

**Candidate:** Ashley Ehasz

**Position:** PA 1st Congressional District

**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

The mainstreaming of extremist and anti-democratic ideas are what motivated me to run for office in the first place. After seeing other veterans at the US Capitol on January 6th, 2021, treating other Americans and law enforcement as the enemy, I knew I had to step up and serve. There is unfortunately a severe lack of veteran leadership, particularly women veterans, on the Democratic side of the aisle. I can help fill that gap and bring new perspectives and a new voice to the table.

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### **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

Protecting the right to vote and access to free and fair elections is essential to the health of our democracy. I fully support greater protections for our election system, including the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act - which GOP Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick voted against. As someone who fought for the rights of others overseas, it is important to me to protect those same rights here at home. In Congress, I will work to ensure every voter has the ability to exercise their constitutionally-protected right to choose their elected officials.

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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

I believe that voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around. This would allow voters to pick the representative - across all levels of government - they feel will best and most accurately represent them, their values, and their priorities.

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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

Having served in the military, I understand the value of safety and security, and the need for a just policing system. I believe that we must ensure funding for body-cameras, implicit bias training, and community policing programs to ensure public safety. From better relationships between the community and its police, achieved through training and dialogue, we can have a safer and more just community.

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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 combat veteran with extensive training in firearms, I understand their gravity. In the same way we have policies that require licenses to drive, serve liquor, and give medical care - and therefore increase the safety of each of these things, it's critical to implement policies that require licenses to own firearms, and therefore increase their safety.

As an active-duty service member, I was very familiar with assault weapons. I know that they were designed for use on the battlefield, but - due to Republican Members of Congress' commitment to blocking assault weapons bans - are turning our neighborhoods into war zones. GOP Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, in particular, had originally supported HR 7910, the Protecting Our Kids Act, but then refused to support its actual passage on the House floor.

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**6. Improving working conditions ("[A Roadmap to a New Pennsylvania](#)" and [krc-pbpc.org](http://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

The economy remains one of the most important issues to voters as I speak with them across the district. Growing up in a single parent household without a stable income, I know what it’s like to not have enough for groceries or paying the heating bill. As a member of Congress, I will push for a \$15 minimum wage, a bolstering of equal pay protections, subsidies for childcare, and protecting the rights of workers to collectively bargain. I wholeheartedly support Build Back Better, unlike my opponent Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, who voted against it. I support any agenda that makes Bucks and Montgomery Counties affordable for middle-class families, and provides high-quality jobs to the workers of our district.

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**7. Protecting abortion rights ([reproductiverights.org](https://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

I will always be a staunch advocate for the right to choose. The Dobbs decision has put the health of women and families in jeopardy. In the wake of Roe being overturned, Brian Fitzpatrick voted against codifying Roe v. Wade. As I wrote in an op-ed with the Bucks County Courier Times, access to abortion is not only an issue for single women, but also families looking to determine their own futures. In fact, many Americans who have an abortion are already parents when they choose to do so. This can have broad economic impacts for women and their families, and access to abortion is essential to protecting the rights of women to freely participate in society.

As a combat veteran, I also know that access to abortion and reproductive healthcare is a national security issue. Now that Roe is overturned, we’ve

hamstrung a huge portion of military might—female service members. Many people don't realize that in the military, you go where you're told, and you get your healthcare from the government.

While my opponent, Brian Fitzpatrick, has continuously opposed access to a woman's right to choose, I will not. I support H.R. 3755, the Women's Health Protection Act, which would federally codify Roe v. Wade, and I look forward to casting my vote in its favor in Congress. I'm also honored to have already been endorsed by EMILYs List, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, and Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL).

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**8. Improving maternal health care** ([health.pa.gov](https://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

Clear studies have shown major disparities in the rates of maternal and infant mortality, the largest between Black women and White Non-Hispanic women, and the biggest factors point to lack of affordable healthcare and discrimination. At a time when Roe v. Wade has been overturned, we can only assume this lack of care will get worse. We must codify Roe at the federal level, pass paid family leave, and expand medicaid to provide more resources to expectant and postpartum mothers.

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**9. Fair funding for K-12 public schools** ("[A Roadmap to a New Pennsylvania](#)" and [fundourschoolspa.org](https://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 believe that all students should receive a high quality education, regardless of their zip code. We must invest in public schools, staff, and

students. I was lucky to have incredible high school teachers, and I want to work to make that a reality for students across the district and country.

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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

As a graduate of Pennsylvania public schools, beneficiary of the G.I. Bill, and student loan debt holder, I am deeply familiar with the importance of public education and the overwhelming cost of college for American families. Neither of my parents were able to attend college, and if it weren’t for the amazing mentorship from my high school teachers, I never would have, either. Thus, I am committed to supporting public education, students, teachers, and staff.

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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

As a combat veteran, I believe the climate crisis is a national security issue. The Department of Defense has identified climate change as a direct threat to the national security of the United States and stability around the world. Future conflicts could be caused by climate change’s effect on political and resource instability. We must address this threat to our homeland and abroad in a responsible manner.

The climate crisis additionally presents an opportunity to foster new economic growth here in Pennsylvania and across the country. Green energy jobs can be incentivized through partnerships between federal, state, and local governments. As a representative, I will push to end our reliance on fossil fuels, to include our military's reliance upon them, and fight for increased protections for our water, land, and air. I will also advocate for more federal funds to be allocated to researching new technologies that can solve the challenges posed by climate change and push for those dollars to return to communities like mine that have significant expertise in energy systems, and house world-class research institutions that can tackle the crisis.

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**Final note:**