

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATORS' VOTES ON KEY
ISSUES FOR SELECTED REPUBLICAN INCUMBENTS**

Issues:

- **Gun Control**
- **Environment**
- **Healthcare & Reproductive Rights**
- **Public Education**
- **LGBT Rights**
- **Redistricting Reform (Gerrymandering)**
- **Immigration Policy**

Republican Incumbent (Democratic challenger); Senate District; Page No.

Rafferty (Muth)	S-44	p. 2
Mensch (Fields)	S-24	p. 5
Tomlinson (Davis)	S-6	p. 8
McGarrigle (Kearney)	S-26	p.11
Browne (Pinsley)	S-16	p.14
Stefano (Gerald)	S-32	p.18

This information was compiled by the Turn PA Blue research team led by Bettina Pearl with assistance from Jim Aleo. For more information, suggestions, or comments, please email: bettinapearl@gmail.com

9/20/2018

Gun Control

Expand background checks to include long guns (SB209)

- ❖ Closes a loophole that allows anyone, including felons, to avoid background check when buying from private sellers.
- ❖ Considered a top priority by PA gun control advocates.

Not a cosponsor

Allow guns in schools (SB383)

- ❖ Allows teachers and other school personnel who have concealed-carry permits to bring guns to schools. No guidelines included for how guns should be stored or when they should be used.
- ❖ Strongly opposed by PA gun control advocates.

Voted YES

Environment

Roll back oil and gas drilling protections (SB1088)

- Preempts local government regulations of oil and gas industry and creates major new exceptions to state environmental regulations, including Pennsylvania's Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act and water protection rules.
- Strongly opposed by PA environmental groups, which contend the bill is "a wholesale weakening of necessary protection standards" and a "draconian weakening" of environmental protections.

Not a cosponsor of SB1088

Healthcare and Reproductive Rights

Medicaid work requirements (HB59, concurrence in House amendments)

- ❖ Will hinder the ability of low income and disabled individuals to get health coverage.
- ❖ Vetoed by Governor Wolf. Struck down by federal court as arbitrary and capricious (KY law).

Voted YES

20-week abortion ban (SB3)

- ❖ Contains the most extreme restrictions on abortion in the country.
- ❖ Would ban abortions after 20 weeks without exceptions for rape, incest, health, or tragic fetal anomalies.

Cosponsored SB3 and voted YES

Public Education

Education Savings Accounts (Vouchers)(SB2)

- ❖ Takes money from school districts and allows it to be spent on private/religious schools.
- ❖ Would remove more than \$500 million in taxpayer dollars from school districts.

Cosponsored SB2

Charter Schools (HB97)

- Draws critical funds away from school districts regardless of charter schools' performance.
- Opposed by public education advocates.

Voted YES

LGBT Rights

PA Fairness Act (SB613)

- ❖ Creates a statewide law against discrimination based on LGBT status.
- ❖ Polls show overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanians support this legal protection.

Not a cosponsor of SB613

Hate Crime Expansion (SB 96)

- ❖ Makes it a state crime to harass or assault an individual based on their sexual orientation.
- ❖ Top legislative priority for LGBT rights organizations.

Not a cosponsor of SB96

Prohibit profiling (Amdt 163 to SB10)

- ❖ Would prevent law enforcement officials from using sovereign immunity as a defense to profile individuals based on race, gender, or sexual orientation.
- ❖ "No" vote allows municipalities to profile individuals without consequences.

Voted NO

Transgender exclusions (HB1388, revert to prior printer no.)

- ❖ Allow CHIP to continue to cover transgender services, including counseling and prescription medication.
- ❖ “No” voted denies medical care to vulnerable children, in violation of federal CHIP law.

Voted NO

"Conscientious Objection Act" (SB24)

- ❖ Allows medical practitioners to discriminate against LGBT individuals.
- ❖ Patients who divulge their sexuality could be denied critical medical care.

Cosponsor of SB24

Redistricting Reform (Gerrymandering)

“Poison Pill” Redistricting bill (SB22 with Aument amendment)

- Last-minute change to bipartisan anti-gerrymandering measure intended to undermine reform efforts..
- Led to advocates withdrawing support and delaying much-needed reform.

Voted YES

Immigration Policy

Proof of Citizenship for Receipt of Public Benefits (SB9)

- Requires additional proof of citizenship to obtain public benefits.
- Will create additional barriers for low-income citizens & legal residents to obtain benefits they are entitled to, including Unemployment Insurance.

Cosponsor of SB9

Sanctions on “Sanctuary Cities” (SB10)

- Attempts to punish so-called “Sanctuary Cities” by withholding state grants.
- Municipalities will be penalized for refusing to enforce federal laws that violate the rights of its residents.

Voted YES

Gun Control

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Voted NO

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Cosponsor of SB1088

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- Top legislative priority for LGBT rights organizations.

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Prohibit profiling (Amendment 163 to SB10)

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Voted NO

Transgender exclusions (HB1388, revert to prior printer no.)

- Allow CHIP to continue to cover transgender services, including counseling and prescription medication.
- “No” voted denies medical care to vulnerable children, in violation of federal CHIP law.

Voted NO

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Not a co-sponsor

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Voted YES

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Public Education

Education Savings Accounts (Vouchers)(SB2)

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- Would remove more than \$500 million in taxpayer dollars from school districts.

Voted NO (committee vote)

Charter Schools (HB97)

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Voted NO

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Voted YES in Education Committee, then voted NO on Senate floor

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Cosponsored and voted YES

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Voted YES in Education Committee (*no floor vote*)

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- Opposed by public education advocates.

Voted YES (floor and education committee) and **voted NO on two pro-public education amendments** on Senate floor (right-to-know [Dinniman] and performance accountability [Haywood])

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Cosponsored SB1088

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Prime Sponsor of SB9

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Voted YES

