

Registered nurse runs against incumbent Smucker

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Democrat Nancy Mannion is confident in her ability to oust longtime Lancaster County Congressman Lloyd Smucker and take the 11th District seat.

President Donald Trump's approval ratings are low, and polls show his unpopularity is having a trickle-down effect on Republican candidates running in the mid-terms.

An August Franklin & Marshall College poll surveying 501 Pennsylvania residents found 48% of respondents planned to vote for a Democrat in their U.S. House of Representatives race this fall, compared to 36% who planned to vote for Republicans.

Despite broader trends, Smucker is still the favorite to win. The Republican has served in Congress since 2017 and benefits from the GOP's 50% registration advantage in Lancaster County. The district also includes southern York County.

Smucker has handily defeated every Democratic challenger who has faced him in the past decade. The closest a Democrat came to Smucker's seat was when Jess King secured 41% of the vote in 2018 after surpassing Smucker in fundraising dollars, according to campaign finance reports released ahead of that election.

Smucker, a five-term Congressman, has reported raising more than \$1 million since 2025 compared to Mannion's \$214,000.

Mannion and Smucker were asked to respond to a short list of questions ahead of the general election. Below are their responses.

NANCY MANNION (D)



Nancy Mannion

College.

Occupation: Registered nurse.

Family: Husband Fred Cluck; two furry companions, Mr. Finn, a shih tzu/Maltese mix, and Joey, a mini goldendoodle; and two brothers.

What do you see as the most important issues to address in the 11th District if elected?

Affordability of everyday living is a major concern for the voters I've spoken with across the district. People are sharing that they cannot afford lifesaving prescription medication because of federal policy changes. Voters have shared that they dipped into their savings to fill their vehicle so they can get to work. Everyone, regardless of political affiliation, is feeling the pain of rising costs.

How do you plan to address affordability concerns in Lancaster County and across Pennsylvania?

Rising fuel costs are directly linked to the military conflict in Iran, and prices reflect the cost of moving goods to our grocery and retail shelves. Congress has the authority to authorize war, and to date, has not taken responsibility for this situation. A plan to resolve this conflict must be developed and implemented as soon as possible. Tariffs have also caused rising prices. Again, Congress is authorized in the Constitution to set tariffs but has turned that responsibility over to the executive branch. The result has been a chaotic application of tariffs that creates unpredictability for businesses, and that consumers ultimately pay. I will work with my Congressional colleagues across the aisle to regain control of establishing tariffs and bring stability to businesses and consumers.

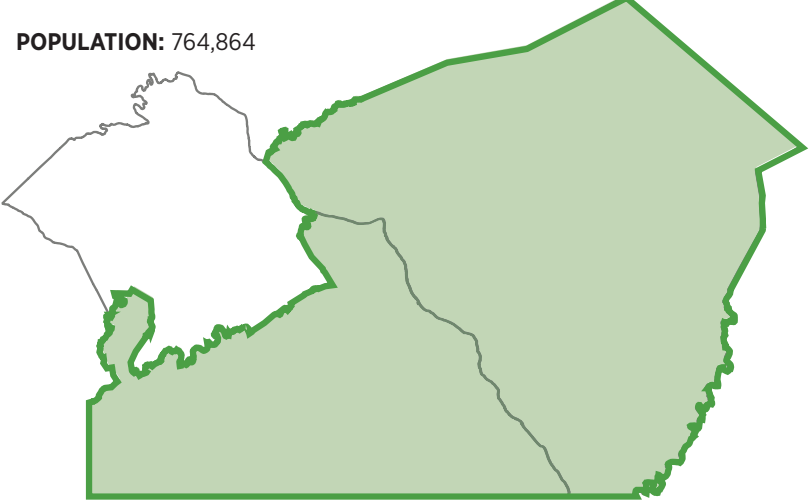
What is your position on data center development and regulation in Pennsylvania?

Land-use decisions are locally determined. However, the federal government needs to set environmental standards to protect land and water use, along with energy generation and consumption standards to protect residential users from paying data center energy costs. Beyond the data center building itself, the federal government needs to set safety and privacy standards for AI use. The federal government should be focused on protecting the privacy of our information. We cannot rely on companies to self-regulate.

How would you tackle immigration enforcement if elected?

The U.S. government has cut back on immigration court capacity and personnel under the Trump administration. At the same time, it is detaining and, in some cases, deporting residents because they do not have current immigration paperwork. Immigration reform

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District includes all of Lancaster County and a southern portion of York County.

is needed. Many of our local industries, especially farming and dairy, rely on immigrant labor. Our government needs to develop a consistent and clear pathway to citizenship for people who are legally seeking a new life in America. Immigration violations are a civil offense. The criminal justice system already has a mechanism for addressing criminal behavior.

LLOYD SMUCKER (R)



Lloyd Smucker

Age: 62.

Residence: West Lampeter Township.

Education: Lancaster Mennonite High School.

Occupation: Small business owner and member of Congress.

Family: Married with three children.

What do you see as the most important issues to address in the 11th District if elected?

Our \$40 trillion national debt hangs over every decision we make in Congress. It isn't just a burden for future generations — it impacts families today through higher borrowing costs, slower economic growth, and taxpayer dollars going toward interest instead of essential services. As vice chairman of the House Budget Committee, I'm working across the aisle on real solutions: rooting out waste, fraud and abuse; addressing the structural drivers of our debt; setting measurable deficit targets; strengthening budget accountability; restraining spending; and growing our economy. Every dollar lost to fraud

lasting financial security.

