



CeaseFire Pennsylvania Releases Recommendations in General Assembly Elections

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday Sept. 22, 2016, Philadelphia -- Today CeaseFire Pennsylvania released its first set of recommendations for the upcoming elections for the State House and Senate. “People want to know where these candidates stand on gun violence prevention,” said CeaseFire Pennsylvania Executive Director Shira Goodman. “We are hoping to provide the voters with information they need to make crucial decisions. Candidates need to know that the gun lobby isn’t the only organization paying attention and that PA voters care deeply about how candidates propose to fight gun violence and make Pennsylvania safer.” CeaseFire Pennsylvania is proud to recommend candidates from both sides of the aisle, incumbents and challengers, and is pleased to see gun violence prevention becoming a more prominent issue in many campaigns.

Before the primary elections, and again this summer, CeaseFire Pennsylvania sent questionnaires to all candidates for the House and Senate. The candidates’ individual scores may be found here (<http://www.ceasefirepa.org/general-interest/general-assembly-questionnaire-scores/>), and our recommendations for specific races are set forth below. Our recommendations take into account the candidates’ questionnaires, voting records and public stances. Races marked with an * have a fuller explanation following the list of recommended candidates.

We anticipate releasing additional recommendations in the near future, and also note that it is possible that votes taken in the legislature in the coming weeks could affect our recommendations.

Recommendations for the Pennsylvania Senate

Senate 1
Lawrence Farnese (D)

Senate 13
Greg Paulson (D)

Senate 5
John Sabatina (D)

Senate 15
Rob Teplitz (D)

Senate 9
Tom Killion (R)

Senate 17
Daylin Leach (D)

Senate 49
Sean Wiley (D)

Recommendations for PA House

House 61* Kate Harper (R)	House 152* Thomas Murt (R)	House 165 Elaine Paul Schaefer (D)
House 103 Patty Kim (D)	House 153 Madeleine Dean (D)	House 166 Greg Vitali (D)
House 132 Michael Schlossberg (D)	House 156 Carolyn Comitta (D)	House 168 Diane Cornman-Levy (D)
House 137 David Mattei	House 157* Warren Kampf (R)	House 172 Kevin Boyle (D)
House 141 Tina Davis (D)	House 158 Susan Rzucidlo (D)	House 175 Michael O'Brien (D)
House 148 Mary Jo Daley (D)	House 161 Leanne Krueger-Braneky (D)	House 177* John Taylor (R)
House 149 Tim Briggs (D)	House 163* James Santora (R)	House 183 Phillips Armstrong (D)
House 150 Linda Weaver (D)	House 164 Margo Davidson (D)	House 202 Jared Solomon (D)

There are several races this year where challengers with strong gun violence prevention credentials and good questionnaire scores are challenging incumbents who have favorable records on the issue. We explain our recommendations in each of these races below.

House 61

Republican incumbent Kate Harper is being challenged by Democrat Robert Wilkinson. Mr. Wilkinson has expressed strong support for gun violence prevention and our key policy proposals. Ms. Harper voted for HB 1010, the background check expansion bill and against Act 192, the special standing/expanded preemption law, in 2014. We recommend Ms. Harper

House 152

Republican incumbent Tom Murt is being challenged by Democrat Albert DerMovsesian. Mr. DerMovsesian and Mr. Murt have both expressed strong support for key gun violence prevention policies.

In 2014, Mr. Murt voted in favor of HB 1010, but also voted for Act 192. He has informed us, however, that he opposes reauthorizing the special standing provisions of Act 192. We recommend Mr. Murt.

House 157

Republican incumbent Warren Kampf is being challenged by Democrat Hans van Mol. Mr. van Mol has expressed strong support for key gun violence prevention policies. Mr. Kampf has twice cosponsored HB 1010, voted for expanding background checks in 2014, and voted against Act 192. We recommend Mr. Kampf.

House 163

Republican incumbent James Santora is being challenged by Democrat Barbarann Keffer. Ms. Keffer and Mr. Santora have both expressed strong support for key gun violence prevention policies. Early in his first term, Mr. Santora was the first Republican to cosponsor HB 1010 and has been a vocal champion of expanding background checks, even when he was the lone Republican to do so. We recommend Mr. Santora.

House 177

Incumbent Republican John Taylor is being challenged by Democrat Joe Hohenstein. Mr. Hohenstein and Mr. Taylor have each expressed strong support for key gun violence prevention policies. Mr. Taylor voted for HB 1010 in 2014, and this session became a cosponsor of the bill. Mr. Taylor did vote for Act 192 in 2014, though he has informed us that he opposes reauthorizing its special standing provisions. We appreciate Mr. Taylor demonstrating increased support for expanding background checks through his cosponsorship of Act 192 and his rethinking of Act 192. We recommend Mr. Taylor.

About CeaseFire Pennsylvania

CeaseFire Pennsylvania is the advocacy arm of CeaseFirePA, a statewide organization working with mayors, law enforcement, faith leaders, community organizations and Pennsylvanians taking a stand against gun violence. We work to reduce gun violence and gun tragedies, stop the flow of illegal guns onto our streets, and keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them.

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