

ON THE FRONTLINE

The Official Newsletter Of Common Cause Pennsylvania



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Election Protection Recruitment Begins

by Jamie Mogil, Election Protection Director

Election Day is almost a month away. All eyes will be on Pennsylvania with key, crucial races for Governor, Senator, Congress and legislative districts. Common Cause PA, along with a coalition of partners, is taking the lead to run an Election Protection program across the Commonwealth. Through the 866 OUR VOTE hotline and on-site voter assistance, the Election Protection coalition works to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot that counts. We are busy having meetings with county and state officials, partner groups and community organizations to ensure a smooth election process. If there are problems, lawyers in each county will be ready to address problems or incidents.

On Election Day, hundreds of grassroots field volunteers will monitor polling sites. We plan to cover as many counties as possible but we need your help! ***Sign up today as a non-partisan poll monitor on Election Day, November 6, 2018.***

Volunteers like you are voters' first line of defense against suppression tactics, confusing laws, outdated infrastructure, and other impediments to making their voices heard. Thank you for your continued support!

Partners At Work In PA

Equitable Funding for Education

"In 2016, based on recommendations from a bipartisan funding commission, Pennsylvania passed a new formula for distributing basic education funds to districts around the state. This well-designed formula takes into consideration factors which affect the real cost of educating children such as poverty, local taxing capacity, English language learners and the challenges faced by rural districts. Currently, only nine percent of state basic education funding goes through the fair funding formula because the legislature decided that only "new money", added to the budget since the formula was established, would be distributed according to the formula. By law, the rest of the money continues to be distributed in the old unfair way that was in place before the new formula was passed. In order for the state to distribute basic education funding in a fairer and more equitable way across all districts, more money has to go through the formula.

If all of the money budgeted for state basic education funding was distributed using the formula, every district would receive its fair share of the funding. Accompanied by an increase in overall state funding, this fair distribution would eliminate Pennsylvania's racial bias in school funding and ensure adequate resources for all schools."

*by Rev. Greg Holston, Executive Director of P.O.W.E.R.
POWER is an interfaith movement involving churches, synagogues and mosque congregations active in civic engagement*



COMMON CAUSE PA UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 5th

'Democracy Works Happy Hour'
4:30pm Harris Grill
Pittsburgh, PA

October 6th

'Democracy Works Tailgate'
9am Heinz Field Parking Lot
Pittsburgh, PA

October 8th

'Democracy Works Happy Hour'
4:30pm Bell Hall
Allentown, PA

October 12th

'PA GOTV Text Banking'

October 27th

MICAH SIMS BIRTHDAY

Tuesday, November 6th
ELECTION DAY

Common Cause PA
800 N. Third Street
Suite 401
Harrisburg, PA 17102
717.232.9951

Micah Sims
Executive Director

OurDemocracy[®] 2018

Find out where your candidates stand on fixing our democracy at democracy2018.org





Voting For The Right Candidates

by Carol Kuniholm, Chair of Fair Districts PA

Fair Districts is a grassroots organization and group of supporting organizations looking to establish an independent redistricting commission

Fair Districts PA has asked PA candidates whether they support an independent citizens redistricting commission. Their answers as well as votes on bills supported in the 2017-2018 legislative session can be found here: <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/take-action/know-before-you-vote>. All candidates received at least three requests for response. For those who haven't answered, ask again! Their campaign email is listed along with response information. You can use the supplied email address to ask them to email electioninfo@FairDistrictsPA.com to request a survey link. Fair Districts PA is inviting help in making this a clear campaign issue. In addition to contacting candidates, consider writing letters to the editor pointing toward the Know Before You Vote page and attending town halls and debates to ask candidates their positions.



Reaching People Like You

For too long, politics in our state has been shaped by a corporate-sponsored narrative that says prosperity comes from cutting taxes on the rich and gutting government spending. We The People is a non-partisan campaign that aims to make state government work for all of us. Our agenda was created by people who came together in meetings all over the state and embraced a program to build an economy that benefits all Pennsylvanians regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or income. We believe that our well-being depends on the common goods we create together and economic rules that work for all. Economic growth is driven by rising wages and benefits which allow people to buy more from our businesses. And businesses can produce more only if workers are well educated and trained.

Our agenda is based on six principles.

- A successful community helps working people protect their rights and dignity, raise their wages, and improve their working condition.
- Pennsylvanians deserve opportunities for the education and training they need to have meaningful and rewarding lives and work
- Every Pennsylvanian has the right to basic necessities: food, housing, health care, a secure retirement, and freedom to be with their family in times of stress.
- A growing economy needs first-class infrastructure and a sustainable environment.
- Our tax system should not be rigged against working- and middle-class people; the wealth should pay their share.
- Protecting the rights and liberties of all Pennsylvanians, and our democracy itself, must be our highest priority.

by Marc Steir, Director of We The People - Pennsylvania Action



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Common Cause PA Board Chair Brian Cullin Share's His Thoughts:

As we move closer to Election Day 2018 and the partisan rancor grows ever louder, Common Cause PA is fully engaged in numerous efforts to make our elections more open and more fair for all Pennsylvanians. Common Cause PA is leading an innovative statewide Election Protection Program that will place poll monitors at crucial, high risk voting locations to protect access to the ballot. This important work needs your support! Join me and sign up to volunteer on Election Day as a poll monitor at www.protectthevote.net

In Harrisburg, we are working with legislators on both sides of the aisles to bring open primaries to Pennsylvania. Currently, unaffiliated voters pay taxes to fund primary elections that they are barred from voting in. To boot, the toxic combo of closed primaries and gerrymandered "safe seats" prevent hundreds of thousands of voters each year from having a meaningful say. We need you to hold your legislators' feet to the fire and demand open primaries in our state.

Finally, we continue the fight to end Politicians First gerrymandering. In the upcoming legislative session, Common Cause will roll out several strong, targeted proposals to inject much needed transparency and accountability into the broken redistricting process

Thank you for your ongoing support and for taking action to empower everyday Pennsylvanians and protect our democracy.

Board Member Binge: Christina Hartman

Common Cause PA has some of the brightest and best individuals helping govern the operation, expansion and development of the organization. This issue we want to learn more about the newest board member Christina Hartman, here is the **BINGE** -

Your favorite food: Artichokes

Your favorite movie: Harry Potter

Your favorite childhood moment: Mastering the monkey bars

Your favorite color: Silver

One idea to improve Common Cause: use our amazing brand to raise more money and improve reach of our civic and voter education activities while continuing our great work with government



Member Spotlight: Lora Lavin



Lora Lavin is a founding member of Common Cause. She and her late husband, Gerry joined in April 1972 while living in Kinston, NC. After her family moved to Columbia, SC she became active as vice president of the newly founded state organization. At the urging of several activists she ran as a petition candidate for the National Governing Board and won a spot, joining such luminaries as Archibald Cox and Sam Dash. She subsequently served four three year terms on the Board including six during the time she was State Chair of CCPA.. Her favorite memory involves her first meeting of the National Board when Dash organized a dinner for board members at the Mayflower Hotel, one of the priciest in DC. Compensating for the sticker shock was ending up sitting next to Cox. But it turned out she was on his right which was his deaf ear.

Volunteer to

PROTECT THE VOTE



Visit www.protectthevote.net to learn more.

Common Cause Pennsylvania On The Move

