



# Know Before You Go: PA-08 District Primer

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**It's a new day and a new district with new demographics that make it more blue!**

With your help, we're going to win this seat for the Democrats in 2018.

## About the Republican Candidate

**Introduction:** Republican John Chrin is an investment banker with 20 years of experience at companies like JP Morgan Chase. He is currently a partner at Circle Wealth Management, LLC, a company founded by his wife Maria. Chrin was born and raised in the Lehigh Valley, although he only recently moved back to the Valley in order to run in this race. He previously lived in New Jersey. He has no previous experience in government, and this is first attempt at running for Congress. Chrin was initially campaigning in the old 17th district, and lives in the new 7th district, but decided to stay in the race for the newly created 8th district, where he won the nomination. He earned his undergraduate degree from Lehigh University, and got his MBA from Columbia University. He taught at Lehigh University for three years as the first Global Financial Services Executive-In-Residence, where he taught business ethics and mergers & acquisitions in the University's College of Business and Economics.

**Issues:** Chrin stresses his success in business when talking about the economy and jobs. He talks about manufacturing jobs leaving, creating a need to retrain the workforce so they can have the additional skills to compete in the workforce. He also believes that the public schools in Northeast Pennsylvania are not living up to their potential, and believes that many in the area have crippling student loan debt. Chrin opposes sanctuary cities (says they are insults to legal immigrants), and wishes to secure the borders. He is lifetime member of the NRA and strongly supports the second amendment. He thinks that Obamacare is not working, and supports the standard health care wishes of the GOP. He is against women's right to choose, and vows to "protect the sanctity of life".

## About The Democratic Candidate

**Introduction:** Democrat Matthew Cartwright has been PA-17's congressional representative since 2013. During his time in Congress, Cartwright has served as a Regional Whip and introduced dozens of pieces of legislation aimed at helping seniors, military families, veterans, students, workers, consumers, the middle class, and the environment — many of which were introduced with bipartisan support.

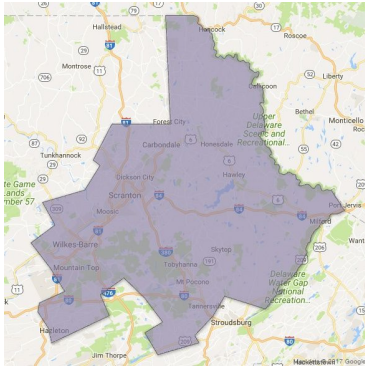
**Issues:** Cartwright will combat poverty by bringing good-paying jobs to the region and reducing foreign outsourcing. He supports increasing the minimum wage and taxes on the highest incomes. Cartwright introduced the Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2014 to help coal miners secure unfairly denied benefits. He supports the right to engage in collective bargaining. He opposes repealing the ACA without a reasonable alternative and supports retaining PA's Medicaid expansion. Cartwright supports civil rights, including marriage equality, increased gun control, and sustainable energy and conservation. He is anti-abortion except in cases of rape, incest, and mortal risk to the pregnant person. Cartwright also supports a strong military that is deployed for necessary missions only. He passed the government efficiency MEGABYTE Act with bipartisan support in 2016.

**Recent Elections:** Cartwright has won three times with margins of 7-11% since 2012, including in 2016, when the district also went for Trump by 10 points.

**Strengths:** Cartwright's record of winning may be due to his numerous positions relevant to middle and working class residents, a significant demographic in the region.

**Committees:** Cartwright sits on the House Democratic Committee on Steering and Policy, and was recently assigned to the Committee on Appropriations.

Learn more at [swingleft.org/resources/PA-08](http://swingleft.org/resources/PA-08)



## PA-08: Facts & Stats

### Largest Cities

- Scranton: 76,089
- Wilkes-Barre: 41,498
- Hazelton: 25,340
- Dunmore: 14,057
- Kingston: 13,182
- Scranton: 76,089

## PA-08: Better Know a District

### Geography & Climate

This district makes up the northeast corner of the state, bordering New York and New Jersey. It encompasses Luzerne, Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne Counties, in order of population. The largest population centers are Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and Hazleton, which fall along the Interstate-81 Corridor. The Scranton-Wilkes-Barre metro area is the fourth largest metro area in the state. The Pocono Mountains in the southeast of the district provide year-round recreation opportunities. The district is generally warm and humid in the summer, and cold and snowy in the winter.

### Citizenry

The total population, as of the most recent census, is just over 806,000. The population is mostly white; the racial makeup is 87% White, 5.3% Black or African American, 1.4% Asian, and 7.6% Hispanic or Latino of any race. Among the five counties, Monroe is an outlier, with 13% Black or African American and 13% Hispanic or Latino. The population is fairly evenly distributed across age groups, with the exception of the college-age population: 22.8% under 18, 8.2% between 18 and 24, 27.1% between 25 and 44, 24.4% between 45 and 64, and 17.8% 65 and older. Northeast Pennsylvania has a slightly lower percent of people with college degrees, and slightly higher level of poverty, compared to the rest of the state.

### Industries

The “Wyoming Valley” runs through this region, and was once known for its many anthracite coal mines, largely shuttered after WWII. Today, top industries in the area are healthcare and social assistance, retail, manufacturing, accommodations and food services, and transportation and warehousing. The manufacturing sector produces electronics, fabricated metal products, plastics and rubber products, food, and chemicals. Its proximity to major population centers, along with available land and major interstates, have made it attractive for logistics-related companies.

### Elections

PA-08 was created when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court redrew the district map, having determined the previous one was too gerrymandered. According to an analysis from the New York Times, the district is expected to vote similarly to the previous PA-17 district, which Trump won by 10 points.

### Political Issues

Important issues include attracting employers and creating jobs; modernizing infrastructure; the opioid crisis (Pennsylvania as a whole had the fourth-highest rate of deaths from overdoses); health literacy and healthcare, especially for the elderly; environmental concerns, especially protection of waterways.