

**Candidate: Anand Patel**

**Position: House District 18**

**Party Affiliation: Democrat**

The statements below required a response using the following scale:

1. Strongly Agree
  2. Somewhat Agree
  3. Somewhat Disagree
  4. Strongly Disagree
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### **1. Greater Than Hate Pledge**

*If elected, I will support the **Greater Than Hate Parents Week Action Pledge***

***I pledge to defend our kids and families from the hateful actions of extremist groups and hostile politicians.***

*In 2023 the NAACP, the Human Rights Campaign, Everytown for Gun Safety, the National Education Association, the National Women's Law Center, Equality Federation, Asians Fighting Injustice, and the National Center for Transgender Equality have launched the [Greater Than Hate Coalition](#), a collective, multi-racial, multi-cultural movement with the aim of fighting back against extremist politicians and their growing and loud campaign of hate.*

**Response: Strongly Agree**

Just brilliant!

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### **2. Protecting voter rights ([commoncause.org](#))**

*If elected, I will support legislation to lower barriers to voting, including: 1. making improvements to our vote-by-mail system (such as allowing counties to process mail and absentee ballots before Election Day and removing barriers that invalidate ballots for immaterial reasons, such as requiring the use of secrecy envelopes or that ballots are dated); 2. providing sufficient state-level election funding to all poll workers, increase of penalties for those who harass or threaten election workers; and 3. implementing risk-limiting post-election audits (as mandated by the courts).*

**Response: Strongly Agree**

A thorough voting system is a must from pursued liberty.

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### 3. Redistricting ([fairdistrictspa.com](http://fairdistrictspa.com))

One of the NAACP Bucks County's priorities is equitable academic and educational access in Bucks County.

*If elected, I will support legislation to create a single independent citizen redistricting commission, insulated from legislative influence, responsible for Congressional, House, and Senate maps, with redistricting criteria that are clear, enforceable, and prioritized in a way that gives commissioners guidance as they balance conflicting demands. Potential criteria for fairness include population equality, geographic compactness, community integrity, partisan fairness, and minimal efficiency gap.*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

The above guidelines, suggestions for redistricting are very genuine.

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### 4. Policing reform ("[A Roadmap to a New Pennsylvania](#)")

*If elected, I will support legislation for policing reforms including: 1. prohibiting local governments from relying on police departments to generate revenues; 2. funding police training in de-escalation techniques; 3. funding mandatory video monitoring of police-community interactions; 4. creating a process that allows victims and their families to request a special prosecutor (rather than a local prosecutor) to investigate police shootings on the part of local police; 5. require the collecting and reporting of basic data on police shootings and other forms of police violence to a state database; 6. require the collecting and reporting of demographic information on use of force incidents, traffic stops, and investigative stops to a state database.*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

The advancement of Criminology and Community, interactions as well safety, is something I will fight for in Harrisburg.

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### 5. Preventing gun violence ([ceasefirepa.org](http://ceasefirepa.org))

*If elected, I will support legislation to prevent gun violence including: 1. requiring background checks on the private sales of long guns; 2. requiring secure storage of weapons in the home when not in use; 3. requiring the reporting of the loss or theft of a firearm within three days of discovery; and 4. establishing "Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs)" which allows family members and law enforcement to petition a judge to temporarily remove guns from individuals in crisis (without subjecting them to an involuntary mental-health commitment).*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

As a Gun permit holder, and firearms, safety is the top priority. If that is not possible then a person should be allowed to hold a firearm. Preventive, and advancement techniques for gun safety, I will fight for in Harrisburg.

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**6. Improving working conditions** ([“A Roadmap to a New Pennsylvania”](#) and [krc-pbpc.org](#))  
*If elected, I will support legislation to: 1. raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025, and thereafter making annual adjustments to maintain the purchasing power of the minimum relative to the median wage; 2. phase out “tipped minimum wage,” raising it to the minimum wage by 2026, and 3. enact comprehensive fair scheduling legislation to protect employees from erratic schedules and unpredictable wages.*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

To live reasonable this day and age, \$15+ minimum wages are vital. Whichever payment method, an employee receives, they should have adequate earnings. Something the state minimum currently is not.

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**7. Protecting abortion rights** ([reproductiverights.org](#)):

*If elected, I will support legislation to: 1. protect abortion rights; 2. eliminate Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) requirements, such as providers reporting and facility requirements; and 3. eliminate requirements for biased counseling, waiting periods, and parental consent.*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

The woman, and family have to make their choice, their responsibilities. There should be no interference.

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**8. Improving maternal health care** ([health.pa.gov](#) and [Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review: 2021 Report](#))

*If elected, I will support legislation to decrease maternal mortality, such as building infrastructure to: 1. provide more comprehensive medical care for all pregnant and postpartum individuals; and 2. identify and support pregnant and postpartum individuals with additional risk factors such as mental health concerns, substance use, and/or a history of intimate partner violence.*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

Much better health for would-be-mothers. The safety of the child, and mother is of utmost importance. Negligence, and lack of health care should not bring them to danger.

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**9. Fair funding for K-12 public schools** ([“A Roadmap to a New Pennsylvania”](#) and [fundourschoolspa.org](#))

*If elected, I will vote to increase basic education funding from the state through a fair funding formula to ensure equal access to a quality education for all students.*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

I think districts are always brought to concern. Adequate funding is always a major priority. It will be mine, as I am elected.

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**10. Fair funding for higher education** ([“A Roadmap to a New Pennsylvania”](#) and [krc-pbpc.org](#))

*If elected, I will support legislation to decrease costs of attending Pennsylvania’s community and state system colleges and state-related universities and provide grants to qualified adults seeking in-demand skills and industry-recognized credentials.*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

Our residents will sanction our state, through the skills worked. Those who have also supported this state as being residents. We owe them to not be overburdened with tuition costs, and to focus on receiving a quality education. It doesn't have to be those who are attending at early adulthood, but those who are eager to strive even later in life.

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**11. Protecting our air and water** ([“A Roadmap to a New Pennsylvania”](#))

*If elected, I will support legislation to: 1. adequately fund the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ensure protection of our land, air, and water; 2. enforce and strengthen rules that limit air pollution; and 3. protect and restore Pennsylvania watersheds; and 3. adopt clean energy policies like eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, protecting net metering, permitting community-shared solar power generation, restarting and expanding the state’s renewable energy incentives, removing the investment cap on energy efficiency projects in PA Act 129, and raising our Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS).*

**Response:** Strongly Agree

I am a huge proponent for the environment safety. Recycling, and grasp new opportunities for clean energy.

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**Final note:**

I would like to thank NAACP Bucks County Chapter for this opportunity to share my stance.