

Know Before You Go: PA-01 District Primer

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This is a whole new district. With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Republican Brian Fitzpatrick is serving his first term as PA-01's (formerly PA-08) representative. A former FBI agent who was living in California, Brian was recruited by the local GOP to fill the shoes of his older brother, who did not seek re-election.

Issues: While campaigning, Fitzpatrick vowed to give law enforcement more tools and resources. He also voiced support for Social Security, women's health issues, manufacturing concerns, and congressional term limits. He is engaged with the opioid crisis and ties it to other issues, such as health care and securing our border. Fitzpatrick spoke out against the Muslim ban as ineffective in addressing terrorism, and he opposed the budget resolution to repeal the ACA (though he still supports the repeal of the ACA). He voted for defunding Planned Parenthood and has also voted to protect local streams from coal companies dumping waste. Fitzpatrick serves on the Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Small Business Committees.

Recent Elections: His brother represented PA-08 (now PA-01) from 2005 to 2007 and was defeated by Democrat Patrick Murphy in 2006; he then held the seat again from 2011 to 2017.

Strengths: Fitzpatrick enjoys the halo effect from his brother's "moderate conservative" reputation: Michael Fitzpatrick was ranked among the most bipartisan members of Congress and was outspoken on environmental and climate-change issues. Brian Fitzpatrick benefits from the local GOP's historical domination of county politics, excellent ground game, and centralized leadership. His down-to-earth interpersonal style is a plus.

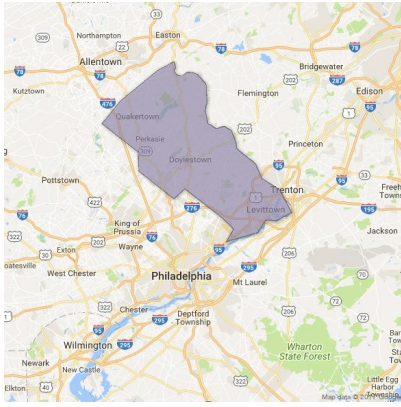
Potential Weaknesses: Fitzpatrick has not cast any significant votes against Trump's agenda. While he may point to early votes where he's broken with his party, few would call him courageous, as the relevant issues where he's taken a stand haven't been very controversial.

About The Democratic Candidate

Introduction: Democrat Scott Wallace is a long-term Bucks County resident, and a philanthropist through his family's namesake Wallace Global Fund. In the 1970s, Scott served as counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs committees, helping craft bills related to missing children and agent orange in the Vietnam war. He also served as a lobbyist for a variety of progressive groups. The Wallace family has a long history of public service and government, with a relative crafting New Deal policies as Secretary of Agriculture, and Scott's own grandfather serving as FDR's Vice President.

Issues: The Scott campaign lists climate change, women's rights, and gun control as priorities, among other issues. Speeches, blog posts, and articles reinforce themes of fighting climate change and inequality.

Strengths: Through his involvement with the Wallace Global Fund, Scott has trumpeted securing pledges of divestment from fossil fuel industries, among other initiatives. Scott received a Progressive Champion Award from the Committee for America's Future. Scott's wife Christy served in the US Diplomatic Corps for several decades in Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe. While in South Africa, the Wallaces were executive producers for a miniseries and book about Bishop Desmond Tutu.



PA-01: Better Know the District

Geography

The populous southern third of the district, “Lower Bucks” county, is flat and near sea level. The county’s northern regions (colloquially referred to as Upper Bucks) are renowned for their natural scenery, farmland, and colonial history.

Citizenry

As of the 2010 census, there were 625,249 people. The racial makeup of the county was 86.6% White non-Hispanic, 3.9% Black or African American, 0.3% Native American, 4.1% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 4.4% Hispanic or Latino of any race. 50% of Bucks County residents have at least a high school diploma, while another 43% have a higher degree. 6% have no high school diploma. The median income for a household in the county is \$59,727.

PA-01: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Levittown, 53,000
- Warminster, 32,700
- Bristol, 9,726
- Doylestown, 8,380, Bucks County Seat
- Quakertown, 8,798

Education

With the exception of Delaware Valley University, the district’s higher education campuses are centered in Lower Bucks county. Bucks County Community College is a two year community college with 4,000 full-time and 5,000 part-time students. BCCC has campuses in Bristol, Newtown, and Perkasie. Delaware Valley University, located in Doylestown, has 1,700 undergraduates and 250 post-graduate students. DVU has an agricultural bent, historically. Cairn University is a private Christian university in Langhorne Manor, with 665 undergraduates and 317 post graduate students. Holy Family University is the youngest of four Catholic universities near Philadelphia, with 2,000 students. La Salle University is a private Catholic university, with 3,100 undergraduates and 2,700 graduate students.

Historic Sites

Bucks County, named for Buckminster in England, was one of three original counties created by William Penn. During the revolutionary war, George Washington crossed the Delaware River near Trenton, NJ, which is now commemorated by Washington Crossing, PA. Levittown, PA was one of a series of archetypal suburban developments, begun in 1952, featuring mass production homebuilding.