

Candidate: Anna Payne

Position: House District 142

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

As State Representative, one of my top priorities will be to keep our communities safe and that includes protecting my constituents from harmful extremist groups and hate-spewing politicians. The current political climate and rise of hate speech is why as Middletown township supervisor I created the Human Relations Council, a safe place for those who feel discriminated against to turn to that works in conjunction with the PA Human Relations Council. It is a public servant's responsibility to stand up against those who continue to foster extremism and hatred instead of community building and progress.

2. Protecting voter rights ([commoncause.org](https://www.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

Our right to participate in free and fair elections must be protected. I would absolutely support and cosponsor legislation that promotes improving our vote-by-mail system as well as legislation that would increase state funding for our poll workers and enforce penalties for those who harass or threaten election workers. It is of the utmost importance that those serving in public office continue to defend our democracy from those determined to destroy it.

3. Redistricting (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 countless years of gerrymandering have had a direct effect on disenfranchising voters across the country. For the process of redistricting to be truly fair there must be an independent commission free from legislative influence and with clear criteria to abide by.

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

Keeping our communities safe includes making the necessary reforms within our law enforcement while also providing adequate funding to ensure police departments and local municipalities have the means to promote these reforms. In Middletown, we are proud to have adopted the co-responders program which partners social workers within local law enforcement so that police can handle actual crime instead of intervening during a mental health crisis. If elected, I would support legislation that would take the much-needed steps in reforming policing statewide.

5. Preventing gun violence (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

Gun violence is an epidemic across the country. If we cannot agree on common sense gun legislation at the federal level, we must intervene through the state. If sent to Harrisburg, I would be a leader in passing gun violence prevention legislation that would implement background checks, red flag laws, and storage of weapons requirements.

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

I would support and cosponsor legislation that would raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 in addition to legislation that would phase out tipped minimum wage and protect our employees from an unsustainable workload and fluctuating wages.

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

Abortion rights hang in the balance this election year. There is no doubt that if given the opportunity to serve in the State House I would support all legislation that would continue to protect abortion rights within the Commonwealth. I would also support the elimination of harmful and unnecessary requirements including TRAP requirements, biased counseling, waiting periods, and parental consent.

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

I have seen firsthand the difference between patients who have received quality healthcare and those with limited access to care. If elected, increasing access to quality affordable healthcare will be at the top of my priorities, including supporting legislation that will take the necessary steps to provide proper medical care for all pregnant and postpartum individuals.

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

No child should receive a limited education due to their zip code or economic status. I would wholeheartedly support increasing education funding to be filtered through a fair funding formula so that all funding is dispersed equitably throughout the state so that every child can receive the public education they deserve.

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

Every Pennsylvanian should have the right to pursue higher education. Currently, the cost for even community and state colleges are too expensive for most residents which leads to more and more young people accruing student debt. The State Assembly must take action to make higher education more attainable in Pennsylvania. We also need to make sure we are funding our local community colleges, over the years the amount that the state has invested has decreased, as someone who benefited from community college this would be a priority for me.

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

Protecting the future of Pennsylvanians means that we must protect our air and water while transitioning towards cleaner energy. To achieve this, we must properly fund the Department of Environmental Protection while taking a stronger stance on limiting air pollution and implementing clean energy policies. As a Middletown township supervisor, I am proud of the steps we have made over the years to build a more sustainable community, including adopting the township's first-ever Climate Action Plan, implementing public EV charging stations, and establishing a recycling program for municipal facilities. If sent to Harrisburg, I pledge to take the proper measures to keep our air, water, and energy clean while ensuring no Pennsylvanian gets left behind in the transition.

Final note:

If I earn the privilege and opportunity to be the next State Representative of Pennsylvania's 142 District, I will go to Harrisburg and deliver positive change on the issues that matter the most. For my community, this includes lowering the cost of healthcare, fighting for the right to collectively bargain, keeping our community safe, increasing access to life-saving cancer screenings, bringing down the cost of living for our residents, protecting reproductive rights, and standing up for our fundamental freedoms for all Pennsylvanians.