

Jim Rooney

Jim Rooney brings many unique qualifications to the race for the State Senate. A diverse background in education and community service, coupled with life experiences in business, technology and economic development. Jim is currently the Assistant Vice President, Business Development, of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the Westmoreland County Board of Education. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications from Westmoreland College.

The League of Women Voters  
In  
Westmoreland County

**TOM  
TANBRETTI  
STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Mt. View Inn, Greensburg  
Saturday, February 24  
9 AM

Jane is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, and earned a Juris Doctorate from the Duquesne University School of Law.

For more information call (412) 366-6878 or e-mail  
JaneO@wlv.com

Welcome: Harriet Ellenberger, President, LWVWC

Invocation: Ted Erickson, Chair, Ligonier Unit

Breakfast: Enjoy

Questions to the Legislators:

Peg Watson, Finance Chair

Janet Erhard, acting Vice President

Jackie Fish, Vice President of the LWVPA

Questions from attendees:

Discussion and comments

Thank you for attending our Breakfast with our Legislators.

We have provided a table with information about our League and application forms for you to join us. We hope to see you again soon.

## The 55<sup>th</sup> District

The 55<sup>th</sup> District in part of Westmoreland County consisting of the Townships of Allegheny (part, districts 04 and 05), Bell, Derry, Loyalhanna, Salem (part district Hugus), Unity (part, districts of Baggaley, Dorothy, Gravel Hill, Lloydsville and Whitney) , and Washington. Also included are the Boroughs of Avonmore, Derry, East Vandergrift, Latrobe, New Alexandria, Oklahoma, Vandergrift, and Youngstown. The total population is approximately 57,000.

### James E. Casorio, Jr.

James Casorio was elected to the PA House of Representatives in 1996 and has been reelected by the voters of the 56<sup>th</sup> District twice since. His committees in the General Assemle include: Labor Relations, Liquor control, Local Government, and the Democratic Policy Committee.

James is from Jeannette, son of James and Barbara Zaval Casorio. He was graduated from Norwin High School, earned a BA in Political Science from Saint Vincent College, and a MA in Labor Studies from Saint Francis College. James is single.

The 56<sup>th</sup> District encompasses parts of Westmoreland County including: the City of Jeannette and the Townships of North Huntingdon (wards 01 and 02) and Penn and the Boroughs of Irwin, Manor, North Irwin, and Penn. The population of the 56<sup>th</sup> District is approximately 59,000.

## THOMAS A. TANGRETTI

Representative Tangretti was elected to the PA House from the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in 1988, and has been reelected every two years since. He serves on the House Local Government Committee; the Commerce and Economic Development Committee where he serves as Democratic Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development; and the Insurance Committee; Tangretti was also appointed to the Local Government Commission by the Democratic Leadership.

Prior to his election to the House of Representatives, he was twice elected to the position of Westmoreland County Controller. He established a standard of professionalism that was recognized nationally by the Government Finance Officers Association with a "Certificate of Excellence" in 1987.

Tangretti was the Director of Administration of Mark Lines, Inc.; and served ten years as an assistant to former US Congressman John H. Dent. Four years were spent in Washington, D.C. as a Legislative Assistant and six years as the Greensburg district office Administrative Assistant to the Congressman.

Tangretti has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University of PA in Economics and Political Science, and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Tangretti is married to Sandra Scherer Leshock, and is the father of two children and two step-children.

The 57<sup>th</sup> District consists of the City of Greensburg; part of the Township of Hempfield, including Alwine, Vovcard, Carbon, East Adamsburg, Fort Allen,

Part of Foxhill, Gayville, Grapeville, Hannastown, Haydenville, High Park, Lincoln Heights, Lincoln Heights West, Luxor, Middletown, North Carbon, Sibel, Vanley and Wegley. Parts of Salem Township including Five Points, Mechlings, New Salem Slickville, Steeles and Trees Mills. Crabtree in Unity Township, and the Bouroughs of Adamsburg, Delmont, South Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg and Youngwood. Total population of approxiametly 59,000.

