

ALLEGHENY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BY JAMIE WIGGAN, JORDANA ROSENFELD, AND INDIA KRUG

The chief executive is the most powerful officeholder in the county. In addition to its broad supervisory mandate for overseeing all sectors of county government, the executive drafts the budget, can veto council legislation, and appoints a large proportion of members to powerful agency boards.



Theresa Colaizzi

BIOGRAPHY
Former business owner. Former Pittsburgh School board president. Late entrant to the executive race. Has no website and has maintained a low key campaign presence.

NONPROFIT TAXATION
Referred to health care giants UPMC and Allegheny Health Network as the “elephant in the room” during an April 18 candidate debate led by PublicSource and NextPittsburgh, and stressed that they and other nonprofits that enjoy property tax breaks across the county should be “held accountable.”

ENVIRONMENT
Proffered, during the same debate, launching a new program for responding to environmental emergencies like the recent East Palestine, Ohio train crash. Suggested nonprofit medical organizations should front some of the burden of the county’s poor air quality.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Said during the debate, nonprofit health organizations should offer up space for low income residents and provide accompanying health and social services.

Endorsements: Unknown



Dave Fawcett

BIOGRAPHY
Attorney. One-time Allegheny County Council member. Political maverick who began as a Republican and has recently fulfilled pro-bono legal services on behalf of Allegheny County Jail incarcerated.

ENVIRONMENT
Identifies as an “environmental champion.” Supported bills tightening pollution regulations during stint on county council and helped lead efforts to construct the Allegheny County Riverfront Park. Has called for improved public transit as a way to reduce carbon footprint.

POLICING/ PUBLIC SAFETY
Calls for “greater presence” of law enforcement in Pittsburgh’s Downtown. Advocates deescalation and mental health training for officers. Said during candidates debate that the criminal justice system rests both on robust “public safety” and “accountability” for those in power.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Pledges support for “fair housing initiatives,” which he says require partnerships between local government, banks, and the corporate community. Emphasizes the need to conceptualize affordable housing plans around public transit access and job opportunities. Says the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development should invest more in revitalizing the aging housing stock.

Endorsements: Unknown



Sara Innamorato

BIOGRAPHY
State representative since 2018. Board member for Urban Redevelopment Authority and Allegheny County Housing Authority. Part of the UNITE coalition of progressive candidates.

HEALTHCARE
In response to a 1Hood Power candidate forum question about Black maternal mortality rates, argued in favor of funding community-led, research-backed programs that center the needs of Black birthing people. Co-authored report slamming UPMC for its poor working conditions and for monopolizing health care in the county.

POLICING/ PUBLIC SAFETY
Not in favor of reopening Shuman Juvenile Detention Center or continuing to hold youth at Allegheny County Jail. At the 1Hood Power candidate forum, said she believes in creating trauma-informed and intersectional facilities separate from the carceral system. Has publicly called for the firing of Allegheny County Jail Warden.

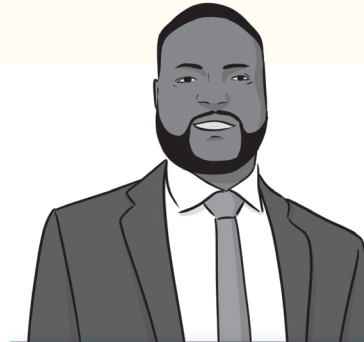
INFRASTRUCTURE
In response to a questionnaire from Pittsburghers for Public Transit, said that she wants to appoint a transit rider and a bus operator to the Pittsburgh Regional Transit board and create a PRT position focused on language accessibility.

Select endorsements: Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey, U.S. Representative Summer Lee, UNITE, Clean Water Action, Young Democrats of Allegheny County

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William Parker

BIOGRAPHY
Pittsburgh entrepreneur raised on the North Side. Ran for Mayor of Pittsburgh as a write-in candidate in 2021 and for U.S. House as a Democrat in 2022. Outspoken about being the nephew of Pittsburgh Pirates player Willie Stargell.

HEALTHCARE
Shared support for the Black Birth Expo during 1Hood Power candidate forum. “I believe right now we are in a process of rebirth, and I’m that doula,” he said. A follow-up question was asked to address previous comments that abortion is too frequently used as birth control. He said, “I always want to promote safe sex, so we don’t even go down that road.”

POLICING/ PUBLIC SAFETY
In favor of hiring more Black police officers and using technology to track police misconduct. In 2020, tweeted “I support Good Police Officer’s [sic] who serve, protect and keep our communities safe, but the one’s that abuse their authority, target our youth and conspire to corrupt our City’s culture must go.”

INFRASTRUCTURE
In 2022, tweeted that people should vote for him if they “want to see our bridges rebuilt together by Black, White & Brown people.” In response to a questionnaire from Pittsburghers for Public Transit, said he would expand transit coverage by “updating the bus schedules to real times, delays, and potential road closures.”

Endorsements: Unknown



John Weinstein

BIOGRAPHY
Allegheny County Treasurer since 1999. His father is Mel Weinstein, treasurer and tax collector for Kennedy Township and West Hills powerbroker.

HEALTHCARE
In response to a 1Hood Power candidate forum question about Black maternal mortality rates and budgeting for healthcare options, Weinstein said inadequate “nutrition” was a root cause. Also said he is committed to a hunger-free Allegheny County and argues for nutrition education and funding for expectant mothers and infants.

POLICING/ PUBLIC SAFETY
Held a press conference in February calling for a new, “reimagined” Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. Advocates for increased police presence Downtown, and recently criticized Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey’s response to crime rates, saying “Whatever they’re doing in the City of Pittsburgh, it’s not working.”

INFRASTRUCTURE
In response to a questionnaire from Pittsburghers for Public Transit, Weinstein said he would uplift the voices of transit riders through listening sessions and discussion with community leaders. He says inadequate public transit has contributed to population loss.

Select Endorsements: Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Allegheny-Fayette Central Labor Council, Pittsburgh Firefighters, Pittsburgh Council President Theresa Kail-Smith, multiple Pennsylvania state reps