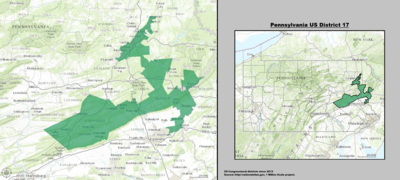
United States Congress

Pennsylvania District 17

Issue Position Guide

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Issue #1: Jobs and the Economy

**Matt Cartwright (D)**

* **Wants to ensure that Congress invests in infrastructure in order to create jobs. “Pennsylvania has thousands of structurally deficient bridges that need repair and thousands of unemployed workers who have the skills to correct this issue.”**
* **Prioritizes expanding rail service in the 17th district and introducing new clean energy jobs to the area**
* **Believes that bolstering our education system is the key to creating long term, sustainable jobs**
* **Values small business and creating a level economic playing field**
* **Believes that our country needs a comprehensive, cohesive infrastructure plan in order to keep jobs in America**

**Matt Connolly (R)**

* **“Human dignity is being eroded by the promotion and increased dependency on government handouts. This is no accident – it is a vote buying operation. We must reverse this trend and make work a requirement to receive benefits.”**
* **Argues that jobs are going overseas because the U.S. has both the highest corporate tax rate in the world and the biggest debt**
* **“Every time tax rates are lowered revenue increases. The country simply goes back to work. Ideology and class warfare only hurts working people.”**
* **“ Radical environmentalism and fear mongering do not create jobs or support families.”**
* **Opposes big government, and believes that the government is more intrusive than ever today.**

**Brian Kelly (R, write-in)**

* **Wants to lower taxes and repeal the 16th Amendment**
* **Supports the Fair Tax Plan, which abolishes the IRS and allows citizens to keep all of their income**
* **“The government does not help when it intervenes in anything.”**
* **Believes that the middle class is being destroyed in America**
* **Opposes the existence of the Federal Reserve**

**Matt Cartwright (D)**

Issue #2: National Security

* **“Matt Cartwright will fight to ensure that the United States maintains the strongest armed forces in the world and that American troops overseas have every available item to carry out their mission.”**
* **At the same time, he ideally wants all American forces to be able to come home, and only wants troops deployed when absolutely necessary for our national security**
* **Supports U.S. alliances with Israel and NATO**

**Matt Connolly (D)**

* **No information on national defense policies, but he is “100% pro-second amendment.”**

**Brian Kelly (R, write-in)**

* **Supports the second amendment**
* **“I support a constitutional approach to foreign policy that ensures a strong national defense.”**
* **Contends that we must continue to have the strongest military in the world so that we can win wars quickly and minimize casualties**
* **Believes that we must get rid of entangling alliances**

**Matt Cartwright (D)**

Issue #3: Healthcare

* **Had he been in office in 2010, Cartwright would have supported Obamacare**
* **“He remains dissatisfied, however, that it did not go far enough to expand health care coverage for more Americans and hold insurance companies more accountable for what they charge families.”**

**Matt Connolly (D)**

* **Believes that Obamacare must be repealed. “It is unfixable, and the federal government should NOT be between any patient and their doctor - PERIOD.”**
* **Believes that free-market competition will lower health care costs**
* **Essentially advocates privatization of healthcare, saying, “The goal of quality health care for all can never be the result of fines, mandates, taxes, and regulations. Bureaucracy has never solved anything!”**

**Brian Kelly (R, write-in)**

* **Says that, while the U.S. is the world leader in healthcare solutions, the health care system is deteriorating**
* **Believes that healthcare is worse off when the government is heavily involved in its regulation**
* **“So, what is the best and lowest cost healthcare solution? Over the long haul, the only way to tame health care costs in the U.S. is to wrest control of medical dollars from third-party insurers such as employers and government--and hand it to individuals.”**
* **Opposes Obamacare, saying that “It is not about healthcare at all. It is about government control. That's why citizens are up in arms.”**
* **Argues that individual freedom is threatened when the government is the only health broker in the country**

Issue #4: The Environment

**Matt Cartwright (D)**

* **Believes that “energy production and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive.”**
* **Supports what he likes to call an “all-of-the-above” approach to investing in American energy: responsibly using domestic resources, finding new uses for older forms of energy production, and supporting sustainable clean energy technologies**
* **“Conservation of our abundant natural landscape is an important ecological and economic priority”**
* **Wants to repeal the “Halliburton loophole,” which is a provision in the Clean Water Act that enables companies to conceal their chemical usage**

**Matt Connolly (R)**

* **Believes that the U.S. has the ability to become energy independent**
* **Argues that energy independence would lead to lower gas prices, cheaper electricity, and lower heating costs**
* **“The Keystone XL Pipeline should have approved years ago.”**
* **“This nation has vast reserves of energy. Let us use them to give affordable fuel and electricity to our citizens.”**

**Brian Kelly (R, write-in)**

* **Opposes the National Energy Tax, saying that the tax has major disincentives for coal and would therefore be harmful for northeastern Pennsylvania**
* **Believes that global warming is a hoax**

Issue #5: Education

**Matt Cartwright (D)**

* **Believes that we need to create long-term, sustainable jobs. To do this, Cartwright wants to “bolster our public education system and ensure that this generation of Americans can compete in the world-wide marketplace.”**
* **“Matt Cartwright believes that our education system is the crown jewel of American infrastructure. It is the key to our long-term economic growth and our competitiveness as a superpower.”**
* **Believes in the efficient investment of federal dollars toward education**
* **O**
* **Opposes efforts to curtail the federal Head Start program**
* **Wants to protect federal grants to keep the cost of student loans low**

**Matt Connolly (R)**

**\*No information on campaign website**

**Brian Kelly (R, write-in)**

* **“Education, without indoctrination is the ONLY thing that breaks the cycle of poverty that traps kids into a life of low wages, followed by single parenthood. Lack of education likewise robs them of their future.”**
* **Says that we lag behind other nations in terms of education, even though we spend more money**
* **“Why are Obama's kids not going to public school?”**
* **Wants to eliminate the Department of Education, saying , “Our kids are smart and they can be as productive as the system that we create for them. Let's start building that system.”**

**www.cartwright.house.gov**

**www.cartwrightcongress.com**

Sources

**www.mattconnollyforcongress.com**

**www.briankellyforcongress.com**