



**GSPCGP**  
**P.O. Box 8108**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15217**

Contact: Joy Sabl, Corresponding Secretary  
JFSABL@GMAIL.COM

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Sept 24, 2016

**PITTSBURGH, Pa.** On Sept 21, 2016, the members of the Gertrude Stein Political Club of Greater Pittsburgh (GSPCGP) endorsed a slate of candidates and questions for the General Election to be held on Nov 8, 2016. As a multi-partisan organization encouraging all candidates to support and further LGBT and women's rights, freedoms, and liberties, the GSPCGP solicits responses from candidates of all parties. We also consider ballot questions. We have a multi-decade history of educating candidates on our issues. Except for presidential races, we only endorse if a candidate requests endorsement. If a race is not mentioned, it does not automatically imply that the candidate(s) are weak on our issues.

**President of the United States:** We officially and unanimously think that Trump has the hallmarks of a bully. (Our community and our membership have considerable experience with bullies.) We feel that his verbal blasts indicate not strength, but reactivity, cruelty, impulsiveness, lapses of judgment, and openness to manipulation. In addition, Trump speaks approvingly of groups and leaders who bully LGBT people, women, and others, both domestically and abroad.

Trump's only realistic path to the presidency requires him to win PA. Polls here are frighteningly tight. We refuse to be the keystone in Trump's bridge. We do not pretend to be unanimous in liking Hillary Clinton. Our personal attitudes range from rapture to distaste. A number of us personally prefer the minor party tickets--The Libertarian and Green candidates are all strong on our core issues (and in the case of Johnson/Weld, have good records, as governors). Johnson and Stein both therefore receive Honorable Mentions. We nevertheless strongly favor voting for Clinton, and endorse her.

Senate Challenger Katie McGinty is a fine candidate, strong on our issues, and she mentions us feelingly and frequently. Incumbent Pat Toomey’s comments, and record, are frankly wretched. We endorse McGinty.

### **PA Statewide Offices**

We endorse Josh Shapiro for Attorney General, and re-endorse Eugene DePasquale for Auditor General. We hope to see ever-increasing fairness and human rights, as far as prosecution, if Mr. Shapiro is elected. Mr. DePasquale’s efforts convince us that good auditing assures not only financially clean government, but more, responsible, responsive government.

### **PA General Assembly Races and PA State Senate**

For 28th House District (Marshall, Franklin Park, McCandless, Pine, Bradford Woods): we are thrilled to endorse strong challenger John Craig Hammond, running against Rep. Turzai. That would be a lovely upset, and we draw everyone’s attention to the race. We’re happy to re-endorse Dan Frankel, a “forever friend” (23<sup>rd</sup> House District). While we also continue to love Ed Gainey (great record!) we can’t formally endorse without full answers to current questions. We remind the PA state senators (and various other long-term officeholders) that the same holds for them—we need their answers to the new questions for formal endorsement.

### **PA Ballot questions**

We neglected to formally vote on judicial retirement. By phone consultation, the voting members unofficially say, “the current age of 70 is fine, don’t raise it to 75. Vote No.” We again officially endorse Pittsburgh’s Open Government Amendment. It creates a concrete, largely automated, cost-effective mechanism for helping people stay informed and get effectively involved on whatever topics they care about. It will also help different government departments avoid working at cross-purposes. It’s a real win-win.

Anyone interested in joining or helping the GSPCGP, or any candidate wishing for consideration in the general election or upcoming elections, please send an email to [gspcgp@gmail.com](mailto:gspcgp@gmail.com).

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