

Place of residence (neighborhood name if a Pittsburgh resident, municipality name if you live outside the city):

- Hempfield Township/Greensburg

Education (school and degree, if applicable):

- Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (2020), B.A. in English, minor in Political Science

Current occupation: Human services

Professional, political, or volunteer experience that qualifies you for the office you are seeking (please include year range of positions you have held, and provide as a list of bullet points):

Professional (relevant):

- Program Manager (for special needs group home), 2024-2026
- Counselor/Advocate (for domestic violence and domestic abuse), 2021-2023
- Youth Counselor (for foster placement and juvenile probation adolescents), 2021-2022

Volunteer (relevant):

- National Society of Leadership & Success, Student President (EUP), 2017-2019

Political (relevant):

- Poll watcher for Clinton campaign, 2016
- Model UN, Student Delegate (EUP), 2019
- Model NATO, Student Delegate (EUP), 2019
- Erie County Poll Worker, 2022-2024
- Westmoreland County Democratic Committee, 2026-present

Supporters/endorsements:

- PA AFL-CIO
- GWCLC (Greater Westmoreland County Labor Council)
- PA Teamsters Joint Council
- Steel City Stonewall Democrats
- Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta

Website/social media URLs (please limit to four links):

- Website: <https://voterobfrancis.com/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/voterobfrancis>
- Threads: <https://www.threads.com/@robfrancisforpa57>

- TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@robfrancisforpa57>
- BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/robfrancisforpa57.bsky.social>

Issue questions

1. What is the biggest LOCAL concern your district has that hasn't been met by action in Harrisburg, and what would you do about them if elected?

Locally, one concern that has regularly been brought to my attention is transportation options for those with mobility limitations or who are unable to transport themselves, with particular regard to accessing otherwise available medical treatments. If elected, I would address these concerns by reviewing state and local funding allocations for transport, and work with county and state officials to determine what resources are needed to expand local and publicly funded transport while also ensuring that transport is physically and practically accessible.

2. The growth of data centers has attracted controversy across the state, yet lawmakers have so far struggled to devise legislation to address it. Are there legislative measures you support to address data center concerns, such as local or statewide construction moratoriums or efforts to require more transparency/limit resource use by the centers?

I support enacting a statewide moratorium on AI data center development until we have a clearer picture on what that should look like and can establish legislation that provides reasonable parameters and oversight of AI development and community data collection and storage. The type and amount of data collected by AI data centers and how that data is used needs to be subject to intense ethical scrutiny, regulation, and oversight to protect not only the privacy of the people in communities affected by them but also preserving the integrity of the systems we have in place, which are being increasingly threatened by AI. The negative environmental impact and increased local energy costs are also a major point of concern for AI data centers; legislative measures need to be taken that ensure AI data centers will provide their own energy and water supplies and be subjected to the same or more strict environmental regulations and penalties as any other industry that produces water, air, and noise pollution. I support Gov. Shapiro's recent action to rein in AI data centers as a great first step, but more needs to be done.

3. There have been a number of legislative proposals that would increase revenue for the state, including marijuana legalization, a tax on digital advertisements, and the legalization/taxation of "skill games". Which, if any, of these do you favor, and why?

Legalizing cannabis would bring a significant source of income to our state, as we've seen in five of our six neighbors and 19 other states, plus D.C. Both independent and state estimates suggest we would bring in upwards of \$100M the first year alone. Gov. Shapiro's proposal for a 26% sales tax is

projected to bring in \$200M annually after becoming established. For this and other reasons, I support legislative measures to legalize cannabis.

I also support a tax on digital advertisements for large corporations and tech companies. Big businesses flood our screens with ads and profit from Pennsylvania consumers, and they should contribute their fair share to the state revenue. We must update our tax laws to match the modern economy, including digital markets.

4. Supporters of private schools have urged the state to expand a tax break that allows businesses to deduct contributions they make to those schools. Critics say private schools should provide more details about tuition costs and the family income of students that benefit from such support. Where do you fall on these questions, and on how the state should fund grade-school education generally?

While I admire the philanthropic aspect of expanding the tax credit for businesses, my concern is its potential to detract state revenue from funding public schools. With the possible exception of special needs schools, taxpayer dollars should fund public schools; and private schools, if not freely available to the public, should be required to source their own funding. Education and the resources to obtain it should be equitable. If private and/or religious education institutions want public funding, then they should be held to the same transparent scrutiny, standards and oversight as public schools.

5. Control of state government has been divided for years. Assuming your party doesn't win a "trifecta" by winning both chambers of the legislature and the governor's office, what's an important piece of legislation you could see working with the other party to pass? Conversely, if your party *does* win a trifecta, what should its top legislative priority be?

If my party does not win a trifecta, the top issue I would be willing to work across the aisle to pass would be healthcare. Pennsylvanians deserve access to affordable and equitable healthcare. Insurance and medical costs are making it less feasible for more people to get the medical care they need. That is not a Republican or Democrat issue, that is an all-of-us issue.

If my party does win a trifecta, then we need to immediately pass HB 2763, which would establish a state-run single-payer healthcare system with Pennsylvania residents paying no out-of-pocket costs. After this, we need to immediately move to address the affordability crisis, restrictions on AI data centers, and the climate crisis.