

Vote411 Voters' Mini-Guide

Special Election April 5, 2022

Pennsylvania State Representative

District 19

This Voters' Mini-Guide is an excerpt of the Vote411.org online Voters' Guide -- a project of the League of Women Voters. All information in Vote411 Voters' Guides is submitted by the candidates and has not been edited or altered in any way.

This election will fill the seat vacated after Democratic state representative Jake Wheatley was named Chief of Staff by new Mayor of Pittsburgh Ed Gainey. The candidate who is elected on April 5th will take office right away and serve until January 2023.

The 19th Legislative District contains several neighborhoods in the City of Pittsburgh, including Downtown, the Hill District, Allentown, Hazelwood, Knoxville, Beltzhoover, Manchester, Arlington, Arlington Heights, North Side, South Side, and North, South, and West Oakland.

To vote in this election, you must register by March 21, 2022. All registered voters, regardless of party, may vote in this election.

Description of office: The General Assembly is the legislative branch of government in Pennsylvania. It is composed of two houses: the Senate is the upper house, and the House of Representatives is the lower house. A majority vote in both houses is necessary to pass a law. The House of Representatives consists of 203 members. Representatives must be at least 21 years old, have been citizens and lived in their respective districts one year before their election, and must live in their districts during their terms of service.

Term: 2 years

Candidates (choose 1):





Aerion Andrew Abney

Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Voting Rights/Social Work

Education: Masters Social Work - University of Pittsburgh

Campaign Website: voteaerionabney.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AerionAndrewAbney

Twitter: twitter.com/TripleA2

Questions:

Q: *What issue(s) would you prioritize, and how would you work with others in government to get legislation passed and signed into law?*

A: Anti displacement strategies that are part of our planning, programming, and policies. Working with PHFA and City Housing Authority to provide resources to increase affordable housing in the district. Quality education that isn't determined by a students' zip code. Simplifying the funding formula and provide a more equitable funding distribution model for our schools. Creating more access to quality job opportunities that pay a living wage.

Q: *What changes, if any, would you support making to Pennsylvania's voting laws?*

A: I would push for automatic voter registration, same day registration, increased pay for poll workers, pre-canvassing and more. While the State makes laws about our election process, elections are run at the County level. However, the State doesn't provide adequate funding to Counties to consistently do things like early voting sites or to purchase drop boxes or to pay for mail ballot postage. We need to provide Counties with the resources needed to expand access to the ballot for our electorate.

Q: *Article 1, Section 27 of the PA constitution guarantees the rights to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the environment. What actions would you take to protect these rights?*

A: I would vote to increase funding to the Department of Environmental Protection which has been underfunded for years. They have an important role to play in regulating and penalizing bad actors that abuse our environment. Additionally, I would push to improve our issue with storm water runoff. This not only leads to major flooding in the region but it also overwhelms our sewer systems causing rain water and waste to mix and get pushed into our rivers.

Q: *There are several pieces of gun legislation being considered on comprehensive background checks, red flag laws, and firearm safety training. What is your position on these measures?*

A: I support any measure that seeks to keep firearms out of the hands of people who want to cause others harm. Additionally, I support gun buy back programs and safety trainings.