

2022 AAPI Voter Guide

PENNSYLVANIA U.S. SENATE

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE



October 24, 2022

This deadline is applicable whether your application is received in person, by mail, or online at: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx

VOTE EARLY IN PERSON



You can vote early as soon as your county has ballots ready. Contact your county elections office for exact start dates for your county:

vote.pa.gov/Resources/Pages/Contact-Your-Election-Officials.aspx

VOTE EARLY BY MAIL/ABSENTEE



APPLICATIONS for a mail-in or absentee ballot must be **RECEIVED** by your county election board by **5 PM on November 1, 2022**.

COMPLETED BALLOTS must be **RECEIVED** by your county election office by **8 PM November 8, 2022**.

VOTE IN PERSON ON NOV 8



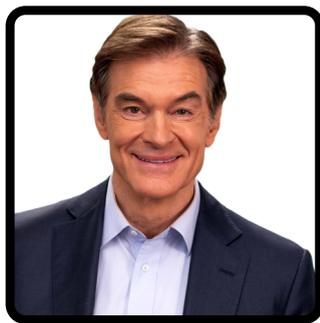
If you wait until **November 8th, 2022** to vote, you can find your polling location here:

www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx

Polls are open 7AM-8PM.

CANDIDATE GUIDE

MEHMET OZ (R)



JOHN FETTERMAN (D)



HOUSING AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Data from the U.S. Commerce Department shows that corporate profit margins rose 35% during the last year and are at their highest level in 70 years. At the same time, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index shows that the annual inflation rate in June was 9.1%, which is the highest it's been since November 1981. How will you address corporations maximizing their profits and create an economy that works for workers, families, and small businesses?



It's time we crack down on the big corporations who are making record profits while jacking up prices for all of us. We need to prosecute the executives of huge corporations, including the big oil companies and meatpacking companies, who are artificially driving up prices, gouging consumers at the pump and at the grocery store.

It's gross, and deeply unpatriotic, for the big corporations to be rolling in cash while charging us record high prices for gas and groceries. In the Senate, I will fight to close tax loopholes that encourage corporations to ship jobs overseas and take advantage of tax breaks that aren't available to small businesses. I will reverse the Trump tax cuts that gave billions in handouts to big businesses. I will break up corporate monopolies that crush small companies by pushing away competition. And I will support legislation that prevents stock buybacks by corporations looking to enrich themselves.



No Response

For more information about how to vote, call 1-888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683) or visit apiavote.org/how-to-vote/in-your-state/

The candidates were provided with a list of questions and asked to provide responses for this voter guide. This voter guide contains the candidates' responses to those questions.

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For more than 80 years, federal labor laws have excluded many AA and NHPI tipped workers, farm and agricultural workers, and domestic and home care workers from the right to form a union, earn a minimum wage, and receive overtime pay and unemployment benefits. How will you protect and expand the rights of all workers?



Everyone deserves the right to safe working conditions, fair wages and proper benefits, including farm and agricultural workers. I will support legislation that expands and strengthens labor protections for tipped workers, farm and agricultural workers, and domestic and home care workers. I would also support legislation that creates a pathway to citizenship for H-2A workers, including the Fairness for Farm Workers Act. I will also fight to raise our paltry minimum wage.



No Response

IMMIGRATION

The majority of Asian Americans immigrate to the US through the family-based immigration system; thus Asian Americans are particularly impacted by the family separation created by long backlogs. Describe your views on policies that support the family-based immigration system. Please address existing proposals to address the immigration backlogs in your response.



After decades of failure to enact comprehensive immigration, it's clear that we need to take action. The politicization of the immigration system has left millions of immigrants in terrible circumstances. There are many steps we must take to improve our immigration system, reunite families and reduce our immigration backlog. First, we must hire more staff at immigration agencies. That means increasing the number of immigration judges, and increasing USCIS administrative staff to process and clear the backlog of applications. Second, we need to invest in the IT functionality of USCIS to conduct in-person and remote interviews, and increase scanning capabilities to digitize paper cases. Third, we need to invest in modern border security technology to ensure humane treatment and eliminate family separations at the border.



No Response

There are an estimated 1.7 million undocumented Asians living in the U.S. including over 200,000 DACA-eligible people and close to 15,000 Nepali TPS holders. What is your stance on a pathway to citizenship for all 11.2 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States today?



As I've said many times, immigration makes America America, and we need compassionate immigration reform. I believe that we must create a pathway to citizenship for immigrants. That starts with reforming our immigration system, including technology that will allow for a more effective and efficient immigration process. In addition, when I am in the Senate, I will support the US Citizenship Act proposed by the Biden administration and the Dream and Promise Act to provide a pathway to citizenship for millions of immigrants.



