

Pennsylvania Member of Congress Tracking Report - 08/04/19

This is a 100% volunteer effort brought to you by a handful of progressive Democrats and Independents who share a vision of an informed electorate and a desire to make the process of getting legislative news easier! We want to offer thanks to the Pennsylvania Together and Pennsylvania Statewide Indivisible organizations who host our report and help us share it out to the residents of our Commonwealth!

Tracking Congress in the Age of Trump

The lower the number, the more the legislator votes in opposition to the Trump agenda.

Member of Congress	This week's score	Change from last report
Senator Bob Casey (D)	29.2%	-0.2%
Senator Pat Toomey (R)	88.2%	-0.6%
PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)	69.8%	+0.2%
PA-02 Rep. Brendan Boyle (D)	14.6%	-0.1%
PA-03 Rep. Dwight Evans (D)	13.1%	-0.1%
PA-04 Rep. Madeleine Dean (D)	2.3%	-0.1%
PA-05 Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon (D)	6.5%	-0.2%
PA-06 Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D)	4.7%	-0.1%
PA-07 Rep. Susan Wild (D)	8.7%	-0.2%
PA-08 Rep. Matt Cartwright (D)	23.1%	-0.2%
PA-09 Rep. Dan Meuser (R)	97.6%	0.0%
PA-10 Rep. Scott Perry (R)	88.3%	+0.1%
PA-11 Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R)	95.6%	0.0%
PA-12 Rep. Fred Keller (R)	93.3%	+0.4%
PA-13 Rep. John Joyce (R)	97.7%	+0.1%
PA-14 Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R)	95.3%	+0.1%
PA-15 Rep. Glenn W. Thompson (R)	98.6%	0.0%
PA-16 Rep. Mike Kelly (R)	96.4%	0.0%
PA-17 Rep. Conor Lamb (D)	29.4%	-0.5%
PA-18 Rep. Mike Doyle (D)	16.9%	-0.1%

Nate Silver's [FiveThirtyEight website](#) assesses the voting records of our MoCs to provide this index, by reviewing any bills where President Trump has stated a position, and comparing the vote of the legislator to that opinion. The House is on recess, but one budget vote from last week didn't get scored until this week, thus the fluctuation in their numbers while on recess. The Senate had four scored votes - three on arms sale veto override attempts, one on the budget.

Want to see exactly what votes went into giving your MoC the numbers above? Click on the name of any legislator and you will be brought to their 538 webpage, where all of the positions that went into the index are listed in an easy-to-read format.

Words From Our Founders

“Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.”

—Article I, Section 5 of the [United States Constitution](#)

Votes of Interest

The Senate passes the two year budget/debt ceiling deal

[Senate Vote](#) on [H.R. 3877](#), the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019

Last week, just before leaving for their August recess, the House voted on a budget deal that pushes off the debt ceiling limit and future budget wrangling into 2021. For more information on that process, please see [this recap](#). This week, just before leaving for their own recess, the Senate passed the same bill.

Objections to this deal came mostly from the spending-hawks in the Republican caucus, including our own Senator Toomey. He made the following [statement](#) about the budget deal:

Our country is on an unsustainable fiscal path and this budget deal only makes matters worse for taxpayers. Equally troubling is the continuing trend of raising the debt ceiling, without corresponding, meaningful budgetary reforms. Our country does not have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem. And until Congress is willing to make tough spending choices, the national debt will continue to rise and trillion dollar deficits will be the norm.

Despite the objections of Senator Toomey and his cohort, the budget bill passed 67-28 on Thursday, August 1, 2019. The NO votes came from 23 Republicans and 5 Democrats (including presidential candidates Michael Bennet of Colorado and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota). **Casey voted YES** and **Toomey voted NO**. The bill has since been [enacted](#) by President Trump.

The Senate fails to stand up to a trio of Trump vetoes on Saudi arms sales

[Senate Vote](#) on [S.J. Res. 36](#); [Senate Vote](#) on [S.J. Res. 37](#); [Senate Vote](#) on [S.J. Res. 38](#)

Some weeks ago MoCTrack recapped this trio of joint resolutions that would have blocked the president's arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. If you would like a brief legislative timeline of the steps that have been taken that bring us to these votes, it is available [here](#).

In late July President Trump [vetoed](#) this trio of resolutions that would have stopped his arms sales. These three Senate votes this week were an attempt to overcome the president's veto. And while a bipartisan group of senators voted to assert their constitutional rights, they simply did not meet the 2/3 necessary to reverse the president's action.

Each of the three votes were held on Monday, July 29, 2019, and for each vote **Casey voted YES** and **Toomey voted NO**:

- S.J.Res. 36 - 45-40 (failed)
- S.J.Res. 37 - 45-39 (failed)
- S.J.Res. 38 - 46-41 (failed)

This [CNN article](#) has additional details, and some commentary from senators about the votes.

JUDGES - The Senate got to work on [thirteen different judicial confirmations](#) across their last week in session before the August recess. Below you can find details on seven of the most disturbing new lifetime members of the federal judiciary.

