

Know Before You Go: PA-06 District Primer

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In the last election, Republican Ryan Costello won this district by only 52,000 votes (14%) and he is not seeking reelection. With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

About the Republican Candidate

Introduction: Republican **Greg McCauley** replaces incumbent Ryan Costello as the PA-06 Republican candidate. He is an ex-federal prosecutor and tax lawyer and lives in Chadds Ford, PA with his wife and five sons.

Issues: McCauley believes in "repealing and replacing" the ACA. He is a member of the NRA but is concerned that "troubled individuals" can get guns. To strengthen Social Security, he wants to draft a bill to "make the system sustainable", and wants to issue work visas to illegal immigrants and have them pay into SSI and Medicare. He believes that diplomacy can be used to open foreign markets to US goods and wants to build PA into a carbon-based energy "superpower."

Recent Elections: In 2016, Costello won re-election 57% to 43%. However, Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump in the district by less than 1%, whereas Obama lost to Romney in 2012 50.6% to 48.1%. Trump won Lebanon County by 20% while Clinton won Montgomery County by the same spread. Berks County voted for Trump and Chester County for Clinton, though both races were close (within about 10%).

Strengths: McCauley is supported by State Rep Steve Barrar, R-160, of Chadds Ford.

Weaknesses: McCauley is not well known, and is a tax lawyer with a lengthy list of very wealthy clients. By his own admission, he is "more conservative" than Ryan Costello, the retiring representative from the former heavily gerrymandered PA-06. Costello voted against abortion funding and environmental protections. He voted against forcing President Trump to release his tax returns, supported Trump's "extreme vetting" of Muslim immigrants and refugees, and voted to revoke funding from sanctuary cities. He voted to repeal the ACA, although some 82% of district residents have benefited from ACA provisions.

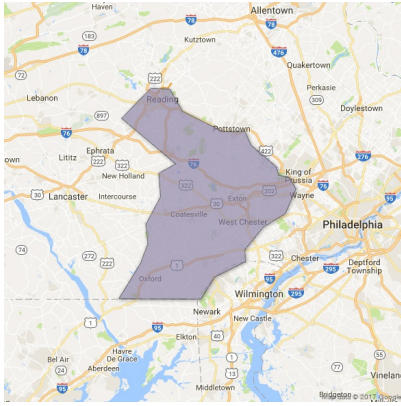
About The Democratic Candidate

Introduction: Democrat **Chrissy Houlahan's** father, a Holocaust survivor, came to the US as a child and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Houlahan lived in six states and attended 12 different schools growing up. She attended Stanford on an ROTC scholarship and served in the U.S. Air Force. She has lived in Chester County since the mid-90's and has two daughters. She was a corps member at Teach for America and taught high school chemistry at Simon Gratz in Philadelphia. She also started three businesses.

Issues: Houlahan supports expanding access to the ACA and repairing deficiencies in it. She passionately supports public education and school funding, and wants to modernize the economy and ensure businesses are paying a living wage. Houlahan supports the 2nd Amendment, gun ownership, and "commonsense measures that the majority of PA families support" to reduce the plague of gun violence. She supports a path to citizenship, drawing from the firsthand experience of her father as a Polish refugee.

Houlahan is dedicated to making meaningful campaign finance reform a top priority. She will be a champion for our environment and will work to combat the threat of climate change and the assault on truth, science, and facts. She believes veterans must be equipped and trained in the best possible way and provided with retraining into civilian employment when returning from service, and fully supports Planned Parenthood, paid family and medical leave, and all women's health issues.

Strengths: Houlahan has broad first-hand experience with issues important to the citizens of the district, including education, business, immigration and the military. She has served in the USAF and has been endorsed by US Senator Bob Casey, former VP Joe Biden, and State Rep Carolyn Comitta, D-156, of West Chester.



PA-06: Facts & Stats

Population Centers

- Reading, 87,575
- Devon, Berwyn, Malvern, & Paoli, 47,428
- West Chester Borough, 19,842
- Coatesville, 13,064
- Downingtown Borough, 7,946

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 178K (48%)
- Trump: 175K (48%)

2016 House Results

- Parrish (D): 154K (43%)
- Costello (R): 206K (57%)
- Registered, didn't vote: 116K
- Eligible, not registered: 116K

2014 House Results

- Trivedi (D): 93K (44%)
- Costello (R): 120K (56%)

PA-06: Better Know the District

Geography

New for 2018, Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District boundaries surround Chester County, with just a small chunk of Berks included, but that small chunk makes a big difference. The district includes Reading, which the New York Times called the "nation's poorest city" in 2012, as well as the highly educated and affluent towns of the "Main Line;" Devon, Berwyn, Malvern, & Paoli, (the "oldest money" in Montgomery county).

Citizenry

PA-06 has over 727,200 people - approximately 88.15% White, 4.29% Black, and 4.67% Hispanic. The median household income is \$69,570, but that income is not uniformly distributed throughout the district. Unemployment is 7.1%. The district is well educated with around 92% of residents holding at least a high school diploma and 41% holding a bachelor's degree or higher. According to the 2000 census, over 89% of the district's population is urban.

Industries

Manufacturing, health care, and education/public administration are the largest sectors.

Health Care

By 2015, the uninsured rate in PA-06 had fallen to an all time low of 4.4% largely due to the ACA. An estimated 82% of district residents have benefited from ACA provisions, including the clauses allowing for Medicare prescription savings, a ban on denials based on preexisting conditions, and young adults remaining on parents' plans until 26.

Opioid Crisis

Pennsylvania has the sixth highest drug overdose rate in the nation, and in 2015 a combined 209 people died from the epidemic in PA-06 counties alone. Costello co-sponsored a bill that would address education and reporting efforts, but backs the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which would defund hospitals and limit access to vital prescription drugs.

Environmental Protections

In general, residents in Eastern Pennsylvania are concerned about protecting the environment. Most did not support the Keystone XL Pipeline and are worried about defunding the EPA. Costello stated numerous times that he would not vote to abolish the EPA, but his voting record on environmental issues is one of the major causes of concern for his constituents who are focused on clean air, water, and energy. Constituents have been protesting in West Chester since Costello voted to nullify the Stream Protection Rule.