## R. Ted Harhai

Representative Harhai was first elected to represent the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in 1998 in a Special Election and was reelected in 2000 with no opposition. He serves on the Consumer Affairs Committee, the Local Government committee, and the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Mr. Harhai is an investment banker, by profession, and previously worked in Wall Street and Chicago. Politically, in the city of Monessen he has served as both Councilman, 1996 and 997, and Mayor in 1998 until present. This year he has decided not to run again for Mayor.

R. Ted Harhai was born in Monessen and graduated in 1973 from Monessen High School. He earned a degree from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1977.

Ted is single and resides in Monessen. He is the youngest son of Dolores and the late John B. Harhai and has three brothers and one sister.

The 58<sup>th</sup> District covers Part of Westmoreland county consisting of the City of Monessen and the part of the Township of East Huntingdon including; Ruffsdale, Stoners, Strohms and Whites. In Hempfield Township the 58<sup>th</sup> includes New Stanton, Wendel Herm and West Adamsburg. In North Huntingdon Fostraver, Sewickley and Southhuntingdon and the Boroughs of Arona, Hunker, Madison New Stanton, north Belle Vernon, Smithton, Sluterville and West Newton are included. Total population of about 60,000.

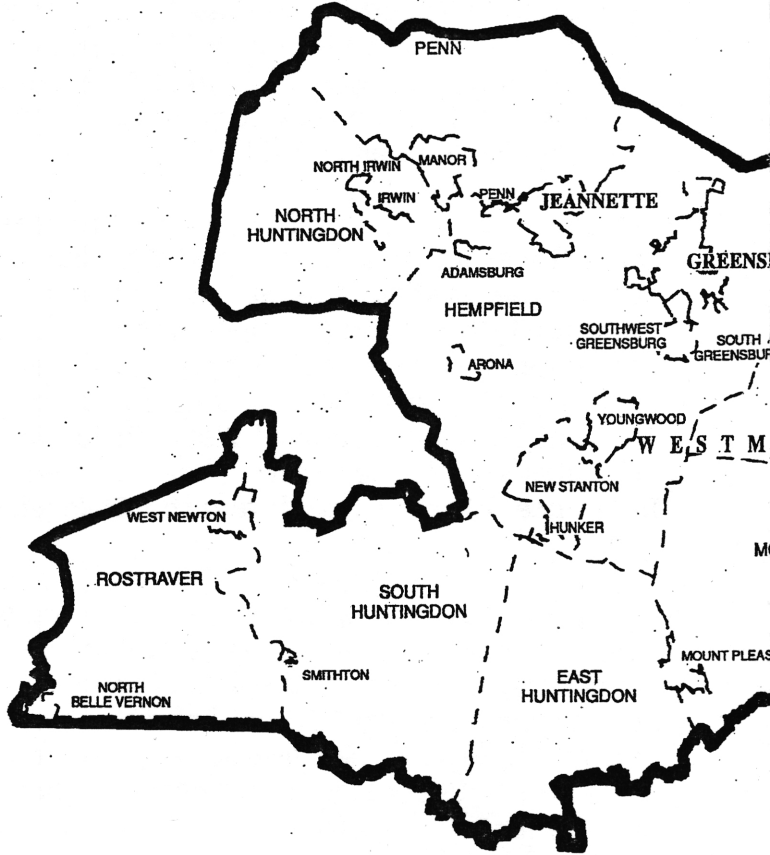
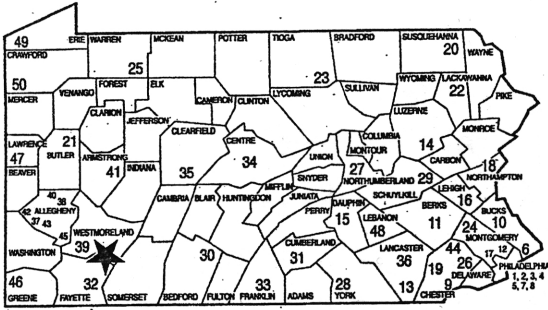
**Allen Kukovich**  
**Pennsylvania State Senator**  
**39<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District**

Allen Kukovich began his political career in 1977 when he was elected to the PA House of Representatives serving the residents of the 56th District. Allen served in the House until November 1996 when he was elected to the PA Senate for the 39<sup>th</sup> District. He won reelection to the Pennsylvania Senate in November of 2000.

