

PA-01 Member of Congress Tracking Report - 08.30.20

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. We want to offer a big thank you 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!

A note on MoCTrack reports from now through the election:

Our MoCTrack volunteers want to give as much of their time as they can to phone banking, text banking and other activities to drive support for our preferred candidates. So, you will notice that our reports are going to be leaner from now through Election Day. We hope you'll understand and will join us in volunteering for your favorite candidates in these last two months that will decide our future!

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)	29.3%	0.0%
Senator Pat Toomey (R)	88.1%	0.0%
PA-01 Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)	63.6%	-0.4%

Nate Silver's [FiveThirtyEight website](#) assesses the voting records of our MoCs to provide this index, by comparing any bills where President Trump has stated a position, and comparing the vote of the legislator to that opinion. The one vote scored was last Saturday's US Postal Service vote in the House. And don't forget - if you click on the name of any legislator, 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 Nation's Sages



“People cannot be free until they realize that peace—we can talk about peace—that peace is not the absence of war or struggle, it is the presence of justice.”

— Ella Baker, from a [Freedom Day Rally speech](#), January 21, 1964

“Ella Josephine Baker was a civil rights activist whose organizational, behind-the-scenes work made her one of the most important figures in the Civil Rights Movement. She emphasized the importance of a

grassroots approach over charismatic leadership within the movement,” notes [Iowa State University's](#) archive on women's political communications. If you'd like to learn more about Ella Baker and her contributions to the Civil Rights movement, please visit the [Ella Baker Center for Human Rights](#) or check out the podcast they produce called [Ella's Voice](#).

MoCTrack would like to gratefully recognize Kadida Kenner of [Why Courts Matter PA](#) who suggested Ella Baker as a focus for this week's quote. If you have a suggestion for a sage to be featured, please email KierstynPZ@gmail.com. Thanks!

Votes of Interest

The House Votes to Protect and Restore the United States Postal Service

[House Vote](#) on [H.R. 8015](#): Delivering for America Act

This legislation was introduced in the wake of the mail delays experienced by people around our nation, as well as reports and images coming from US Postal Service facilities showing removed and damaged postal infrastructure. Also in the news was the firing or re-assignment of nearly two dozen experienced USPS bureaucrats in leadership positions and a cutting of overtime for all USPS staff. This was capped by President Trump [stating](#), “They need that money in order to have the post office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots. “If they don't get those two items, that means you can't have universal mail-in voting because they're not equipped to have it.”

The new bill, introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) will:

- Provide an emergency appropriation of \$25 billion, the amount requested by the GOP-lead USPS Board of Governors
- Mandate that all election mail be treated as First-Class Mail
- Require that all election mail be postmarked
- Prohibit any change to USPS operations that would affect service, including
 - Implementation of any revision of service standards
 - Closing, consolidating, or reducing the hours of any post office or postal facility
 - Institution of any prohibition on paying overtime to Postal Service officers or employees
 - Making any change that would have the effect of delaying mail or increasing the volume of undelivered mail

Vote date: Saturday, August 22, 2020

Vote Tally: 257-150

Party Breakdown: All Democrats voted YES on the bill and they were joined by twenty-six Republicans. Libertarian Justin Amash and 149 Republicans voted NO. Twenty-three Republicans and one Democrat did not vote.

Additional Reading:

- [“House approves bill to send \\$25 billion to Postal Service and halt changes,”](#) from *CNN Politics*
- [“House passes bill to reverse Postal Service changes, infuse \\$25B in emergency funds,”](#) from *NBC News*
- [“House passes an additional \\$25 billion for Postal Service as Trump tweets opposition,”](#) from *USA Today*
- [“McConnell: Postal Service will 'be just fine',”](#) from *The Hill*

Rep. Fitzpatrick voted YES.

Unanimously passed legislation

The following bill was passed through unanimous consent or voice vote (which presumes unanimity, as any member can object to the voice vote and ask for a roll call).

