

YOU AGAIN

Janis Brooks has challenged 22-year incumbent U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle in the past two election cycles, losing by a wide margin each time. Now the race is on again. Brooks has another uphill climb this year, as Doyle's popularity remains steady. No Republican candidate filed to run for this seat for the general election in November.

{COMPILED BY RYAN DETO}

CANDIDATE



MIKE DOYLE



BIOGRAPHY

Brooks is a North Versailles pastor and community activist with a background in racial justice. She earned a Ph.D. in environmental policy from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in urban studies from the University of Maryland.

The Swissvale native and current Forest Hills resident has served in Congress during three different presidential administrations. He holds a degree from Penn State University in community development and, before joining Congress, served as chief of staff to former state Sen. Frank Pecora.

THE ECONOMY

Advocates policies that will assist local workers to compete in the global market. She would like to see increased investment in America's crumbling infrastructure; her plans include training young people for job opportunities through workforce-development programs in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Doyle has said that promoting economic growth and creating good jobs in the Pittsburgh region is his No. 1 priority. He points to his vote for 2009's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which he says helped dig us out of the Great Recession. Also touts his support of local advanced-technology firms.

HEALTH CARE

Wants to continue to strengthen access to affordable health care. She also believes that people should have the option of selecting alternative health services, such as chiropractic services and other authorized homeopathic remedies, which could be reimbursed at standard rates.

Doyle writes on his website that "we should be ashamed that tens of millions of Americans are currently uninsured," and that many Americans can't afford adequate care. He highlights his votes in Congress in favor of health-care reforms, including ending harsh insurance practices and lowering costs through increasing competition.

THE ENVIRONMENT

For Brooks, environmental issues are health issues. On her website, she says, "The primary factor in considering environmental projects cannot be financial gain but rather ... [avoiding] a negative impact on our health." She believes stronger environmental enforcement is necessary, and policies like pollution tax credits should be ended.

Believes that Americans deserve affordable and reliable energy sources and wants to end our dependence on oil from unstable parts of the world. Doyle is a member of the House's Energy and Commerce Committee, where he has worked to increase green-building infrastructure and supported legislation to increase use of energy-efficient appliances.

FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Brooks is involved in many community groups in the Pittsburgh area, including a number in the Mon Valley, but she has not received any official endorsements.

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald are longtime allies of Doyle. The Allegheny County Democratic Committee voted to endorse Doyle 772-57.