

THE NEWCOMER: PA HOUSE DISTRICT 30

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The newly redrawn House District 30 covers Franklin Park, McCandless, Emsworth, Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights and parts of Kilbuck, Ohio and Hampton. Once reliably Republican, the new district has added Democratic constituencies that could make it more competitive.

CANDIDATE



ARVIND VENKAT



CINDY KIRK

BIO

Democrat. Emergency doctor at Allegheny General and Forbes Hospitals. Political newcomer. Former president of the Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians. Research director at US Acute Care Solutions. Seeking to become Pennsylvania's only state representative of South Asian descent.

Republican. Former Allegheny County Council member. Nurse administrator at UPMC Oakland. Former dialysis nurse. Has served on several boards and committees including Northland Library Foundation and SWPA U.S. Air Force Academy Parents Association.

ABORTION

Supports abortion rights, drawing on his medical experience, where he recalls treating a woman "who had a back-alley abortion." Says he will vote for bills supporting abortion. "I will never forget her suffering and do not want to see that happen in Pennsylvania," according to his website.

Previously included a statement on her website, pledging simply to "protect the unborn right to life." Has recently softened her messaging by identifying as "pro-life" while supporting exceptions for parental health and victims of rape and incest.

ENERGY

Supports a regulated fracking industry. Told WESA the state should "set a framework for rigorous environmental regulations" that would still leave some of the decisions with local municipalities. Calls climate change a "real" and "serious" issue.

Names "responsible energy development" as a top priority of her candidacy. Said in a statement announcing her resignation from council that public parks have benefitted from profits derived by fracking operations under the land.

VOTER RIGHTS

Told WESA that he supports no-excuse mail-in voting, early in-person voting, same-day registration and open primaries. "Our democracy works when every eligible voter participates and when voters pick their political leaders, not the other way around," he said.

Supports stricter voting requirements. Calls for "a common-sense voter ID requirement".

Reported fundraising since January 2021: \$508,404

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