What is your position on data center development and regulation in Pennsylvania?

America should lead the world in artificial intelligence, but hard-working families and small businesses should not be forced to subsidize the enormous energy demands of data centers. The principle is simple: Data centers should be located in communities that choose to host them, those communities should share in the economic benefits they bring, and data centers should pay their own way. I was proud to support the bipartisan Ratepayer Protection Act, H.R. 9340, to protect families and small businesses from being forced to shoulder the infrastructure costs created by large-scale data center development. As demand for AI and data centers grows, we must ensure our energy policies keep pace — expanding reliable American energy production, strengthening our electric grid and protecting ratepayers from higher costs. We can lead the world in innovation and economic growth without asking working families and communities to pick up the tab.

How would you tackle immigration enforcement if elected?

Just two years ago, Border Patrol encountered more than 2 million people annually attempting to illegally cross the southern border between ports of entry, exceeding 8,000 per day at the height of the crisis. Today, illegal crossings are down more than 90% from comparable 2024 levels. I have consistently supported the personnel, resources and technology needed to secure our border and enforce our immigration laws. We must also fix a legal immigration system that has failed to keep pace with our country's needs. I support reforms that prioritize American workers, address workforce shortages, strengthen border security, combat trafficking and smuggling, resolve asylum claims in months rather than years and provide a structured legal process for certain long-term undocumented immigrants who meet strict requirements. We can secure our border, enforce our laws, strengthen legal immigration and create a system that is orderly, accountable and fair.

● To read the candidates' complete responses, visit [lancasteronline.com/election](#).

Tax to provide funding for public libraries on ballot

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This fall, Lancaster County voters are not just choosing their local lawmakers. As they were asked to do a couple decades ago, voters will decide whether to create a new property tax dedicated to funding local public libraries.

In 2005, Lancaster County primary voters turned down a proposed .025-mill countywide library tax with 54% voting no. A referendum requires only a simple majority to pass.

The wording of the referendum is as follows: "Shall the County of Lancaster establish a dedicated Library tax to provide for the maintenance of, and aid to, public Libraries in Lancaster County at the rate of .55 mills on the dollar on all taxable real estate within the County of Lancaster?"

How much would it cost?

At a rate of .55 mills, the proposed library tax would collect \$55 from property owners for every \$100,000 of taxable real estate they own. An owner of a home assessed at \$400,000 would pay \$220 toward the library tax next year if approved.

Based on preliminary reassessment data from the county Property Assessment Office, a .55-mill tax next year would generate about \$44 million, roughly three times the total revenues for county libraries in 2024, according to data from the Library System of Lancaster County, which serves local libraries with IT services and other operational support.

Including state aid and grants from municipalities, private donations, fee collections, books sales and any other fundraising activi-

ties, the county system's 14 member libraries reported total revenues of \$14.4 million in 2024.

The local library directors and advocates who organized the referendum say they would expect municipalities and the county to end their annual donations. County and municipal grants in 2024 across member libraries and the library system totaled roughly \$4.6 million in 2024, according to library system data.

What would it buy?

The referendum campaign is backed by Vote Yes 4 Libraries, made up of local librarians, staff and volunteers who submitted enough signed petitions for the question to appear on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Organizers say the 13 independent nonprofit libraries in the county are running on financial fumes. At current funding levels, they say the libraries are unable to pay credentialed staff competitive wages or afford the expanding menu of services available at modern public libraries, like e-book collections, movie streaming, museum passes and events.

The library system has not discussed with member libraries what share of the tax revenue each library would receive if voters approve the tax, according to Deb Drury, CEO of Elizabethtown Public Library and a lead organizer of the referendum.

A 14th library, Manheim Township Public Library, is a municipal entity funded by the township. How much of the proposed tax revenue the library would receive, and whether its share would match the amount the library currently receives from township taxpayers, would be determined by the library



SUBMITTED

Lancaster Public Library is among the county libraries that would benefit from revenue generated by a library tax that is up for a public vote in the Nov. 3 general election.

system if the referendum passes.

The library system board earlier this year said it would not take a position on the ballot initiative.

How individual libraries use the extra money would be up to them, Drury said, but she and other library leaders expect the library system to upgrade online services and resources available to every library card holder in the county. That could include streaming services tailored for library use — movies, TV shows, documentaries, audiobooks, ebooks — and reference materials like repair manuals and small-business planning materials.

Member libraries also would expand operating hours and event

programming, proponents say.

Skepticism

The referendum is opposed by the county Republican committee and municipal officials worried about the tax burden on their constituents.

On its Facebook page, the county GOP has attacked the referendum as light on details and too costly for property owners. The referendum comes at a time of economic anxiety for many Americans, according to consumer sentiment polls.

The county government this year also undertook a countywide property reassessment that raised the

total value of the county's taxable properties by 77%, after a decade of soaring real estate prices. The .55-mill tax would apply to the new property values, organizers say.

In June, Penn Township Manager Mark Hiester said the library tax might cost more than voters feel comfortable supporting.

"To some of us it looks like a big bite to take," Hiester said. "I see the need, I just worry it's going to fail because it's too big."

Vote Yes 4 Libraries cautions voters that member libraries will need to make further cuts next year if the referendum fails, including operating hours and programming, Drury said.