No Response

EDUCATION

Educational discrepancies were exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. How do you plan to address access to high-quality education during COVID-19 for students regardless of their English proficiency, income, ability, or immigration status?



Unfortunately, educational disparities are a part of a long history of underinvestment in education. Additionally, the lack of access to broadband has limited the availability of online learning for already underserved children. Not only must we make investments in education, we have to make sure that the funding is distributed fairly. We must also make investments in language accessibility for immigrant students.



No Response

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Discuss your policies that will allow historically marginalized communities more accessible opportunities for education and work.



For marginalized students who choose to go to college, I believe we should expand Pell Grants and make two-year community colleges tuition free. We also need to support people who chose not to go to college, to make sure that you can get a good job with good pay without having a degree. That's why I support increasing investments in career and technical programs to prepare young adults for successful and in-demand careers in industries that do not require a college education.



No Response

How will you address college affordability for students living in the United States?



The cost of college is far too high and needs to come down. I support efforts to lessen that burden on Pennsylvania's young people, like making two-year community and technical colleges tuition-free. We should also eliminate interest on federal student loans and expand Pell Grants for students that come from low-income households.



No Response

CIVIL RIGHTS

How will you address the disparate effects of COVID-19 on Asian communities and communities of color? In addition, how are you addressing the anti-Asian hate and harassment that we have seen spike during the COVID-19 pandemic?



During the COVID-19 pandemic, I was tapped by the Governor to chair the COVID-19 Response Task Force for Health Disparity. We heard that Black, Hispanic, and AAPI Pennsylvanians were hit harder by the pandemic, and found that there was very little data being collected on race/ethnicity. Through conversations with community leaders, we came up with a few recommendations and general thoughts on how to reduce those disparities. First, our healthcare system must implement better data collection regarding race/ethnicity of patients. Second, we need to treat health care like a human right and close the health care coverage gap to increase access to primary care physicians and hospital visits. Third, we need to provide environmental justice to these communities, reducing air and water pollution, and remediating blighted properties that contribute to chronic health issues. I believe that every person deserves the right to live without fear of violence of any kind. I stand firmly against anti-Asian sentiments and violence. We must hold perpetrators of violence accountable; I would have proudly voted in favor of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act.



No Response

What policies are you proposing to provide access to voting and representation of minority and immigrant communities?



We must make it easier to vote and remove the racist barriers that make voting hard for so many. This starts with passing legislation like the For the People Act and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act to expand and protect the right to vote, especially for communities of color. Additionally, I will advocate and vote for legislation that expands language access to make voting more accessible to the AAPI and other immigrant communities.



No Response

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Given that gun violence is a growing concern for Asian American voters, how do you plan to address the effects of gun violence?



Gun violence is very personal for me. I only entered politics after two of my students were shot. I fought for years, working with the community and police, to address gun violence in particular. And as mayor of Braddock, PA, we went five years without a murder due to gun violence. Like Braddock, each community presents unique challenges – and there is no one-size-fits-all solution to ending gun violence. We must assess our communities, address the root causes of the violence and provide our law enforcement officers, schools and violence prevention programs with the resources necessary to properly combat crime. We must also immediately pass common-sense gun reforms like universal background checks, red flag laws, and a ban on military-grade assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.



No Response

HEALTH

The pandemic has highlighted many long standing health, mental health, and health access challenges facing AA and NH/PI communities. What policies do you support to provide access to quality, affordable, and culturally and linguistically health care? Please include how you will address the health coverage of millions of low-income individuals and families who are currently enrolled in Medicaid when the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ends.



I believe that health care is a basic, fundamental human right, no different than food or shelter or education, and every American deserves it. In the Senate, I will actively support any legislation that achieves the goal of universal health coverage and guarantees health care as a right. Additionally, I support expanding language access services in all public institutions and hospitals because everyone deserves accessible health care services.



No Response

The Supreme Court's Dobbs decision eliminated the constitutional right to abortion. Asian American and Pacific Islander women overwhelmingly believe that women should have the right to make their own reproductive choices. What do you believe is Congress's role in protecting equal access to health care and personal autonomy?



Women should always have autonomy over their own bodies and their own reproductive decisions. I was sickened by the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, and I am sickened by Republican attempts, and in some cases their successes, at criminalizing abortion. This is a decision that should only be between a woman and her doctor. My opponent Dr. Oz has said that he believes abortion is murder, and he would be a vote to implement the GOP's radical abortion ban.



No Response

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