Lifetime judicial appointment # 1

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on William Shaw Stickman to the USDC of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's newest member of the federal judiciary is a 40 year old attorney who served on the Alleghany County Republican Committee from 2014 to 2019. He is a graduate of Duquesne University and then the Duquesne University Law School, and he clerked for the chief justice of the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court. His entire career after that clerking year has been spent in the Pittsburgh Office of Del Sole Cavanaugh Stroyd LLC.

[The Vetting Room](#) has gathered some of our new judge's more upsetting writings and letters to the editor.

- In a criticism the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's coverage of sexual abuse cases involving Catholic priests the nominee wrote "...the PG [Post-Gazette] should apologize to the 98.2 percent of priests who have suffered due to one-sided coverage."
- After the Supreme Court struck down anti-sodomy laws in its *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, the nominee wrote a letter defending then-senator Rick Santorum, noting "Even if the senator did equate homosexual intercourse with adultery, bigamy and incest, isn't that his prerogative? Are we and the leaders we elect no longer allowed to disagree with the activities of certain groups?"
- Responding to comments equating abortion of the deaths in the Iraq War, Stickman wrote "To argue that there is moral equivalence between the accidental deaths of Iraqi civilians while liberating them from a murderous tyrant and the intentional deaths of many millions of babies is specious at best."

[The Vetting Room](#), after offering those examples, observed:

Stickman's beliefs, as divined from those letters, can be read to suggest that abortion is equivalent to murder, that homosexuality is equivalent to incest, that criticism of the Catholic church for its role in covering up child abuse is motivated solely by anti-Catholic animus, and that criticism of homophobia is an attempt to suppress speech. While a nominee's personal views shouldn't necessarily dictate their judicial decisions, the boundary is nonetheless appropriate for senators to explore.

Mr. Stickman's confirmation vote was taken on Tuesday, July 30, 2019. He was confirmed 56-34. The Republicans were united in voting YES, and they were joined by our own Senator Casey along with Tim Kaine of Virginia, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Doug Jones of Alabama and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. **Casey voted YES and Toomey voted YES.**

Lifetime judicial appointment # 2

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Michael T. Liburdi to the USDC in Arizona

Mr. Liburdi is a GOP political operative with close ties to the governor's office in Arizona. Local outlet [Arizona Central](#) reports:

Liburdi worked as [Gov. Doug] Ducey's general counsel during the governor's first term, when he advised Ducey and his staff on judicial appointments, legal strategy and policy. He is probably best known outside of the state Capitol and legal circles for his work on the governor's 2016 education-funding proposal, known as Proposition 123, as well as his work involving the state-tribal gaming compacts. Before his work for Ducey's gubernatorial administration, he represented Ducey during his 2014 campaign.

The nominee has a long history of supporting anti-choice judicial decisions. In response, [Planned Parenthood](#) issued the following statement when Mr. Liburdi's nomination made it out of committee:

In nominating Michael Liburdi, the Trump-Pence administration is continuing to fill our courts with biased judges who will take away our health and rights every chance they get. Liburdi's confirmation would pose great harm to Arizonans. The courts have been a critical backstop to dangerous policies pushed by Arizona politicians, including efforts to block care at Planned Parenthood and a law forcing doctors to tell their patients medically inaccurate and misleading information. People look to the courts to protect their health and rights, not take them away — as Liburdi's records suggests he would do.

The confirmation vote for Mr. Liburdi was taken on Tuesday, July 30, 2019. He was confirmed 53-37. The Republicans were united in voting YES, and they were joined by Senators Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Doug Jones of Alabama and Joe Manchin of West Virginia.

Sen. Sinema's support of this confirmation has gotten her into a lot of hot water with pro-choice advocates. [NARAL ProChoice America](#) said this about her vote:

"Senator Sinema, like so many Democrats, was elected last year in large part due to a wave powered by women voters who wanted to put a check on this runaway Administration. So to use one of her first acts in office to help elevate a judge with a clear anti-choice record is beyond troubling. ...You can't claim you are an advocate of women and our reproductive freedom just because you vote correctly on some legislation if, at the same time, you help elevate right-wing judges who will inflict long-term damage to our cause."

Casey voted NO and Toomey voted YES.

Lifetime judicial appointment # 3

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Sean D. Jordan to the USDC in Texas

Mr. Jordan is an experienced attorney who has worked a decade each in both the public and private sectors. He is also a fiercely partisan anti-choice Federalist Society member who has given thousands of dollars in donations to Republican candidates.

[NARAL Pro-Choice America](#) wrote a brief on Mr. Jordan that discussed the most objectionable parts of his record. They describe one case in particular that shows where Mr. Jordan's legal philosophy lies:

Jordan filed an amicus brief in *Storman's Inc. v. Wiesman* in the Ninth Circuit in support of a Washington pharmacy that refused to carry emergency contraception. Although state law allows pharmacists to refuse to fill a prescription themselves based on a religious belief, a pharmacy is required to fill all legal prescriptions. Dozens of complaints had been filed against this particular pharmacy for denying women access to care. Jordan teamed up with fellow extreme Trump nominees Matthew Kacsmaryk and Jeff Mateer (whose nomination has since been withdrawn) to file the brief on behalf of the First Liberty Institute, an organization that regularly litigates against reproductive freedom and LGBTQ rights and has been praised by anti-choice politicians like Ted Cruz, Rick Perry, and Mike Huckabee.