Senator Kukovich is the Democratic Chairman of the State Government Committee and is also a member of five other standing Senate committees including: Community & Economic Development; Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure; Education; Judiciary; and Local Government. He also serves on the joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee; the Children's Health Insurance Advisory Board; and the Children's Trust Fund.

Senator Kukovich has spent much time focusing of government reform issues, including introducing a bill each year to reduce the size of the Pennsylvania's State General Assembly. While he was representative he Co-founded Common Cause of PA, which advocates for open and responsible government.

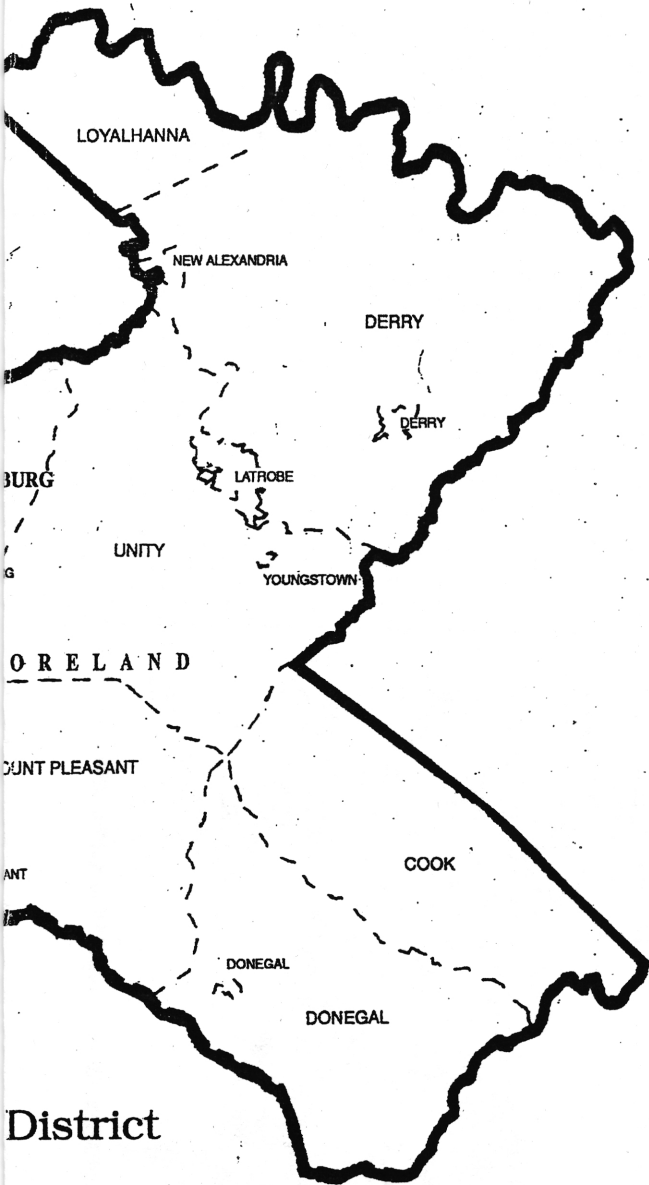
Sen. Kukovich received national attention for his leadership in creating The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) which provides health insurance to more than 100,000 PA children. In 1997, the federal government made CHIP a national program modeled after the PA legislation.



39th Senatorial

**STATE SEN**  
**ALLEN G. KU**





District

**ATOR**  
**JKOVICH**

Prior to running for office in a special election, he was an attorney in Greensburg focusing on consumer protection issues. Kukovich, a graduate of Penn-Trafford High School, holds a BA in Political Science from Kent State University and a Juris Doctorate from Duquesne University Law School.

Allen and his wife Nancy have a six-year-old daughter, Alexandra, and reside in his family homestead in Manor.



## **JOHN E. PALLONE**

John Pallone is serving his first term in the General Assembly as the State Representative for the 54<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. He brings professional experience as a practicing lawyer and Commissioners' Coordinator for Westmoreland County to his new role of State Lawmaker. His committee assignments include: Aging and Older Adult Services; Environmental Resources; Energy; and Finance. John is also the secretary for the Southwest Caucus and is a member of the Democrat Policy Committee.