- [H.R.8089](#) - Emergency Stopgap U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Stabilization Act

Our MoCs comment on the United States Postal Service

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [08/24/20](#):

"Mr. DeJoy, in the past week, my office received over 27,000 letters expressing support for the #USPS. That makes over 101,000 letters from all 67 counties across Pennsylvania since July 14. CC: @RealDonaldTrump

When families can't pay their rent and mortgages on time because of this Administration's sabotage of the postal service, will you be covering their late fees? Asking for 330 million Americans.

Expired medication, dead livestock, destroyed sorting machines and mass firings. This isn't some corporation for the super-rich to take over, strip of assets and walk away from. It's the United States Postal Service. It's enshrined in the Constitution." *tweeted along with [embedded video content from Robert Reich](#) titled "The Post Office Crisis to Come"*

● Senator Pat Toomey does not have any USPS-related content on his Facebook page, Twitter presence, or his official website,

● PA-01's Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, from his official website, [08/22/20](#):

Fitzpatrick Statement on Bipartisan Legislation to Support USPS: "I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 8015, the Delivering for America Act, and I was proud to vote in favor of this legislation. I stand with the hardworking letter carriers and postal workers of the USPS. The USPS should be fully funded so that my constituents and millions across the country can receive the high quality, timely service that the Postal Service has historically provided. This bipartisan legislation would prohibit the Postal Service from implementing any changes to the operations or level of service it had in place on January 1, 2020, until the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. We should be preserving and enhancing USPS delivery standards and services, not implementing operational changes that could delay delivery times and undermine quality services that every American depends on."

"Right now, Americans across the country are relying on the USPS to deliver medications, essential goods, and ballots. The USPS is not a partisan issue, it is a constitutionally mandated public service that every American relies on. Constant partisan bickering will get us no closer to solving the issue. Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, must come together and address the serious challenges that USPS has been facing for years. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on bipartisan solutions to support the USPS."

Tweets of the Week

Courtesy of Susan Vogel

● Senator Bob Casey, @SenBobCasey, [08/25/20](#):

"Two months ago the House passed the bipartisan #JusticeInPolicing Act to address police violence and systemic racism. As it gathers dust on Sen. McConnell's desk, Jacob Blake was shot by police in broad daylight in front of his children.

Senator, Americans need real reform NOW."

● Senator Pat Toomey, @SenToomey, [08/28/20](#):

"Illegal fentanyl was found in 70% of PA OD deaths in 2018. After a 4-year fight, the Senate passed my bipartisan bill to punish countries that enable fentanyl production and export to U.S. Good to be in

NEPA w/ Luzerne DA @salavantis to detail the need for this measure.” *tweeted with embedded video (marked “for internal use only”) from a Fox 56 news report*

● **PA-01’s Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, @RepBrianFitz, 08/28/20:**

Congressman Fitzpatrick retweeted this content from Rep. Ron Wright (R-TX) - “Cities that choose to DEFUND and DISMANTLE our law enforcement should NOT receive taxpayer-funded federal grants.

I’m proud to co-sponsor the bipartisan Defund Cities that Defund the Police Act introduced by @RepBrianFitz. We must stand up for the brave men & women in blue.”

Casey Quote of the Week

Courtesy of contributor Linda Houk

“Many Americans are not hearing enough about the severity of unemployment across a state like ours. But we are certainly not hearing enough about the way to approach it, going forward.

We need a W.P.A. — a Works Progress Administration — like program, and that means a lot of federal money. We can’t turn to state, county governments, or the private sector. They would be partners. But we need a transformative program... We need to rebuild the country as we re-employ the country.”

— from an 08/25/20 article in the [Sunbury Daily Item](#) titled “[Casey suggests W.P.A.-like program to boost jobs, state](#)”

Fitzpatrick in the News

Research courtesy of CC

“Anybody that claims I’m not a moderate and not an independent thinker is living on another planet.”