The [NARAL](#) brief concludes, succinctly, "Jordan is anti-choice."

The confirmation vote for Mr. Jordan was taken on Tuesday, July 30, 2019. He was confirmed 54-34. The Republicans were united in voting YES, and they were joined by Senators Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Doug Jones of Alabama and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. **Casey voted NO and Toomey voted YES.**

Lifetime judicial appointment # 4

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Mark T. Pittman to the USDC in Texas

Mr. Pittman already serves as a judge in the Texas state courts. He has prior experience in both private practice as well as in public service - he worked as a senior attorney at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, an enforcement attorney at the Securities and Exchange Commission, and he served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. While [the Vetting Room](#) refers to Judge Pittman as a "mainstream conservative," the site also reports:

Pittman is a Republican who has run for judicial elections as such. Before he joined the bench, Pittman volunteered with many Texas Republican campaigns, including those of then Governor George Bush, then Senator Phil Gramm, and then Attorney General Greg Abbott. Pittman is also a Founding Member of the Tarrant County chapter of the Federalist Society.

Mr. Pittman's confirmation vote was taken on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. He was confirmed 54-36. The Republicans were united in voting YES, and they were joined by Senators Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Doug Jones of Alabama and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. **Casey voted NO and Toomey voted YES.**

Lifetime judicial appointment # 5

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Jeffrey Vincent Brown to the USDC in Texas

Judge Brown already serves in the state court system in Texas. This nomination would move him up into the federal court system. [The People for the American Way](#) compiled a letter in opposition to Judge Brown's confirmation to his new post because "Brown's record as a state judge shows that he places political goals over the rule of law and the welfare of innocent people, and he has shown disrespect for the federal judiciary in a manner unbecoming a judge on any court."

The letter authored by the group cites several cases related to the judge's fervent anti-choice stance that render him unlikely to be impartial or to uphold Supreme Court precedent. But the real crux of their letter deals with the judge going rogue when it comes to flouting the Supreme Court's decision on marriage equality:

Brown and his colleagues used the U.S. Supreme Court's forceful repudiation of another court's defiance of the rule of law as precedent for more defiance... Masterpiece Cakeshop addressed legal issues not at all related to government recognition of marriages. It involved businesses claiming a First Amendment right not to comply with anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBT people from discrimination.

It is bad enough when political activists conflate state recognition of marriage with a private business's compliance with anti-discrimination laws. But a state supreme court justice who made such an enormous legal error and could not tell the difference between the two legal concepts does not have the judgment to be a federal judge. And if Brown did recognize the difference, then his decision to join the 2017 Texas marriage benefits opinion indicates a dangerous willingness to subordinate the rule of law to his personal feelings.

Mr. Brown's confirmation vote was taken on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. He was confirmed 50-40. The Democrats and Independents were united in voting NO, and they were joined by Republican Susan Collins of Maine. **Casey voted NO** and **Toomey voted YES**.

Lifetime judicial appointment # 6

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Brantley Starr to the USDC in Texas

Mr. Starr is a Federalist Society member who has spent the last four years as a top legal advisor to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. His nomination process has been so hasty that the American Bar Association has not yet had a chance to rate him... but Senate Judiciary Chairman Lindsay Graham shoved through his committee vote without that critical piece of information.

The [Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights](#) issued a letter in opposition to Mr. Starr's nomination, with extensive details and case citations under the following subject headers:

- Defended Voting Rights Restrictions
- Attacked LGBTQ Equality
- Sought to Undermine Immigrant Rights
- Hostile to Reproductive Health Care

One is spoiled for choice in finding the most egregious example of Mr. Starr's conservative judicial philosophy, but one of the most well publicized was the lawsuit *Texas v. United States*, where Starr "sought to restrict the rights of transgender people in... a lawsuit Texas filed against the Obama administration for its guidance that directed public school districts to allow transgender students to use restrooms that corresponded with their gender identity." The Leadership Conference also pointed out:

Mr. Starr's right-wing ideology is so fervent that on his Senate questionnaire he listed his involvement with the Federalist Society and Texas Review of Law & Politics as examples of how he has met the legal profession's ethical obligation to devote some time to "serving the disadvantaged." If confirmed, Mr. Starr would bring a clear bias and far-right ideological agenda to the bench, and he would not serve as an objective and fair-minded arbiter.

The confirmation vote for Mr. Starr was taken on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. He was confirmed 51-39. This was a pure party line vote. **Casey voted NO** and **Toomey voted YES**.

