

PA-07 District Primer

In 2024, Republican Ryan Mackenzie won this seat by just **4,602 votes**. Dems lost by *less than one vote per precinct*. That's close! If we can persuade just two voters per precinct, we can win this year. With your help, we're going to **FLIP** this key seat and secure a Democratic House majority in 2026.

Key dates
Filing Deadline: March 10
Primary: May 19
Midterms: November 3

Recent Election Results

2024 Presidential Election	2024 House Election	2022 House Election
Trump: 209,881 (51.1%) Harris: 196,712 (48.9%)	Mackenzie (R): 203,688 (50.4%) Wild (D): 199,626 (49.4%)	Wild (D): 151,364 (51.0%) Scheller (R): 145,527(49.0%)

District Facts & Stats



Largest Cities

- Allentown: ~126,000
- Bethlehem: ~76,000
- Easton: ~28,000

Geography

Stretching across four counties in the Lehigh Valley, the district includes Allentown, Easton, and most of Bethlehem and their suburbs. The northern part of the district is mostly rural and is tilted towards tourism and outdoor recreation.

Citizenry

The district is majority white, but has a notable Hispanic population (21%). 12.5% of residents identify as bi-racial. Major employers include healthcare (~60,000 workers) and manufacturing, with major employers Lutron, Crayola, and Mack Truck in the district. Education, especially Northampton Community College and Lehigh University, is also a major employer. There is a strong union presence in both Allentown and Bethlehem.

The Local Vibe

Trump's tariffs were blamed for the April 2025 downsizing at Mack Truck (3,000 people laid off).

The region received \$20M in federal funding from the CHIPS Act to support technology investment in 2024 under the Biden administration.

In June 2025, 1,600 people attended the No Kings Rally in Allentown, motivated especially by the cuts to Medicaid and SNAP in the "Big Beautiful Bill." Another 1,000 people protested ICE raids in Bethlehem.

The Lehigh Valley was hit hard by the opioid epidemic, with 471 deaths since 2021.

Key Issues

- **Tariffs and Job Losses:** Tariffs have led directly to major plant closures in the district.
 - **Benefit Cuts:** 18,000 people in the district have lost Medicaid coverage, and 32,000 are newly uninsured.
 - **Opioids:** The opioid epidemic is severe and ongoing in the Lehigh Valley.
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About the Candidates

Ryan MacKenzie | Republican Incumbent

Ryan Mackenzie is a first-term congressman, having narrowly beat Susan Wild in 2025. He previously served in the Pennsylvania House from 2012-2024 and has deep community roots and a history of bipartisan achievements in the state legislature. He's a member of the Education & Workforce, Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs committees. He has opposed raising the minimum wage and has voted against collective bargaining.

In 2024, he received significant contributions and support from the Americans for Prosperity PAC, the Koch brothers' political organization. His campaign focused on economic issues.

Although Mackenzie presents as a moderate, he has aligned directly with Trump by campaigning at Trump rallies and questioning the results of the 2020 election.

Democratic Challengers

There is a crowded Democratic field for the May 19 primary. The leading candidates are Nazareth firefighter **Bob Brooks**, who has been endorsed by Gov. Josh Shapiro, Sen. Bernie Sanders, and Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) among others, and has a history of successful contract negotiation on behalf of union firefighters; and **Ryan Crosswell**, a Marine and former federal prosecutor who resigned when President Trump ordered him to drop charges against disgraced NYC Mayor Eric Adams. He's raised over \$1M in campaign funding and has focused on affordability and protecting democracy from the Trump administration. He's been endorsed by VoteVets.

Other candidates include **Lamont McClure**, a lawyer who has fought to protect open spaces and distribute casino revenues to affected localities, and who has been endorsed by multiple unions and local politicians; and **Carol Obando-Derstine**, a former electrical utility engineer and outspoken opponent to building data centers in the district. She has been endorsed by Emily's List and by Susan Wild, who previously represented PA-07 in Congress.

The contrast: Incumbent Rep. Mackenzie presents as a moderate but has refused to hold Trump accountable in Congress. Instead, he has voted for his tariffs and his disastrous military adventurism. He's also anti-labor, a liability in this historically heavily working-class district. While the Democrats have yet to pick a candidate, all of the leading contenders are pro-labor and are seeking to hold Trump accountable for his criminality and ineptitude.