John, age 40 and single, is a life long resident of the Alle-Kiski Valley, currently residing in New Kensington. He is a graduate of Valley High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration and Economics, and a Juris Doctor from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University. John also attended the Pennsylvania State University at the New Kensington Campus, and Edinboro State University.

He was employed by the County of Westmoreland as the Commissioners' Coordinator from 1989 until he was elected as State Representative in 2000. Since 1989 John also maintained a General Practice of Law in Arnold. Throughout his tenure with Westmoreland County, as a School Board Member, and in his private law practice, he has worked very closely with State and Federal law makers to effect improvements for the citizens of our County.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Legislative District includes: Allegheny Township, Arnold, Hyde Park, Lower Burrell, Murrys ville, New Kensington, Upper Burrell, and West Leechburg in Westmoreland County and the boroughs of Brackenridge and Tarentum in Allegheny County.

## Joseph A Petrarca

Representative Joseph Petrarca serves the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. He was elected to the State House in 1994. He serves on the Transportation committee and is Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Aviation, the Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Sub-Committee on Clourts, the Game and Fisheries Committee and the Policy committee. He is a member of the Substance Abuse Caucus, Coal Caucus, Firefighters Caucus, Sportsmen's Caucus, Rural Caucus and the Southwest Delegation.

Petrarca was appointed by Governor Ridge to serve on the Organ Donation Advisory Board. Petrarca is the only member of the board from either the House or the Senate to serve on this Board the is comprised of a variety of health care professionals and organ transplant recipients/family members. He was also appointed to the Domestic Relations Task Force and the Motor Carrier Advisory Committee.

Petrarca is the son of Madeline Petrarca and the late, former Representative Joseph A. Petrarca. He grew up in Vandergrift and graduated from Kiski Area High School. He graduated from Saint Vicent College, Cum Laude, with a B>A> in Political Science. He is also a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law with a Juris Doctorate.

Prior to his election to the House, Petrarca was a Deputy Attorney General, Tort Litigation Unit; and Attorney/Advisor for the US Department of Labor, Benefits Review Board in Washington,DC. He also worked as a Law Clerk with the PA Supreme Court.

Representative Petrarca resides in Vandergrift with his wife Elise Glenn, three sons and one daughter.

## Special Election....March 20

Voters in the 40<sup>th</sup> District will go to the ples on March 20 to elect a new State Senator. The seat was left vacant when Melissa Hart was elected to US Congress in November. The candidates are Jane Orie, a Republican, and Jim Rooney, the Democrat.

So that voters can get to know more about the candidates, ARP is sponsoring a FREE Candidates Form on Saturday, March 10 at the Holiday Inn, RIDC Park on Route 28. A Continental Breakfast will be served at 9AM and the Forum will begin at 10. The Moderator will be John Delano, political analyst for KDKA TV. To reserve your seat, please call Jack Heim at (412) 963-1759. If you live in the 40<sup>th</sup> District you MUST attend this forum!

In Westmoreland County the 40<sup>th</sup> District is only in the Cities of Arnold and New Kensington. The largest part of the District is in Allegheny County, including the Townships of: East Deer, Fawn, Frazer, Hampton, Harmar, Harrison, Indiana, Marshall, McCandless, Pine, Richland, Ross, Shaler, Springdale, and West Deer; and the Boroughs of Brackenridge, Bradford Woods, Cheswick, Franklin Park, Tarentum, and West View, along with parts of Butler County.

**PLEASE—SPREAD THE WORD**  
if YOU or someone you know  
lives in the 40<sup>th</sup> District---  
Remind them-----

**GET OUT AND VOTE--**  
**--ON MARCH 20--**



© 1934  
**SHE'S GOOD ENOUGH  
TO BE YOUR BABY'S MOTHER**  
AND SHE'S GOOD ENOUGH TO VOTE WITH YOU

SONG



LYRIC BY  
**ALFRED BRYAN**

MUSIC BY  
**HERMAN PALEY**

5  
FROM H. REMICK & CO.

*Finch*  
NEW YORK DETROIT

## Jim Rooney

Jim Rooney brings many unique qualifications to the race for the State Senate. A diverse background in education and community service, coupled with life experiences in business, technology and economic development. Jim is currently the Assistant Director of Student Development at the University of Pittsburgh's Business School. In this capacity, Jim serves as a mentor for undergraduate students in professional development. He is a graduate of Boston College with a Bachelor's degree in both Political Science and Communications.