Lifetime judicial appointment # 7

[Senate Confirmation Vote](#) on Jason K. Pulliam to the USDC in Texas

Jason Pulliam has judicial experience, having served on the state courts in Texas. His time in that court did not go without a scandal, as the [San Antonio Express-News](#) reported that he had accepted over \$10,000 in donations from attorneys who were appearing before him in cases, which is a significant ethics violation. But during his nomination process before the Senate, objections came from a different source. [Politico](#) reports:

The primary opposition from Democrats around Pulliam's nomination was the endorsement he received in 2016 from the Texas Leadership Institute for Public Advocacy. The group gives out endorsements to political candidates in the state, in part rating candidates based on their views on "non-negotiable intrinsic moral evils," including abortion, euthanasia, and "acceptance of deviant sexual unions as marriage." Pulliam did not initially provide senators with a questionnaire from the group, but turned it over shortly after his nomination hearing in June.

Mr. Pulliam's confirmation vote was taken on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. He was confirmed 54-36. The Republicans were united in voting YES, and they were joined by Senators Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Doug Jones of Alabama and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. **Casey voted NO** and **Toomey voted YES**.

Twitter Action

Our Twitter Action sections come to your courtesy of [@ElastigirlVotes](#) - follow her on Twitter to get plugged into all the #PAResists content around!

Twitter Action - Another mass shooting

Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 8/04/19:

"Once again, our nation is confronted with a mass shooting. As we all pray for El Paso, those of us in public office have an obligation to do more and take action on gun violence.

While we do not know that any one law or series of laws will eliminate the possibility of a mass shooting, we know that passing common sense gun reform can reduce the likelihood of mass shootings.

It's far past time for Senate Majority Leader McConnell to allow a debate and a series of votes on gun control measures."

Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, 8/3/19:

"What happened in El Paso today is a senseless and horrific tragedy. My thoughts are with the people of El Paso and I am grateful for the emergency responders who are and continue to be on the scene. The mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton are the latest, horrific examples of the violent scourge that is gripping America. The perpetrators of these murders are cowards. We must do more to keep guns out of the hands of psychopaths. While no law will end mass shootings entirely, it's time for Congress to act to help keep our communities safer. We should start by passing bipartisan proposals such as my legislation with Senator Joe Manchin to expand background checks to all commercial firearm sales. I also agree with Senator Lindsey Graham that we should pass a bipartisan "red flag" measure that enables families and law enforcement to obtain a court order to keep guns away from dangerous individuals."

PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, 7/29/19:

"The loss of life at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, including that of 6 year-old Steven Romero, is completely heartbreaking. May our nation provide love and comfort to these victims, and a fervent resolve to end these senseless acts of gun violence through all means necessary."

- **PA-03's Rep. Dwight Evans, @RepDwightEvans, 8/3/19:**
 "Sad & angry.
 That's how I feel every time I learn about a #MassShooting, and the "everyday" shootings that occur throughout our country.
 Thoughts & prayers are NOT enough. The Senate must join the House in acting to #EndGunViolence!"
- **PA-04's Rep. Madeleine Dean, @RepDean, 8/3/19:**
 "Sick & tired of being shocked & saddened. It's our utmost duty to save lives. The House has acted. Why doesn't the majority in the Senate feel the same urgency? My prayers are with the victims & families—but it's not #enough. @senatemajldr McConnell, my own @SenToomey, act now."
- **PA-05's Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, @RepMGS, 8/3/19:**
 "My heart breaks for my friend @RepEscobar, the El Paso community, and our country."
Tweeted with this article:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/03/us/el-paso-walmart-shooting.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>
- **PA-06's Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, @RepHoulahan, 8/3/19:**
 "This is devastating. We are grateful for the first responders, and our hearts go out to everyone in El Paso. We have a responsibility to protect our citizens lives at the local, state, and national levels."
Tweeted with this article:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/08/03/active-shooter-cielo-vista-mall-area-el-paso-police-say/?utm_term=.ee204ffef18d
- **PA-07's Rep. Susan Wild, @RepSusanWild, 8/3/19:**
 "Devastated to once again hear of an episode of mass gun violence, this time in #EIPaso. My heart grieves for their community. This country must take sensible steps to stop gun violence. Hey @senatemajldr, let's start w/ the Senate taking up the Bipartisan Background Checks Act!"

Tweet of the Week

- **Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, 07/28/19:**
 "Yes, what President Trump said was racist.

 Just like his recent attack on four members of Congress, just like his praise of white nationalists in Charlottesville, just like his description of Mexican immigrants as "rapists,"

 Just like his vile description of African countries, just like his assertion that a judge of Mexican descent could not fairly hear a case involving him, just like his promotion of the birther conspiracy. He keeps saying racist things and we must continue to call it out."
- **Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, 7/30/19:**
 "No current or future POTUS should be able to unilaterally remake trade policy. The Constitution puts that power in Congress, which has delegated far too much authority to the exec. Time to pass my bipartisan bill reasserting Congress' proper role on trade: (link: <https://bit.ly/2YvKBtJ>) bit.ly/2YvKBtJ"
- **PA-02's Rep. Brendan Boyle, @RepBrndanBoyle, 7/28/19:**
 "Despite 1,000 being arrested and beaten yesterday, the protesters in Moscow have returned today. Their courage in face of the Putin regime is remarkable. Yet still no statement from @SecPompeo or POTUS in support of those fighting for democracy. Shameful."
- **PA-03's Rep. Dwight Evans, @RepDwightEvans, 7/28/19:**
 "This is also a mass shooting and should be called one and addressed as one. Not one over the age of 25...#publichealthcrisis"



Action News on 6abc 
@6abc

SOUTHWEST PHILLY SHOOTING VICTIMS

- Man, 21, shot in the head has died.
- Man, 22, shot in the finger.
- Man, 22, shot in the right leg, chest.
- Man, 24, shot in the leg.
- Man, 22, shot in neck, back.
- Man, 23, shot in head.

