



Running for PA Senate

Introduction

The Pennsylvania legislature (the branch of government that makes the laws) is called the General Assembly, and it is split into two parts: the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Every voter in Pennsylvania has exactly one Senator; which Senator represents you is determined by what *district* you live in. Districts are set by the Pennsylvania General Assembly every ten years after the US Census, so the district you live in many change over time.

As a Senator, you have the ability to propose and vote on new state laws. You also participate in the Pennsylvania state budget process, which sets funding levels for things like schools (education), transportation, and other public programs. You will be expected to attend Assembly meetings and votes in Harrisburg as needed, so this is a full-time job; to compensate you for this requirement, both PA Representative and Senator pay approximately \$86,000 per year plus benefits.

Determining Your District

PA Senators serve 4 year terms, and are elected in a “staggered” fashion, meaning not every senator is up for election in 2018. Roughly half of them are up for election every even-numbered year, so you will need to determine if your district will be elected a Senator this year. **Only even-numbered districts are holding elections in 2018.**

PA is split into 50 state senatorial districts. Your senatorial district is NOT the same as your house district. While you and your neighbor may be in different house districts, you could be in the same senate district.

- Go to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/> and click on your county on the map at bottom of page. It will give you a list of all PA senators in your county. It also lists the district number for each senator.
- To see an exact map of exactly where the boundary is for that district, you can look it up by number at: <http://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/Maps/Senate.cfm>

Requirements To Hold Office

To serve as a PA Senator, you must:

- Must have lived in PA for at least 4 years
- Must have lived in the district you are running for, for at least 1 year
- Be 25 years of age or older

Certain federal, state, or local government employees may not be allowed to run. Read more about the Hatch Act at <https://osc.gov/pages/hatchact.aspx>.

Candidates also agree to financial disclosure statements. Other requirements may exist.

Ballot Access Requirements

To appear on the ballot as a Green candidate, you must:

- Must be a registered voter. (If registered with a different party, you must change your registration to Green as a condition of nomination.)
- Must apply for and receive nomination by Green Party of Pennsylvania and/or county Green Party
- Gather at least 500 signatures from voters in your district
- Pay a \$100 filing fee

Campaign Finance Requirements

You will also need to file some campaign committee and/or financial disclosure paperwork with the Pennsylvania Department of State. The forms are simple and available at : <http://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/CandidatesCommittees/FormsReports/Pages/default.aspx>

Basically, if you raise more than \$250 for your campaign, you must form a committee and regularly report your campaign income and spending. [Here is a guide to forming a campaign committee.](#)

More Information

The information in this document may be incomplete or inaccurate, and is not meant to be legal advice. We encourage you to check with the Pennsylvania Department of State and/or the Federal Election Commission for more information.