

INFORMED VOTER'S GUIDE TO THE 2024 ELECTION

Nov 5th 2024

U.S. SENATE

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 federal law. A 60% supermajority is needed in the Senate to move most legislation to a vote.

Senators are elected every 6 years, and the U.S. Senate is made up of 100 Senators, with each state electing Senators. The U.S. Vice President presides over the U.S. Senate and can serve as an additional vote when the chamber is split. The Senate alone has the power to confirm the President's nominations for positions such as Supreme Court Judges and Cabinet Positions.

WHY IT MATTERS?

Legislation from the Senate touches on issues such as healthcare, criminal justice reform, immigration, and COVID-19 relief. A divide in the Senate creates deadlock around important legislation.

AUDITOR

The Auditor General of Pennsylvania plays a crucial role in overseeing the state's financial accountability. This involves conducting audits to ensure the proper use of taxpayer funds, evaluating the effectiveness of government programs, and promoting transparency and compliance with laws and regulations. By identifying areas for improvement and conducting special investigations, the Auditor General contributes to the efficient and responsible management of state resources.

WHY IT MATTERS?

The Auditor General's role in Pennsylvania is vital as it ensures fair resource allocation and transparency. Through thorough audits, the Auditor General works to uncover disparities, promote equitable spending, and contribute to dismantling systemic barriers, fostering a more just and inclusive state.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General of Pennsylvania serves as the chief legal officer for the state, providing legal counsel to the Governor, state agencies, prosecuting criminal cases of statewide importance, enforcing consumer protection laws, advocating for civil rights, overseeing regulatory compliance, and collaborating with law enforcement. The role is crucial in upholding and enforcing the law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHY IT MATTERS?

Now you have all the information you need to vote.

Learn more about the candidates running for office in your area here:

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The role of the Attorney General in Pennsylvania is pivotal for our communities as it directly influences equitable enforcement of laws and protection of civil rights. The Attorney General plays a crucial role in addressing systemic issues, combating discrimination, and ensuring fair treatment under the law. By actively engaging in prosecuting cases of racial injustice, advocating for comprehensive criminal justice reform, and safeguarding the rights of individuals, the Attorney General contributes significantly to fostering a more just and inclusive society in Pennsylvania.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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 federal law. Representatives are elected every 2 years. Only the House of Representatives can introduce tax bills.

The U.S. House is made up of 435 members redistributed every 10 years after the Census.

WHY IT MATTERS?

Legislation from the House touches on issues such as healthcare, criminal justice reform, immigration and COVID-19 relief. A divide in the House creates deadlock around important legislation.

PA STATE SENATOR & STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The Pennsylvania State Legislature can refer statewide ballot measures to the ballot. The Pennsylvania Constitution requires a simple majority vote (50%+1) in each chamber (State House & State Senate) in two successive legislative sessions in order to add Constitutional Amendments to the ballot. Constitutional Amendments that pass the legislature then appear on the ballot as ballot measures that voters then vote to approve or disapprove.

WHY IT MATTERS?

Amendments do not require the Governor's signature to be sent to the ballot or to become law if approved. This has the potential to make ballot measures a way to circumvent the checks and balances between the legislative and executive branches of the state.

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WHY IT MATTERS?

The Lieutenant Governor will become the Governor in the event that the current Governor is no longer able to serve. As Chair of the Board of Pardons, in recent years we have seen how important this role can be for criminal reform. The Lieutenant Governor can lobby the Board of Pardons to pardon people, including those with non-violent marijuana convictions, to be released from prison.

Treasurer

The Treasurer of Pennsylvania is responsible for managing the state's finances, overseeing investments, debt, and cash flow. They serve as the custodian of state funds, maintain banking relationships, and provide transparent financial reporting. The Treasurer plays a crucial role in ensuring fiscal responsibility and may also engage in financial education and outreach programs.

WHY IT MATTERS?

The Treasurer's role in Pennsylvania is crucial for communities, ensuring equitable financial practices and resource allocation. Through transparent financial management and outreach, the Treasurer contributes to addressing economic disparities and promoting financial literacy, fostering economic inclusivity for all residents.

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ARABIC: 844-YALLA-US (1-844-925-5287)

ASIAN LANGUAGES: 888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683)

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