□ **PA-04's Rep. Madeleine Dean, @RepDean, 7/29/19:**

"Devastated by the horrific shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. My heart goes out to the victims (including a six-year-old child), & their families. We, and especially our children, should not live in fear. We MUST end the senseless gun violence epidemic. #EnoughIsEnough"

□ **PA-05's Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, @RepMGS, 7/30/19:**

"Restaurants. Concerts. Schools. Playgrounds. Places of worship. Food Festivals. Unchecked gun violence impacts all of us — including our district — every single day. 1/2

First tweeted with this article:

<https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/editorials/mass-shooting-philadelphia-elmwood-gun-violence-gilroy-garlic-california-20190729.html>

Gun violence claims the lives of 1,500 Pennsylvanians and nearly 40,000 Americans every year. Commonsense, bipartisan, gun safety legislation was passed by the House earlier this year and remains on Senator Mitch McConnell's desk. Mitch, do your damn job. 2/2"

□ **PA-06's Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, @RepHoulahan, 7/30/19:**

"Russia interfered in our 2016 elections. Our best intelligence says they, & other foreign adversaries, will try to do the same in 2020. That's why I introduced a bill today that would defend our democracy from foreign adversaries."

1 “(A) with respect to an activity described
2 in subsection (a)(1), that the contribution, do-
3 nation, expenditure, independent expenditure,
4 or disbursement is from a foreign national; and

5 “(B) with respect to an activity described
6 in subsection (a)(2), that the contribution or
7 donation solicited, accepted, or received is from
8 a foreign national.

9 “(2) PERTINENT FACTS.—For purposes of
10 paragraph (1), pertinent facts include, but are not
11 limited to, that the person making the contribution,
12 donation, expenditure, independent expenditure, or
13 disbursement, or that the person from whom the
14 contribution or donation is solicited, accepted, or re-
15 ceived—

16 “(A) uses a foreign passport or passport
17 number for identification purposes;

18 “(B) provides a foreign address;

19 “(C) uses a check or other written instru-
20 ment drawn on a foreign bank, or by a wire
21 transfer from a foreign bank, in carrying out
22 the activity; or

23 “(D) resides abroad.

24 “(d) SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—As used
25 in this section, the term ‘substantial assistance’ means,

1 with respect to an activity prohibited by paragraph (1) or
2 (2) of subsection (a), involvement with an intent to facili-
3 tate successful completion of the activity.”.

□ **PA-07’s Rep. Susan Wild, @RepSusanWild, [7/29/19](#):**

“It pains me to again grieve deaths caused by gun violence. We need more than thoughts, prayers, & conversation. The House acted, the Senate HAS NOT. They must pass The Bipartisan Background Checks Act to help us put an end to this needless bloodshed. #EndGunViolence”

□ **PA-10’s Rep. Scott Perry, @RepScottPerry, [8/1/19](#):**

“With regard to the number of empty seats at Tuesday night’s town hall, the photo circulated in the media was taken at the beginning of the event, and doesn’t give an accurate representation of the attendance – more fake news. More: (link: <https://bit.ly/31ayRyw>) bit.ly/31ayRyw”



□ **PA-12’s Rep. Fred Keller, @RepFredKeller, [8/2/19](#):**

“Great start to the district work month! Got out and talked with folks across PA12. Check out the video for a recap of the week!”

□ **PA-13’s Rep. John Joyce, @RepJohnJoyce, 8/2/19:**

“There’s one last piece to the puzzle when setting up our economy to prosper for generations to come. And that’s trade.” ->

Tweeted with article:

<https://www.therecordherald.com/news/20190801/vice-president-mike-pence-visits-manitowoc>

□ **PA-17’s Rep. Conor Lamb, @RepConorLamb, 7/30/19:**

“Thanks to all of the first responders who battled the strip mall fire in Penn Hills on Sunday. Spoke to Penn Hills No.7 VFC Chief today, glad to hear the injured firefighters are all on the mend. #PA17”

□ **PA-18’s Rep. Mike Doyle, @USRepMikeDoyle, 7/31/19:**

“Please join me at an upcoming town hall on climate change. The event will feature two panels of experts to discuss solutions to address climate change. I hope to see you there!”

Casey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Lind Houk

“Special Counsel Mueller made clear that the Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion.’ Special Counsel Mueller also said, ‘As set forth in the report, after the investigation, if we had confidence that the president did not clearly commit a crime, we would have said so.’ This means that Congress has substantial work to do. First, Congress must come together and stop Russian interference in the 2020 election at all costs. Republicans in Congress have done little on the question of Russian interference because they fear upsetting President Trump. It’s time for them to stand up and protect our Democracy.”

