of community investments?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

41. How do you define governmental transparency?

Governmental transparency means ensuring that decision-making processes, policies, and actions of our government are accessible, accountable, and understandable to our citizens, particularly those from marginalized communities. It involves actively engaging with my constituents, providing clear information, and creating trust through open communication channels and accountability.

42. What does reproductive justice mean to you? How is it able to reduce the maternal and infant mortality rates in the Black community?

Trump's right-wing extremists on the Supreme Court have gutted our constitutional right to abortion care, and Congress must do everything in its power to restore and expand our fundamental freedom to control our bodies and our futures. In Pennsylvania, the only thing stopping Republican extremists like Doug Mastriano in the state legislature from criminalizing abortion care is our narrow State House majority and Governor Shapiro's veto. But the reality is that the same PA Republicans working to criminalize abortion have long shut out Black, brown, poor, working class, and rural folks from reproductive care—long before Trump's SCOTUS overturned Roe.

With Roe gone and Trump's Supreme Court now preparing to decide a case to ban medicated abortion nationwide, including in Pennsylvania, we cannot rely on a patchwork of state-level rights. We need to protect abortion rights and guarantee access to reproductive health care at the federal level. In Congress, I'm a proud member of Pro-Choice Caucus and am fighting to pass the Women's Health Protection Act to restore Roe and guarantee the federally protected for professionals to administer and patients to receive abortion care across the country, free from bans and unnecessary restrictions.

Make no mistake, abortion bans and attempts to chip away our reproductive rights are attacks that fall hardest on the most marginalized Black and brown communities that already lack necessary access to care. Right now the maternal mortality rate for Black women is four times higher than it is for white women. I'm fighting to pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act to end the Black maternal health epidemic critical investments in the social determinants of health, extend WIC eligibility, provide funding for community-based organizations, improve maternal health care for veterans, invest to grow and diversify the perinatal workforce, improve data collection, support maternal mental health, improve maternal health care and support for incarcerated moms, and so much more to address the maternal health crisis that disproportionately affects Black women across the country.

43. The medical result of a pregnancy decision should not result in a criminal arrest or prosecution of the individual or their doctor. Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

44. Do you support reparations for the descendants of those who were enslaved or denied governmental services based upon their racial classification?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

45. Research indicates Black men are disproportionately targeted by gun possession laws with little to no ways to legally own a gun once a violation occurs . Do you believe it is important to review the impact gun legislation has on communities in order to ensure common sense reforms are not interfering with constitutional rights.

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

46. Do you support legislation that would afford members of the LGBTQIA+ community protection from eviction, employment discrimination, job termination, and denial of medical care?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

47. Pennsylvania has one of the largest aging populations in the country. Do you believe our government can do more to improve the conditions of the facilities and the overall quality of life for our seniors ?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

48. How do you define disability justice and how have you worked in the past to uphold its principles?

All policymaking must be rooted in a disability justice framework, which recognizes it as inextricable from racial, gender, and economic justice, and means we must work in solidarity across “categories” to build towards collective access. Ableism in our country and its laws have forced disabled people into second-class citizenship.

We must ensure that all disabled people are paid fairly, and we must end the loopholes that allow businesses to pay disabled people subminimum wages. Additionally, we must expand and reform Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), so that people receiving benefits can actually survive on them and end the punitive regulations that trap disabled people into poverty.

We must not only pass Medicare for All, but ensure that it includes coverage of community-based long term support services as well as massive federal investments in home and community-based services (HCBS) to get hundreds of thousands of disabled people off waiting lists for home care and ensure they have access to the care they and their families need.

Since taking office, I've continued my commitment to disability justice by securing \$28,400,000 for the Pittsburgh Regional Transit to make the Bethel Village, Westfield, St. Anne's, and Shiras stations on PRT's Red Line ADA accessible, providing safe and convenient access to downtown Pittsburgh, Castle Shannon Borough, and the Municipality of Bethel Park.

49. The current SSI formula creates a default disability marriage penalty that should be altered to allow individuals to maintain their award levels irrespective of their marriage status?

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

51. Artists, cultural spaces, and artist practitioners provide a vital partnership and resources to government agencies.

Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Comments

52. As a member of Congress you have the unique responsibility to vote for the country to go to war. What is your foreign policy philosophy in regards to this congressional power?

Post 9/11, our federal government's decision to fund endless wars cost 4.5 million lives, including over 7,000 US Service Members and displaced tens of millions in a time of deep pain after 3,000 beloved American lives were brutally stolen by Al Qaeda on September 11th. These endless wars cost US taxpayers 8 trillion dollars—dollars that could have and should have gone to ending worldwide hunger by 2030 (\$267 billion) and would still have \$135 billion to spare—enough to provide universal pre-K, provide universal family and medical leave, and eradicate student debt in the United States—had Washington made better decisions. In 2007, 57 of the 77 senators who voted to authorize the war in Iraq said that they would not vote the same way with the benefit of hindsight. Now is the time for every one of us in Congress and the Biden administration to exercise that hindsight and use every point of leverage to push allies to do the same. Now is the time to recognize that the power of life and death, the power of war, the power of prosperity, and the pathway to peace and justice comes through Congress. The decisions that we make now in the face of unimaginable pain and anger from the communities we love and serve will help determine the trajectory of the world going forward. Now is the time to take responsibility seriously even when the political pressure is high and the status quo tells us that it's 'normal' to spend our constituents' tax dollars on weapons and wars rather than balancing diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and meeting the needs of the people we represent. Now is the time to prioritize peace and the safety and the safety of all children and all people in the world

53. What is your position on immigration reform and border security?

Here in Pittsburgh, where we face declining population growth, our immigrant families are not only essential to our communities but also our economy.

Immigrants in Western Pennsylvania are essential to our ability to meet our labor force demands, meeting rising needs in key industries, contributing to taxes, and growing our manufacturing sector so that our economy can thrive. We need to restore humanity in our immigration system by ending the separation of families and reversing roadblocks for asylum-seekers and refugees. Millions of undocumented immigrants, from Dreamers to people with Temporary Protected Status (TPS), deserve a pathway to citizenship because their home is here. Right now, our immigration system is built like our broken criminal legal system - it is punitive, relies on private prisons for detention, has built up an over-militarized border, and has turned ICE into a violent policing agency. All of that must end for us to prioritize the people getting lost, abused, and deported by our current immigration system.

54. In order to assist individuals in obtaining economic mobility, it is important to have universal, automatic student loan debt cancellation. Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

55. Given the use of hip hop and rap lyrics in criminal prosecutions, passing the RAP ACT is common sense legislation which would narrow the use of lyrics in prosecutorial proceedings to instances directly connected to or about an alleged crime. Mark only one oval.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Somewhat Agree

No Opinion

Somewhat Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Thank You For Your Submission

Thank you so much for applying. We appreciate your commitment to public service and working to ensure the people of the Commonwealth are well represented.

