

# Maria Collett

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATE DISTRICT 12

## SISTER DISTRICT POLICY SCORECARD

This candidate has pledged commitment to the following statements:

- ✓ We must protect a **woman's right to choose** the health care and reproductive services she wants and needs.
- ✓ We need to protect and expand our **social safety net**, not dismantle it.
- ✓ We should pursue **common-sense gun safety** policies, consistent with the Second Amendment and local community standards and needs, which vary from community to community.
- ✓ Climate change is real and we need to **protect our environment**.

## TIMELINE & VOTER INFO

**Election Day:** November 6, 2018

### Last day to register:

30 days prior to Election Day. Pennsylvania has online voter registration: [register.votespa.com](http://register.votespa.com)

**Vote by mail / absentee voting:** Voters must [apply for absentee ballots](#).

**Voter IDs:** Not required.

**Nested Congressional Districts:** 4; 1

## BACKGROUND

A lifelong advocate for those in need, Maria worked as an attorney fighting for children victimized by abuse and neglect before transitioning to a career in nursing. Working in the areas of pediatric home health, trauma and long term care, Maria has provided comfort and been the voice for people in their most vulnerable



moments. As Senator for the 12th District of Pennsylvania (serving parts of Montgomery and Bucks counties), Maria will continue listening to the needs of the community and bringing fresh ideas to Harrisburg where smart decisions and thoughtful discourse can lead Pennsylvania to the forefront of progressive change.

A resident of Lower Gwynedd, Collett is married to Len Collett and is the mother of a young son who just started kindergarten. The Colletts share their home with Maria's 83-year-old father, an immigrant from Greece who sought opportunity in the United States more than 40 years ago. She earned her JD from Rutgers Law School and her BSN from Drexel's School of Nursing.

## ON THE ISSUES

### In her own words:

According to the American Nurses Association, 78 Americans die each day from an opioid overdose and at least half of all opioid overdoses involve a prescribed medicine. As a trauma nurse, I worked with patients who relied on opioids in managing their chronic pain so I understand that there

is a positive role for these medications when managed responsibly. In my opinion, this crisis needs to be addressed as a health care response, not a crime and punishment response. It is also no secret that this country's War on Drugs, and the current Trump administration's longing to revitalize it, was and continues to be a misguided, harmful and wrongheaded response to the problem.

Expanding programs that facilitate access to naloxone, a drug used to reverse overdoses; requiring prescriber education in alternatives to opioids for pain management; expanding drug take-back programs; funding support treatment and prevention measures; regulating pain management clinics and creating pretrial diversion options including drug courts that help those with substance abuse issues get treatment in lieu of incarceration are just a few of the ways Harrisburg can start to reverse the deadly opioid epidemic and win this war.

### **ABOUT THE DISTRICT**

As of the 2010 census, a total of 263,696 civilians reside within Pennsylvania's twelfth state senate district. This district is a far northern suburb of Philadelphia and western suburb of Trenton. The district is 4% Black, 3% Hispanic, and the remainder Non-Hispanic White.

### **WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?**

All 203 seats in the General Assembly (GA) are up for election in 2018. Republicans control 119 seats of 203 seats, and have controlled the GA since 2011. 18 seats in the GA voted for Clinton, but are represented by a GOP legislator.

In the state Senate, 25 of the 50 seats are up for election. Republicans control 34 seats of 50 seats. 7 of the 25 seats up for election in the Senate voted for Clinton, but are represented by a GOP State Senator.

Pennsylvania has been critical to the "Blue Wall," of Democratic Presidential candidates and up until 2016, had voted Democrat since 1988.

Pennsylvania is an important place to engage new voters and winback old Democratic voters who veered into Trump's camp due to his "support,"

for unions and trade protection. Pennsylvania has many legacy industries and strong unions in coal, steel, and energy extraction. Pennsylvania's legislature, due to its geographic location and population size, has a lot of responsibility for environmental quality issues such as Great Lakes health and Chesapeake Bay Health. Pennsylvania also has very important Congressional, Senate, and Statewide elections in 2018 where they'll be choosing AGs, Governors (D-Incumbent), Senator (D-incumbent), and Congressional representatives.

Lastly, and most importantly, Trump won PA by a mere 70k votes out of over 6 million votes cast. Had Democrats been able to overcome this narrow margin—and even narrower margins in Michigan and Wisconsin—we may not have a Trump presidency. The path to 270 in 2020 starts with Democratic gains in our Blue Wall states in 2018.

### **REDISTRICTING IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Pennsylvania's legislative and congressional districting is a masterclass in partisan gerrymandering. The Pennsylvania State Supreme Court struck down multiple GOP-led Congressional redistricting maps due to their gerrymander. The State Supreme Court finally approved a map for PA's congressional districts.

### **CANDIDATE LINKS**

SDP ActBlue: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-pa-collett>

Her website: [www.mariaforpasenate.com](http://www.mariaforpasenate.com)

Her Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MariaforPA](https://www.facebook.com/MariaforPA)