

GETTING PERSONAL

This race pits incumbent state Rep. Jake Wheatley against challenger Jessica Wolfe. The race has been uncommonly contentious for a seat that usual goes uncontested. Wolfe's major attack on Wheatley has been that he's not visible in the district. But since the two candidates haven't participated in a debate, the public has been left in the dark about where they stand on the issues.

{COMPILED BY REBECCA NUTTALL}

CANDIDATE



JAKE WHEATLEY



JESSICA WOLFE

BIOGRAPHY

Wheatley has represented the 19th District for 13 years. During his time in the House, he helped launch a program to address food insecurity that brought a grocery store to the Hill District. He currently serves as Democratic chairman of the House Finance Committee.

Wolfe is a home-care social worker with Allegheny Health Network. She serves on the board of the Allentown Community Development Corp. and is a two-term member of the Allegheny County Democratic Committee. Her husband, Kenneth Wolfe, served as a legislative aide to Wheatley.

EDUCATION

Has voted to increase funding for basic education every time it's come before him. Is a proponent of charter schools, but also touts his record of visiting every public school in his district. "While we try to fix the traditional system, we should provide alternatives for parents," he says.

Doesn't support charter schools and voucher programs as much as Wheatley. Supports innovation in education, but says she doesn't "think siphoning money away from traditional public schools is fixing anything." Says charter schools aren't held to the same standards and that they have the ability to dismiss challenging students.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Believes Marcellus Shale drillers should pay a severance tax and be regulated to ensure waterways and other aspects of the environment are protected. Voted for a moratorium on shale drilling in county and state parks, but says the industry provides employment opportunities.

Says she is more environmentally conscious than her opponent and would make sustainability a priority. Doesn't believe constituents in the 19th District are benefitting from shale drilling and would take a closer look at the impact it has on the environment and public health.

HEALTH CARE

Co-sponsored legislation to expand prescription-drug coverage without raising taxes or increasing state spending. Sponsors a yearly 5K race to promote physical health and has partnered with UPMC to create the Hill 365 initiative that addresses environmental, economic, mental, physical and spiritual health in the Hill District.

As a social worker, Wolfe deals with mental-health issues when working with abused children and parents in crisis. Would make addressing cuts to mental-health funding and the closure of mental-health hospitals a legislative priority. Would also fight to increase women's health-care access.

FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Has been endorsed by Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, Allegheny County Labor Council, Gov. Tom Wolf, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner, U.S. Congressman Mike Doyle, state Democratic Senate Leader Jay Costa and Pa. Democratic House Leader Frank Dermody.

Was endorsed by the Gertrude Stein Political Club of Greater Pittsburgh. Has received \$2,500 in individual campaign donations.