

# JULIE SLOMSKI

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATE | DISTRICT 49



A lifelong resident of Erie County, Julie was raised in a home that valued hard work and humility. A graduate of Penn State Behrend in Erie, Julie went on to serve as Chief of Staff for Pennsylvania State Representative Ryan Bizzarro. In this role, Julie helped drive policy, investments and initiatives that benefited the people of Erie County. She particularly focused on improving the lives of veterans, working families, seniors, students and animals.

In 2015, Governor Wolf asked Julie to join his administration as his Northwest Regional Director. In this role, Julie represented the Governor in Erie and also served as the voice of the people of Erie in the Governor's administration. Julie built strong relationships with community leaders, and local, state and federal officials on both sides of the aisle so that she could advocate for the people of Erie County. Among other projects during her tenure with the Wolf administration, Julie oversaw the new investments in the Port of Erie, the revitalization of the UPMC Park, and the recovery of the Erie School District.

Julie is running for the Pennsylvania Senate because she knows the issues that matter the most to her community, and she knows that Erie County deserves a champion who will listen and be a strong voice for the community in Harrisburg.

Julie lives in Erie with her Bichon-Poodle Mellie and her new kitten, Mateo. In her spare time, Julie enjoys training for marathons. To date, she has completed three marathons and five half marathons. Julie is also a graduate of Emerge PA, the premier training program for Democratic women running for office in Pennsylvania.

## WEBSITE

[julieslomski.com](http://julieslomski.com)

## FACEBOOK

[@julieslomskiPA](https://www.facebook.com/julieslomskiPA)

## TWITTER

[@julieslomski](https://twitter.com/julieslomski)

## ACTBLUE DONATE LINK

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## ON THE ISSUES

### STATE BUDGET POST COVID 19

Slomski is especially concerned by the \$5 billion shortfall in state government coffers the pandemic has created and will fight in office to properly deploy the billions in federal stimulus funds to both contain COVID-19 and get Pennsylvanians back to work.

### MINIMUM WAGE

Slomski believes that all workers should earn a family-sustaining wage, which is why she supports a \$15 minimum wage.

### HEALTHCARE

If there is anything that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has taught the nation, it's that there are massive gaps in the healthcare system today. Julie believes that healthcare is a human right, and that is why she will fight to make it more accessible and affordable for all Pennsylvanians.

### EDUCATION

Pennsylvania public schools are still feeling the effects of the deep cuts to education during former Gov. Tom Corbett's administration. Having previously worked with Governor Tom Wolf to increase education funding, Slomski believes that the state is on the right path, but still has a long way to go. In office, she will fight for every school district to get its fair share of state funding.

### TAX REFORM

Slomski supports major tax reform. First, she supports a severance tax on oil and drilling, which would generate billions in state revenue each year for education and health care. Slomski will also fight for property tax reform, working to lower property taxes at a reasonable level and reach a healthy compromise on the issue.

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## ABOUT THE DISTRICT

### Nested Congressional Districts

16: R+8

Pennsylvania State Senate District 49 is located in Erie County, and includes the city of Erie.

## PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

### 2018 GUBERNATORIAL

Democrat: 62.27%

Republican: 37.73%

### 2018 FEDERAL SENATE

Democrat: 60.88%

Republican: 39.12%

### 2016 STATE SENATE

Democrat: 50,356; 46.56%

Republican: 57,790; 53.44%

### 2016 PRESIDENT

Clinton: 52,673; 48.64%

Trump: 50,925; 47.02%

### 2012 PRESIDENT

Obama: 61,131; 58.63%

Romney: 41,847; 40.13%

## ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Republican Daniel Laughlin was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2016. He has spent his first term in office pursuing a staunchly conservative legislative agenda. His votes have earned a 17% rating from Conservation PA, a 75% from the American Conservative Union and 90% from pro-business NFIB. His record has also received an 86% from the NRA.