— from an article in *Main Line Media News* titled [“VILLAGE VIEW: The Russians are coming”](#)

“Instead of spurring investment in the U.S., the 2017 Republican tax bill actually supercharged investment by U.S. multinationals in their overseas operations ... The same cannot happen when it comes to the renegotiated NAFTA. That’s why Democrats are working to make sure NAFTA 2.0 prevents outsourcing and benefits U.S. workers, not just powerful interests and big corporations. Democrats are fighting for strong labor and environmental protections and for ironclad enforcement and have put forward proposals to accomplish those goals. It’s understandable that the Vice President and his corporate cronies would prefer to ram this agreement through, just like they did with the Republican tax bill. I will keep fighting for Pennsylvanians.”

— from an article on *Local 21 News* titled [“This agreement is a good deal for Pennsylvania,” VP Pence stops in PA, boasts USMCA”](#)

“I am pleased that the administration has finally agreed to join Democrats in ending the sequester cuts, which endangered critical investments in our schools and infrastructure ... This bipartisan budget agreement will allow us to invest in important job-creating programs such as the Community Development Block Grants and NIH medical research... [it] will help us avoid the possibility of defaulting on our debt and allow us to increase our investments in important programs that help the middle class and strengthen our national defense.”

— from an article in *The Times Online* titled [“U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey votes against budget deal, Sen. Bob Casey supports it”](#)

“..there is much more to be done in the fight to rid our communities of PFAS contamination. These are exactly the types of issues that the PFAS Task Force... should address. I continue to push legislation and funding in the Senate that will advance research and remediation efforts for PFAS contamination.”

— from an article in *The Intelligencer* titled [“Deeply troubling’: Lawmakers react to PFAS investigation”](#)

“Republican politicians have been complaining about the Affordable Care Act for nine years now, and they haven't done anything to replace it ... You can't just, in my judgment, pass something that is a replacement without the math working, without having the protections. So, if they can come up with something that covers more than 20 million people — if you can do everything the Affordable Care Act has already done in a different way, and a better way, I'll be interested in hearing it ... They've never proven they can do that.”

— from an article in *The Reading Eagle* titled [“Sen. Bob Casey tells Berks roundtable Republicans must have viable replacement for Obamacare”](#)

“If this lawsuit is successful, not only will we wipe out the gains we've made in coverage through the Affordable Care Act, but other citizens with coverage will lose the protection they have now — and there's no replacement.”

“You have some barriers to surmount that other counties don't ... I now understand the challenge is especially difficult because of the church community and migrant population.”

“I have an obligation to work on lowering costs and especially lowering prescription drug costs ... I want folks to know it's not just the 10,000 people in Pennsylvania who got healthcare because of the Affordable Care Act. A lot of people in Franklin County today who have had healthcare will not have the protections they have enjoyed ... In a lot of rural communities, the hospital is one of the major employers. If you're cutting Medicaid, it's not only a healthcare impact, it's a job impact,”

— from an article in *The Record Herald* titled [“Casey explores rural healthcare in Chambersburg”](#)

“Family violence, domestic violence and dating violence are a public health crisis in this country ... In Pennsylvania alone, more than 1,600 people died from domestic violence-related incidents during the last decade.”

“We must all work together to end this epidemic in our communities; that is why I introduced the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act, which provides vital services for survivors, particularly those from underserved communities, such as racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, seniors and youth.”

— from an article in *Ellwood City Ledger* titled [“Casey bill reauthorizes funding for domestic violence program”](#)

We have to be ready ... We have to be on a war footing when it comes to health care.”

“I'm a very reasonable person, who gets very unreasonable when it comes to these proposed cuts and threats to health care. I'll remain not just vigilant, but frankly, angry about it.”

“And there's no replacement... There's nothing in the wings that is either enacted in the law and ready to be implemented, nor is there a prospect of something comparable to the ACA to go in place... The ACA was an imperfect but substantially positive leap forward.”

“Sometimes, when you're not successful legislatively, you do things by administrative action ... They've tried to sabotage the system, therefore fewer people know about the exchanges.”

— from an article in *Herald Mail Media* titled [“Sen. Casey encourages 'war footing' on health care in Chambersburg visit”](#)

“How the hell can you say that you support protections when you have all the power and a bill did not pass that would support the Affordable Care Act? ... You've had eight years of bellyaching about it, and you haven't done a damn thing about it.”

— from an article in *The Fiscal Times* titled [“GOP Senators Distance Themselves from Grassley and Trump's Efforts to Cut Drug Prices”](#)

“Our criminal justice system should provide equal justice under law to all Americans ... Despite the progress we have made, there is a long way to go.”

