



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®**  
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH Inc.

## **League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh /Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) “Informational Moments”**

### ***President of the United States***

**How Elected:** Every four years, political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday, after the first Monday in November. Although all parties use conventions to nominate their candidates, in most states the Democratic and Republican parties also run state-wide primary elections or caucuses. The results of the primary influence how the delegates to their respective party’s convention will cast ballots for candidates for President. The degree to which the result of the primary influences the votes of delegates at conventions varies from state to state.

**Duties:** The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

**Salary: \$400,000 per year**

**Term: Four years. Limit of two terms.**

### ***Pennsylvania US Senate***

***The U.S. Constitution prescribes that the Senate be composed of two Senators from each State (therefore, the Senate currently has 100 Members) and that a Senator must be at least thirty years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for nine years, and, when elected, be a resident of the State from which he or she is chosen. A Senator's term of office is six years and approximately one-third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every two years.***

The Senate has several exclusive powers not granted to the House, including consenting to treaties, a precondition to their ratification consenting or confirming appointments of Cabinet secretaries, other federal executive officials, military officers, regulatory officials, ambassadors, and other federal uniformed officers, as well as trial of federal officials impeached by the House.

**Term: 6 years**

**Salary \$174,000**

### ***Pennsylvania Attorney General***

The basic duties of the attorney general, as outlined by the Commonwealth Attorneys Act are to: serve as the Commonwealth's chief law enforcement officer; collect all debts, taxes, and account due to the Commonwealth; represent the Commonwealth and all agencies in any action brought by or against the Commonwealth; administer the provisions relating to consumer protection laws; represent the Commonwealth and its citizens in any action brought about for violation of the antitrust laws.

**Term: 4 Years**

**Salary \$158,764**

### ***Pennsylvania Auditor General***

The principal role of the auditor general is to determine whether state funds are being used in accordance with the purpose and guidelines that govern each use of the Commonwealth's dollars. The auditor general conducts financial and performance audits of individuals, state agencies, and organization that receive state funds, including school districts, state liquor stores, and public employee pensions. These audits are designed to measure how effectively government programs are using public money to meet their stated goals and objectives. The office performs more than 6,000 audits each year, and is responsible for auditing all federal funds that are allocated to Pennsylvania state programs.

**Term: 4 years**

**Salary \$158,764**

### **Pennsylvania State Treasurer**

The duty of the Pennsylvania Treasurer is to safeguard the Commonwealth's financial assets, which total more than \$120 billion in public monies. The office manages several programs in order to better serve the financial needs of Pennsylvanians. The Treasury Department is also responsible for: reuniting unclaimed property with its rightful owner; investigating loss, theft, and fraud involving commonwealth checks; reviewing real estate leases and contracts entered into by commonwealth agencies; maintaining the Pennsylvania contracts electronic library. The Treasurer has specific duties in addition to the oversight of the department: serves as Chair of the Board of Finance and Revenue, which selects banks to serve as depositories for state money; sets interest rates paid on commonwealth deposits; hears and decides state tax appeals.

**Term: 4 Years**

**Salary \$158,764**

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### **US Representative (Congress)**

The U.S. Constitution requires that the House of Representatives be composed of elected Representatives (also called Congressmen or Congresswomen) from each State. There are 435 members of the House of Representatives. The number of Representatives from each state is proportioned according to its population, with 18 Representatives from Pennsylvania. A US Representative must (1) be at least twenty-five years old, (2) have been a citizen of the United States for the past seven years, and (3) be (at the time of the election) an inhabitant of the state they represent. A Representative's term of office is 2 years.

The House of Representatives is responsible for creating the budget and initiating bills to collect taxes and other money, although all bills must pass the Senate and be signed by the President. The House is also responsible for impeaching federal officials (the Senate then tries the case) and electing the President if there is a tie in the Electoral College.

***Term: 2 years***

***Salary \$174,000***

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### **State Senator (General Assembly)**

The Pennsylvania Senate is the upper house of our bicameral (two house legislature). There are 50 members who sit for four year terms. Senators must be at least 25 years old, have been citizens and lived in their respective districts one year next before their election and must live in their districts during their terms of service. Members of the Pennsylvania Senate are, along with the House of Representatives, responsible for passing legislation that affects all aspects of our lives.

***Term: 4 years***

***Salary \$85,339***

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### **State Representative (General Assembly)**

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives is the lower house of our bicameral (two house) legislature. There are 203 members who sit for two year terms in single member districts. Representatives must be 21 years old, have been citizens and lived in their respective districts one year before their election and must live in their districts during their terms of service.. Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives are, along with the Senate, responsible for passing legislation that affects all aspects of our lives.

***Term: 2 years***

***Salary \$85,339***

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