Jim, his wife Stephanie, and their three children live in Seven Fields, Butler County. Jim is son of Pittsburgh Steelers' President Dan Rooney, and grandson of the late Art Rooney, Sr.

To learn more about the candidate call (412) 369-8847 or log on to: [www.rooneyforsenate.com](http://www.rooneyforsenate.com)

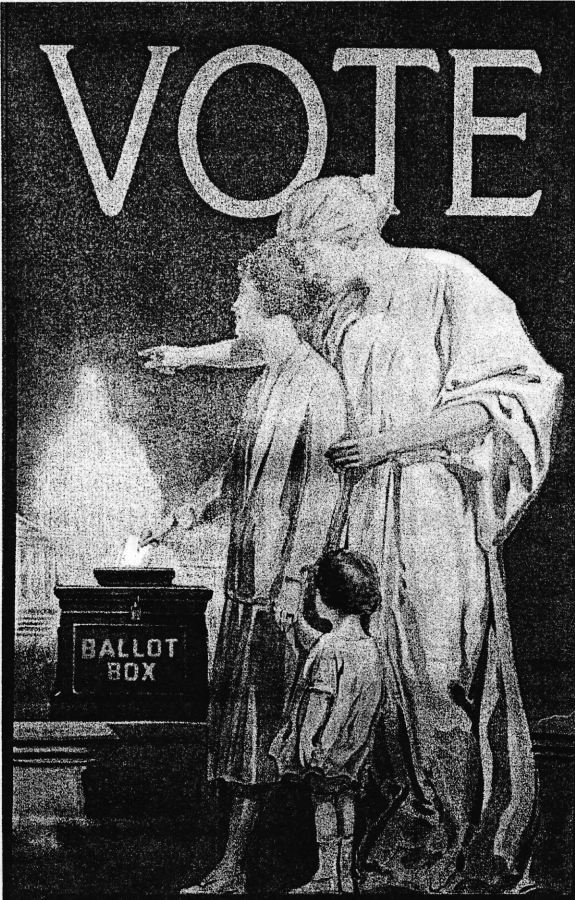
## Jane C. Orie

Jane C. Orie was first elected to the State House of Representatives in 1996, and is currently serving her third term. She represents the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District in Allegheny County, which is completely enveloped by the 40<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. Jane, a lifelong resident of McCandless Township, brings to the legislature extensive knowledge of the law, government and the legal process. Jane is a veteran 10-year prosecutor who served as state Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Criminal Prosecution and as Assistant Allegheny County District Attorney in the divisions of Homicide and Crimes Against Persons.

Jane is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, and earned a Juris Doctorate from the Duquesne University School of Law.

For more information call (412) 366-6078 or e-mail:  
[JaneOrie@aol.com](mailto:JaneOrie@aol.com)

# VOTE



**League of Women Voters**

For more information call (412) 366-6078 or e-mail: [JaneOHea@aol.com](mailto:JaneOHea@aol.com)



# #1 Access to public Records -

- Controllers' example - reasonable limit
- Rt to know law needs updating - 1957
  - advance technologies - only law only death with paper -
  - Sen Greenleaf's bill - SB 1333
  - assure not financial burden on public agency
  - maintain appropriate security/privacy

# #2 Health Insurance to Uninsured Pa.

Art. Co.'s not  
w/ in CO's  
w/ in CO's  
CO's

tabacco settlement -  
upend chip for adults -

law of  
uninsured  
consequences /  
law B known  
consequences \$  
audit claim

ironic - "We care system" MNO - medical  
needy only" -  
hospital losses -

## Prescription Drugs

Tax Credits  
for Small Employers  
↓ may be should  
consider de-linking  
health ins. for  
employers

- ✓ #3.2 bill in last 20 years PACE
- ✓ 1990 - 500,000 People on PACE (high deductible increase in drugs)
- ✓ less than 1/2 today - 37% of 1990
- ✓ PACE NET - hasn't worked - only 15% take drugs
- ✓ increased income limits - \$ deductible application \$40 / mo  
vs \$500 first - will it work?