Vice President Biden's bold criminal justice reform plan represents a substantial step forward. I want to commend him for including investments in our juvenile justice system and a ban on the detention of juveniles for status offenses. These are policies, which I have advocated for, that will aid young people before they get caught up in the criminal justice system and prevent the kinds of injustices that we saw in the kids for cash scandal in Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

— from an article in *The Reading Eagle* titled [“The Rundown”](#)

“As you know, under the Campus SaVE Act, all institutions must have in place policies and programs to prevent sexual violence; to ensure victims of sexual violence understand their rights and the resources available to them; and to ensure prompt, fair and impartial disciplinary action ... I urge you to review [your] policies and practices to ensure that you are in full compliance with the law, and that you are working with students to create a safe and welcoming environment for all students that does not tolerate sexual violence.”

— from an article in the *Bradford Era* titled [“Casey questions colleges on sex assault”](#)

Fitzpatrick in the News

“...initiate the necessary proceedings to designate Antifa a domestic terrorist organization.”

— an excerpt from the representative's letter to Attorney General Barr, as reported on the WSWS.org website in a piece titled [“Trump threatens to declare Antifa a terrorist group”](#)

“I was proud to join our 9/11 First Responder Heroes today as President Trump signed a law to ensure that those who engaged in acts of heroism and saved lives on September 11th will receive the benefits they are owed. It was a moral imperative to get this legislation across the finish line, and I hope the President's signature today can provide hope and peace of mind to 9/11 first responders and their families. I applaud the courage of advocates who put the pressure on Congress to get this done, including my colleague Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-12 of New York) and (comedian) Jon Stewart, for helping us make this bill the law of the land. ”

— from an article in the *Bucks County Courier Times* titled [“Fitzpatrick joins Trump as president signs 9/11 victims' fund extension”](#)

“Ensuring students have access to mental health resources is vital to their current and future success, along with that of their peers. With only 20 percent of American youth receiving the mental health services they need, further action must be taken to expand access to services in schools.”

— from a blog post on the *Ripon Advance* titled [“Fitzpatrick offers bipartisan bill to improve school-based mental health services”](#)

“EPA risk assessment protocol highlights the need to investigate multiple exposure pathways when determining possible health consequences for constituents. I fully support the Department of Defense and EPA conducting further studies within our waterways and agricultural areas. In order to completely understand the hazard this contaminant poses, we must demand comprehensive examinations that result in long-term solutions that are long overdue.”

— from an article in *The Intelligencer* titled [“‘Deeply troubling’: Lawmakers react to PFAS investigation”](#)

“Individuals with disabilities contribute immensely to our workforce and economy. Incentivizing employers to hire qualified individuals with disabilities will promote growth and equity in the workplace.”

— from a blog post on the *Ripon Advance* titled [“Fitzpatrick introduces legislation to spur employment of disabled Americans”](#)

Toomey in the News

Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker

"If we adopt this agreement, it will be the first time that I know of in the history of the republic that we will agree to a new trade agreement that is designed to diminish trade."

— Senator Toomey disapproves of the president's USMCA trade plan, from an article on [Local 21 News](#) titled ["This agreement is a good deal for Pennsylvania," VP Pence stops in PA, boasts USMCA](#)"

"It is deeply ironic, not to mention painful to out of work steelworkers, that the administration's protectionist steel tariffs have directly caused the layoff of over 80 Pennsylvanians working in the steel industry. Blanket tariffs on steel and aluminum from our allies distort prices, disrupt supply chains, and increase prices for consumers—including downstream users of these products, who collectively employ millions of Americans."

— from an article on the [WFMJ website](#) titled ["Layoffs coming to Mercer County steel manufacturer"](#)

"We don't need to burn corn because we don't have oil and gas. And, of course, it's also been clearly proven that ethanol is not helpful to the environment. In fact, it does more bad than good."

— from an article on the [WHYY website](#) titled ["At Delco refinery, Toomey pushes to reverse ethanol mandate"](#)

"The problem with the renewable fuel standard, this construct that the government created and threat you're having to put up with, was invented for a different era. I never thought it was a good idea, but certainly, obviously, now. It is based on flawed science and it's time to go.

"Remember, the Renewable Fuel Standard was going to provide us with energy security and a clean environment. We knew that by forcing people to burn a product paid for more in their vehicles instead of gasoline. The fact is, we're in a totally different place. Energy security is nothing like it was."

— from an article in the [Daily Times of Delaware County](#) titled ["Toomey rallies against ethanol in fuel production"](#)

"The ill-conceived RFS forces American motorists to buy billions of gallons of corn ethanol each year. This heavy-handed federal mandate drives up the price of gas and food, damages engines and harms the environment."

— an excerpt from a statement made by the senator, as reported in an article in the [Times Online](#) titled ["Bill from U.S. Sens. Toomey, Feinstein would abolish ethanol mandate"](#)

"[Section 232] was never intended to delegate to the president unilateral tariff-making power... Our bipartisan legislation ensures the executive branch cannot use [the national emergency law] as a justification for taxing Americans who buy foreign goods."

— from an article in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) titled ["As Trump's trade war with China escalates, Toomey leads Congress' charge to take back tariff authority"](#)

Call to Action - Contact Senator Toomey about gun violence

By now you will have seen that our nation had three mass shootings in one week. Our only hope for an end to this horror lies in the Senate.