— from a [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) article titled “[A Bucks County election sparks a familiar question: Is Fitzpatrick a moderate?](#)”

“We must move the Legislative process and negotiations forward, so we can begin to repair that social contract that exists between police officers and communities that they serve. There needs to be some sort of law enforcement reform.”

— from a [WHYY](#) article titled “[Bucks County residents show bipartisan support for police reforms, including chokehold ban](#)”

“Republicans and Democrats must come together and address the serious challenges that USPS has been facing for some time now.”

— from a [Nevada Current](#) article titled “[House passes bill to boost post office funding by \\$25 billion, block service changes](#)”

“In order to bolster our state and local public health professionals’ efforts to combat COVID-19 and future outbreaks, we need to improve standardized interagency data sharing between our federal agencies and states while optimizing our nation’s public health surveillance system. The bipartisan Health STATISTICS Act will help achieve better patient outcomes and will save more lives by providing researchers with better access to higher quality data and would modernize our nation’s data infrastructure so that our public health infrastructure can meet immediate surveillance, reporting, and other outbreak management needs.”

— from an article in [Homeland Preparedness News](#) titled “[House Health STATISTICS Act introduced to improve COVID-19 data sharing efforts](#)”

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, volunteer fire departments across my community have struggled with fundraising and balancing their budgets. It is important to remember that volunteer fire departments rely

on municipal funds and fundraising to maintain their operation and purchase the tools necessary to save lives,” said Fitzpatrick. “Our volunteer departments have been facing immense budgetary and manpower challenges that predated COVID-19. Now, these departments are tasked with the extremely consequential mission of protecting lives and protecting property with one hand tied behind their back. It is imperative that we give the necessary supplies and tools to our volunteer responders to ensure when we call 9-1-1, they can do their job. I am happy to see the volunteer departments in Bristol and Chalfont received these potentially lifesaving funds.”

— from a [Levittown Now](#) article titled “[Bristol Twp. Fire Company Receives \\$357,400 Federal Grant](#)”

“As an FBI Supervisory Special Agent, I saw firsthand that diversity is incredibly important and can contribute so much to any organization’s mission. Our armed forces have always led the way, and we should be doing everything we can to foster an even more inclusive military... I am proud to join my colleagues to introduce this bipartisan legislation that will make our military—the greatest fighting force in the world—even better.”

— from a [Ripon Advance](#) blog post titled “[Fitzpatrick, Turner introduce Diversity in Defense Act](#)”

Toomey Quote of the Week

Courtesy of contributor Elayne Baker

“I would hate to see our economy get crippled by a wave of lawsuits that are just opportunistic.”

— from an [08/26/20 Local 21 News](#) article titled “[Toomey touts progress on stimulus package with York leaders](#)”

Election Volunteering Resources

The most valuable use of your time in these last two months before Election Day is by finding a way to ensure that our nation moves forward with leadership that reflects our values. In lieu of a Call to Action section, from now until the election we will focus on how you can use your time to ensure a better future.



Wake up on November 4 knowing you did everything in your power to make Trump a one-term president.

For the last four years, Indivisibles have taken action to defeat the Trump agenda. You marched, you showed up at airports. You held die-ins to beat back Trumpcare, and visited district offices so often that some corrupt representatives decided to run and hide rather than face you! You built the Blue Wave to take back the House and rallied from border to border to #DefundHate. Now it is time to beat Trump, flip the Senate, and build a truly inclusive democracy.

[Sign up to phonebank](#)

[Sign up to textbank](#)

[Write letters to voters](#)

This report is brought to you by the Pennsylvania MoCTrack team...

CC

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We can always use extra help. 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. Would you be willing to listen to a committee hearing and transcribe a few quotes from Pennsylvania lawmakers? Or are you a topic specialist on an issue of concern to activists, and would you like to contribute an occasional column? Please email KierstynPZ@gmail.com and put "MoCTrack Help" in the subject. Thanks!