Must  
use tobacco  
money

keep because  
no just continuing  
high cost

- ✓ Prescrip drug Redistribution - in health care facilities
- ✓ Best Choice for Pharmascentees - negotiate -  
Admin by Sec. of State
- ✓ Pa extraordinary Prescription Program -  
reimburse pharmacists <sup>on</sup> behalf of low & moderate income

- ✓ Historic home & Neighborhood Preservation Act
- ✓ Local municipal Ord. - | Alzheimer's -
- ✓ Tax Reform
- ✓ Tobacco Settlement
- ✓ Special Ed Funding
- ✓ Car fund - Med-malpractice  
- death penalty

SAC  
THURSDAY

Health / insurance  
revenue  
w/ no  
on

Argument about  
relaxment mobility program  
Prompt  
Payments

Voting:  
Funding  
internet · Health  
Security



The League of Women Voters  
in  
Westmoreland County

January 28, 2001

RD #1, Box 355 B  
Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Representative Thomas Tangretti  
327 South Main Street  
Greensburg, PA 15601

Re: follow-up letter for "**Breakfast with our Legislators**"

Dear Representative Tangretti;

Our local League of Women Voters cordially invites you to participate in our annual "Breakfast with our Legislators", **on Saturday, February 24, at 9 AM at the Mt. View Inn**, in Greensburg. The purpose of the Legislative Breakfast is to learn where our representatives stand on specific issues, and get a reading on what legislation might be introduced—or reintroduced—in the next session. By meeting our representatives in a more informal atmosphere, not only do we have the opportunity to get to know them on a more personal level, but may also be able to plant the seed of interest on an issue they may not have considered or be familiar with.

Each year the PA League of Women Voters sends our local league questions to ask of our legislators. This year the questions concern such diverse issues as: citizens "right to know", or "open records" laws; health coverage for low-income working families; and if the legislators feel there is the necessity of uniform voting procedures in our state. I have enclosed the questions and the background information that the PA League has sent to us. These are the opening questions that the Local League will be asking at the Legislative Breakfast. Then we invite those attending to voice their concerns. Legislators who are familiar with the issues that are brought up, answer. Our intention is not to put anyone on the "spot", just to get to know you all a little better. We hope to have you sit with constituents from your District so they may see just how charming you are.

Would you please send some biographical information so we can include you in our program.

We are contacting high schools and colleges within the County to encourage any students interested in learning more about our State government to attend our breakfast. If you would like to sponsor students at \$10 per student, please let me know.

Tom, we hope that you are able to join us.

*Looking forward to seeing  
you again!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harriet", is written in dark ink.

Harriet Ellenberger, President  
Phone: 724-423-2878

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA  
QUESTIONS FOR PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATORS**

Legislator \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 1:** Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act (the Open Meetings Law) has been updated and amended over the years to improve public access to the workings of government at all levels. However, its companion legislation, the Right to Know Act (Open Records Law) remains almost exactly as written in 1957, in spite of dramatic changes in methods of record keeping and retrieval. A proposed new "Access Act" (SB1333 and HB2470) was introduced in 1999 and is expected to be reintroduced in the new session.

- Do you believe the Right to Know Act needs updating?
  
- What changes to the current law would you support?

**QUESTION 2:** Pennsylvania now offers health care coverage to uninsured children in low-income working families through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). However, the parents who head these families remain at high risk of being uninsured — recent statistics indicate that 28 percent of these parents will lack health insurance.

- Should the state government help people who do not have health insurance?
  
- Would you support making private insurance more affordable and available through tax credits or deductions or by helping small employers and the self-employed band into larger health insurance purchasing groups?
  
- Would you support expanding public programs such as CHIP or Medicaid, either incrementally or comprehensively?

