

State House – District 199

1. Why are you running for the PA House of Representatives, 199th District?

**I feel angry about what's happening in our society and I want to do my part. This is the main reason I ran last time and it continues to be a motivator. When I ran two years ago for this position, folks from around the district reached out to me to thank me for running. In the months that followed, many of those people asked me to run again, building on what we did to finally push Barb Gleim out of office. People put their trust in me last time and they're putting their trust in me again. I take that seriously. I don't want to let them down, and that's why I am running.**

2. What skills or experience qualify you to serve in the PA House?

**I don't know that any particular skill or experience qualifies someone for public service, other than the desire and energy to make a positive difference. In my diverse professional experiences, I have managed people, I've interacted with government bureaucracy, I've marketed services, and as a football player, I have had people try and tear my head off! In my personal life as a single father, I definitely understand the joys and struggles of families. I personally saw the value of public programs like CHIP and have felt the pressure and stress of rising costs including for childcare. Do all of these experiences qualify me for service? I don't know. That's for the voters to decide.**

**What I can say with confidence, from running for office before, all of my varied life experiences informed different aspects of how I campaigned – most notably when canvassing. Every time I knock on a voter's door, I feel grateful for my years of sales experience. Adding in all the things I have seen and done, I can often easily relate to where folks are coming from and heading. Running for office is about connecting with people and that's a skill I have honed through living.**

3. If elected, what is your top policy priority? Why?

**A data center moratorium. Data centers are an immense threat to our environment and our public health. They are a principal driver of electrical utility cost increases, exacerbating the underlying affordability crisis roiling our society. They ultimately will contribute to an AI buildout projected to destroy**

**countless jobs. It's a cruel joke, and most people in the 199<sup>th</sup> don't want them here. In contrast, I will push for a definite increase in the minimum wage so that not only will we retain our workers, they will receive a wage that can support a family.**

4. What laws will you propose to address the housing crisis? Are there current effective programs that you would vote to strengthen?

**Fundamentally, we need to build more housing. And we need to do so in a way that doesn't radically alter the character of existing communities around the state. I think the best way to accomplish this is to promote policies that empower our municipalities to determine their own priorities. One example of a policy like this is legislation that would allow accessible dwelling units (ADUs) by right, so long as they meet certain design standards.**

**I also think the state has a valuable role to play in promulgating standards for rentals. Carlisle Borough has done a good job implementing their rental inspection ordinance. Carlisle Borough has the benefit of excellent staff, but not every municipality is so lucky. The state could work to research and establish best practices, giving less fortunate municipalities a good starting point for policies governing landlord-tenant relations.**

**An existing program that I support, and want to fund better, is the Whole Home Repairs program. Part of tackling the housing crisis is keeping existing housing stock maintained in good order. It also lets resource-constrained groups, like seniors, update and maintain their homes so that they can age in place with ease and dignity.**

5. What will you do to achieve affordable health care for those trying to access coverage through Pennie? How would you improve the Medicaid system to make it more available to people who qualify for it?

**Health care is a human right, and the state of Pennsylvania needs to step in to help ensure that all Pennsylvanians can have access to it. Specifically, we need to fund the State Health Insurance Exchange Affordability Program; it starts with that. Essentially the program replaces lost federal funds to lower health insurance premiums associated with Pennie. As far as Medicaid, the state needs to provide funds to help cover Medicaid costs.**

6. Do you support raising the PA minimum wage to an amount that is competitive with the minimum wage in surrounding states? If so, what would your proposed increase be?

**Yes. I propose raising it to \$18 an hour. This seems like a fair start to me, commensurate with starting wages at some small local businesses that actually take an interest in their employees. I would also add that people have been talking about raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for essentially a decade. The dismal current \$7.25 an hour minimum clearly hasn't kept up with costs!**

7. How do you propose to achieve and promote affordable and available public transportation for all Pennsylvanians?

**We need to fund it. Transportation is one of those issues that intersects with so many things. It's an environmental issue, an affordability issue, an employment issue. It's something that can have a profound impact on people's lives. It's also one of those issues that is probably the biggest failure of imagination from our elected leadership. Conversations around public transit are mostly limited to how we can provide for what already exists, rather than how we can build our society anew and deliver tangible impacts for working families around the commonwealth. We need to change that! We need to think bigger! I won't pretend to have all the answers on what that might look like, but I am proud to live in a community like Carlisle that takes these kinds of issues seriously.**

8. There have been a series of extreme weather events over the past couple of decades. What human-made factors do you attribute this to, if any? How will you help farmers and those who live near rivers and streams recover from the droughts and floods that are becoming more frequent and less predictable?

**Human-made climate change is what's driving these extreme weather events, fundamentally due to emissions. But it is exacerbated and abetted by other environmental impacts. For example, global climate change creates extreme weather, but it manifests as specific events like floods and wildfires because of decisions we have made to put business profits over environment. Putting concrete everywhere and eliminating permeable ground are two such examples. We need to think holistically to address these things.**

**We need to invest in programs to rebuild riparian buffers along waterways to absorb water and forestall flooding. We also need to work to update our building codes to introduce greener standards. We also need to make it easier for developers to construct needed things like housing so there is less impact on local stormwater infrastructure.**

9. What is your position on data center construction and operation in Pennsylvania?

**As mentioned in a prior response, a data center moratorium is my top priority because it intersects with so many other issues. More specifically, a moratorium accomplishes several things:**

- **It allows time for more energy infrastructure to be developed and integrated into the grid, ensuring affordable and reliable electrical capacity for working Pennsylvanians. Crucially, it lets us plan for green electricity, so we don't have to expand coal and natural gas.**

- **It gives municipalities time to develop zoning and land-use standards that work for their residents so they aren't caught flat-footed like happened in Middlesex. This is something especially important to me. When I've been to Middlesex township planning commission meetings, it seemed that the commissioners were pushed to move forward without sufficient information supplied to them in advance, and perhaps that was on purpose. They didn't have adequate staff support. Now, all residents, as well as residents of neighboring communities, are likely to suffer.**

- **It lets the state develop regulatory infrastructure to govern the development and implementation of these things. The state is playing catch up, and no one is happy with that. Not legislators. Not people in government struggling to do their jobs. Not residents of Pennsylvania.**

10. While the 2025-26 state budget added millions in aid for underfunded school districts, a majority of districts still face shortfalls. How would you propose to close this funding gap? What part do cyber schools play in school district funding shortfalls?

**I think cyber schools are a principal contributor, and perhaps THE principal contributor to school district funding shortfalls. School choice is a laudable, respectable goal. But it can't come at the cost of funding for our public schools, especially when there is no public accountability from cyber charter schools which are run like businesses. Cyber schools are not institutions tasked with the sacred duty to educate the next generation of Americans, as are our public schools.**

**We need to find ways to provide for our public schools that don't just shift the tax burden to working Pennsylvanians, which is what Barb Gleim is proposing. How to accomplish this is a difficult question, and I won't pretend to be an expert. The crucial thing is that we need to generate more state revenue. One thing I have been thinking about in this context is using revenues from cannabis legalization to help close the school funding gap.**

**Briefly, there are two routes to cannabis legalization. One would provide licenses to sell cannabis-like liquor licenses, and one would have PLCB sell cannabis. There are merits to either approach, but both have been projected to raise hundreds of millions of dollars. Legalization is a popular issue and seems inevitable, so doing so in a controlled way would provide needed funds.**