



CeaseFire Pennsylvania Releases Recommendations in General Assembly Elections

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2016**

**Contact: Shira Goodman
215-680-1163 (cell)
Shira.goodman@ceasefirepa.org**

Philadelphia -- Today CeaseFire Pennsylvania released its second set of recommendations for the upcoming elections for the State House. “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.

As the legislature is still in session and appears to be moving a bill that we consider extremely dangerous, it is possible that votes taken in the coming weeks could affect our recommendations. If this happens, we will notify the public.

Recommendations for PA Senate

Senate 11

Judith Schwank

Senate 19

Andy Dinniman

Recommendations for PA House

House 6 Peter Zimmer (D)	House 74* no recommendation	House 146 Joe Ciresi (D)
House 13 Nancy Dean (D)	House 100 Dale Hamby (D)	House 162* Nick Miccarelli (R)
House 28 John Craig Hammond (D)	House 101 Lorraine Scudder (D)	House 170* no recommendation
House 31 Perry Warren (D)	House 104 Jody Rebarchak (D)	House 188 James Roebuck (D)
House 61* Rob Wilkinson	House 108 John Deppen (D)	House 200 Chris Raab (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

In our first set of recommendations, we had recommended incumbent Kate Harper in this race. On Monday October 10, we withdrew that recommendation based on Ms. Harper's change in position on Act 192, the special standing/preemption legislation and her support for its reauthorization. As a result, we are now recommending challenger Rob Wilkinson.

House 74

Republican incumbent Harry Lewis is being challenged by Democrat Joshua Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell scored 100% on our questionnaire and has a strong record of fighting gun violence as a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Mr. Lewis, in his first term, cosponsored HB 1010 the background check expansion bill, but he has also cosponsored HB 2258, the reauthorization of Act 192. We have learned that Mr. Lewis is reconsidering his support for that bill, and we hope he will ultimately oppose it. At this time, we are not making a recommendation in this race.

House 162

Republican incumbent Nick Miccarelli is being challenged by Democrat Jim Butt. Mr. Butt scored 100% on our questionnaire. Mr. Miccarelli has twice cosponsored HB 1010, and voted for expanding background checks in 2014. Although he voted for Act 192 in 2014, we have learned that he intends to vote against legislation to reauthorize the special standing provisions of Act 192. Accordingly, we recommend Mr. Miccarelli.

House 170

Republican incumbent Martina White is being challenged by Democrat Matt Darragh. Mr. Darragh scored 100% on our questionnaire. Although Ms. White has not yet taken a floor vote on our key issues, she was the lone Republican member of the Judiciary Committee to vote No on HB 2258, the

reauthorization of Act 192. We hope she will continue to oppose HB 2258 and the companion Senate Bill 1330 in the coming weeks. At this time, we are not making a recommendation in this race.

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.

###