**QUESTION 3:** What is your chief legislative priority for the 2001-2003 session?

## **Answers to the League of Women Voters' Questionnaire**

### **Question 1: Access to Public Records/Right to Know Act of 1957**

- I believe that Pennsylvania's Right to Know law is in need of updating. With the sheer amount of information available due to the advances of technology such as the Internet and wireless information systems, our society is better informed than it was twenty years ago.
- In light of these advances in technology and information gathering, we need to consider updating this antiquated law.
- Last session, I joined my colleagues in co-sponsoring a bill aimed at imposing penalties on any agency that fails to honor a citizen's request to copy or inspect any public record. In addition, I believe that we should explore proposals that would ease the process for retrieving public information, as well as relieving some of the costs associated with accessing public records.
- We should remain mindful of the impact any changes in the Right to Know Act may have on the agencies or municipalities asked to conform to the new laws. The efforts we take in reforming this process should not create an added financial burden on local governments that already stretch their budgets to the limit.

### **Question 2: Providing Health Insurance to Uninsured Pennsylvanians**

- The true measurement of a government is whether or not it can meet the basic needs of its citizens. I strongly support government programs that provide health insurance and prescription drug coverage such as Medicare, CHIP, and PACE.
- The tobacco settlement funds present a historic opportunity for all Pennsylvanians. With these funds, we can do more than talk; we can finally act on behalf of those who do not have health insurance and who are struggling to pay their high cost prescriptions.
- For more than two years, House Democrats have offered legislative packages to invest in the Commonwealth's share of the national tobacco settlement. Early this session, the House Republicans introduced their version of a tobacco settlement plan, which closely mirrors the House Democrats' proposals of the past two years.
- As you know, the House passed House Bill 2 also called the Health Care Improvement Act. This bill established a plan for the tobacco settlement funds that includes: a basic insurance program for low-income adults, biomedical research, smoking cessation and anti-smoking programs, reimbursement of hospital for uncompensated care, and medical assistance programs for workers with disabilities.
- House Bill 2 is a step in the right direction, but it needs to go further to adequately address the health care needs of all Pennsylvanians. House Bill 2 is not as extensive as the plan House Democrats had offered, which would eliminate PACENET entirely and allow more seniors to qualify for PACE, which carries no annual deductible.
- In addition, the House also passed, House Bill 1 or the Pharmaceutical Reform Act. This bill contains four key components: Expanding Pharmaceutical

Assistance for the Elderly (PACE and PACENET); providing Prescription Drug Redistribution within Health Care Facilities; a pharmacy benefits program called the Best Price for Pharmaceuticals; and the Pennsylvania Extraordinary Prescription Plan.

- The Best Price for Pharmaceuticals would create a pharmacy management program to be administered by the state secretary of Administration to help reduce the cost of prescription drugs within the Commonwealth.
- The Pennsylvania Extraordinary Prescription Program would assist people of low to moderate income without prescription drug coverage and high prescription drug needs through a reimbursement to pharmacies on behalf of the participant.
- At this time, both bills are awaiting consideration in the Senate. This is a golden opportunity to help all Pennsylvanians with the sky rocking costs of healthcare and pharmaceuticals. I certainly hope that the Senate will act fast on behalf of the entire Commonwealth.

**Question 3: Chief Legislative Priorities for the 2001-2002 session**

- As a state representative, my duty is to serve the people of Pennsylvania, especially my constituents in Westmoreland County. It is my goal to take the issues brought to me by my constituents and find solutions.
- This session presents us with new challenges, which I look forward to meet head-on. On state level, it is imperative that we look for new strategies for job creation and create economic initiatives, strengthen health care, education, and care for our seniors.
- One of my chief priorities was to tackle the problems of forming a plan for the tobacco settlement funds and rising health care and prescription drug costs. However, I plan to keep these issues on the front burner throughout this session.
- As the secretary of the Southwest Caucus of the House of Representatives, I plan to work together with other caucus members to focus attention on the needs of southwestern Pennsylvania. Our collective efforts will allow us to better compete for state dollars and bring more state funding into the region, especially Westmoreland County and the Mon-Valley.
- As an advocate for literacy programs and public libraries, I am happy with the Governor's commitment to Public Libraries by increasing state funding 21 percent for public libraries in his budget proposal. However, the budget falls short other important areas such as education, property taxation, and the concerns of senior citizens.
- I will continue to champion those issues that benefit senior citizens. State government has a responsibility to address the needs of older adults, as well as children and working adults. Our older citizens built Pennsylvania. We must do every thing we can to help them enjoy their golden years – they deserve nothing less.

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