The House has already passed two bills related to background checks. One of the bills, [H.R. 8](#), closes the gun show loophole and dramatically expands the reach of background checks. The other bill, [H.R. 1112](#), closes what is called the “Charleston loophole” by expanding the timeframe for the FBI to complete a check from three to ten days; by adjusting the language related to mental illnesses; and by changing the timeframe for purchase authorization after a background check to around one month. Both of these bills passed the House at the end of February. Both of them are sitting in Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s legislative graveyard, as he prefers to accrue the political benefits of stonewalling the Democratic House leadership over helping save American lives.

Now is the time, then, to pressure Senator Toomey to use whatever influence he has within his caucus to push forward these bills. We know he is at least somewhat receptive to expanded background check legislation, as he tried (and failed) to pass such efforts with West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin in the aftermath of Sandy Hook.

There are several routes for working on Senator Toomey. You could [call him](#) or use his [website contact form](#). If you choose to go either of those two routes, please reference the two bills already passed by the House. It would be more effective, though, to push your responses to Twitter.

Twitter one major benefit over other types of legislative contact in that it is public. Journalists are watching hashtags (like #HR8 and #HR1112 and #GiveUsAVote), and they will report on the mounting efforts to persuade the Senate’s Republican majority to act on gun violence. That takes your one response and amplifies it a thousand-fold. Here are some examples of responses that our allies are making to Senator Toomey:

From [@ElastigirlVotes](#):



Elastigirl Persists
@ElastigirlVotes

I guess he will get to the next one [#DaytonOhioShooting](#) after he receives his NRA talking points.

Meanwhile, the house has passed [#HR8](#) and [#HR1112](#)

Time to call Toomey and tell him [#MoscowMitch](#) needs to get out of the way and allow the [@SenateDems](#) and [@SenateGOP](#) to VOTE on guns.



Senator Pat Toomey
@SenToomey · 14h

What happened in El Paso today is a senseless and horrific tragedy. My thoughts are with the people of El Paso and I am grateful for the emergency responders who are and continue to be on the scene.

11:58 AM · Aug 4, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

From [@BoomNaught](#):



Toby
@BoomNaught

Senator Toomey, Sir; please stop being part of this problem and speak truth to the power in (what's left of) your party, Leader McConnell. We're watching, this moment doesn't have to be wasted, you have a voice. Join the American conscience.



Kierstyn P. Zolfo
@BucksCoKierstyn · 1h

Replying to @SenToomey

Sir, the Senate should take up [#HR8](#) and [#HR1112](#) immediately. Those are [#BackgroundChecks](#) that already passed the House.

The unwillingness of the [#GOP](#) majority to schedule those two bills is evidence of you valuing the political benefits of appeasing the [@NRA](#) over American lives.

1:45 PM · Aug 4, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

From [@BucksCoKierstyn](#):

From [LadyLight8](#):

Senator Pat Toomey @SenToomey · 15h
 What happened in El Paso today is a senseless and horrific tragedy. My thoughts are with the people of El Paso and I am grateful for the emergency responders who are and continue to be on the scene.
 810 31 199

Kierstyn P. Zolfo @BucksCoKierstyn
 Replying to @SenToomey
 The House has already passed [#HR8](#) & [#HR1112](#) to address background checks, part of a larger solution to the crisis of [#GunViolence](#).
 We are waiting for you, @SenateMajLdr & the rest of the [#GOPMajority](#).
 How many more people need to die?
 Stop your obstructionism.
[#GiveUsAVote](#)
 1:58 PM · Aug 4, 2019 · Twitter Web App

Elen Snyder @Ladylight8
 @SenToomey when will the time come to take up gun control issues? When it happens in your neighborhood or to your own family? We deserve a [#HR8](#) vote sir. By not voting on it you are not representing us, you are opposing us
[#HR8](#) [#HR1112](#) [#BackgroundChecks](#)
 2:15 PM · Aug 4, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

Elen Snyder @Ladylight8
[#GiveUsAVote!](#)

Elen Snyder @Ladylight8 · 13m
 @SenToomey when will the time come to take up gun control issues? When it happens in your neighborhood or to your own family? We deserve a [#HR8](#) vote sir. By not voting on it you are not representing us, you are opposing us
[#HR8](#) [#HR1112](#) [#BackgroundChecks](#)
 2:20 PM · Aug 4, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

Please - let us join our voices together in support of one achievable goal. You can retweet the items above by clicking on the link in the tweeter's name. But it is even more powerful if you add your own comments, using the hashtags [#HR8](#), [#HR1112](#) and [#GiveUsAVote](#). Together our voices will carry.

This report brought to you by the PA MoCTrack team...
 @ElastigirlVotes a.k.a Helen
 Elayne Baker
 Gary Garb
 Linda Houk
 Kierstyn Piotrowski Zolfo

We are seeking additional assistance. Our Congresspeople are always busy and there is always more for us to cover — tasks big and small to fit any level of time commitment or experience. Can you help us out? Please email KierstynPZ@gmail.com and put "MoCTrack Help" in the subject. Thanks!