It's clear to see why: in 2017, Laughlin first voted to [authorize teachers to carry guns in schools](#), and in 2019, he voted to authorize schools to [arm security guards](#) and give them [more policing powers](#) not only on school grounds, but throughout the municipalities in which the schools are located. He has also taken other votes not in the public's interest, including a 2018 vote to [restrict welfare access to low-income folks](#) by heavily policing the purchasing habits of welfare recipients.

## WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

To flip PA's upper state legislative chamber, Democrats need to win 4 Senate seats. Momentum is on our side: in 2018, Democrats broke a Republican supermajority in the Senate and flipped a dozen State House seats. We can build on this energy to flip the Senate in 2020.

Flipping a chamber in the PA legislature would give Democrats a critical seat at the redistricting table, particularly for Congressional redistricting. Republican state legislators have brutally gerrymandered PA's Congressional districts. And the political commission in PA that draws state legislative maps has also permitted terribly gerrymandered maps. We can prevent this from happening again by flipping a chamber and ensuring that Democrats have a voice in the next round of redistricting.

Flipping a chamber blue is especially important because the PA Governor does not have veto power over state legislative maps. So while Democratic Governor Wolf will be in office during the next round of redistricting, we'll still need Democratic control of a chamber to have a say in the outcome.

These are 'last chance' races: whoever is elected to the PA state legislature in 2020 will draw the next round of district lines.

## DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Popula- tion	House- holds	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% Un- employ- ment	% College	%HS Grad	%No HS
241,908	96,815	16.4%	83.4%	7.6%	4.3%	1.7%	.3%	\$47,709	16.9%	4%	36.5%	54.4%	9.1%

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## REDISTRICTING & GERRYMANDERING

In Pennsylvania, Congressional district lines are drawn by the Pennsylvania General Assembly. State legislative lines are drawn by a five-member commission, the first four members of which are appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the State House and Senate, with the chair being appointed by either these four members or the State Supreme Court.

After the last round of redistricting, the Republican State House Majority Leader presided over a [piece of legislation](#) that remapped the state, resulting in extremely gerrymandered Congressional maps. For instance, Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District was one of the most gerrymandered districts in the country, before the [Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional](#) in 2018. The district gained national notoriety as one of the most obvious efforts to gerrymander. The 7th District was so egregious that it earned a nickname, based on the cartoon characters it resembled: "[Goofy Kicking Donald](#)". The net result of the GOP's manipulations was a state that voted majority Democrat, but which sent thirteen Republicans to Congress and only five Democrats. Fortunately, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in 2018, after three elections conducted under this travesty, that the 2011 district maps were illegally partisan, and when the state's legislature could not agree on new district boundaries, the Court provided districts of its own. Unfortunately, the state legislative maps remain gerrymandered in favor of Republicans - as [an example](#), in 2018, Pennsylvania's Democratic State House candidates received 54% of the vote, but only won 45% of the seats.

## WHY PENNSYLVANIA IS IMPORTANT

### PENNSYLVANIA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided.  
Governor - D; Senate - R; House - R
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Not up in 2020
- **Length of State House Terms:** 2 years
- **Candidate Filing Deadline:** February 18, 2020
- **State Legislative Primary Date:** June 2, 2020 (subject to further delay)
- **Redistricting:** State legislature controls Congressional redistricting, Political Commission controls state legislative redistricting; Governor has veto over Congressional maps but not state legislative maps
- **Electoral College Votes:** 20

### BROADER 2020 OPPORTUNITIES

- Pennsylvania is a critical, perennial battleground presidential state. Before Trump won the state by 44,000 votes, or less than 1%, Pennsylvanians had voted for the Democratic Presidential nominee in every election since 1992. Pennsylvania is one of the "[Big Four](#)" states that are likely to control the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. Democrats have a tremendous opportunity to claim PA's 20 Electoral College votes this year, with smart organizing, expanding the electorate through voter registration, and turnout efforts.
- There are also several important, very competitive Congressional races in PA this year (including PA-10, PA-08, and PA-01, PA-07, PA-17, and PA-16).
- Working to support PA state legislative candidates will be instrumental in helping drive turnout up and down the ticket in this historic election year.

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SISTER DISTRICT  
PROJECT