



## The Pennsylvania Legislature is not supporting our citizens

### Overall (livability)

- Pennsylvania ranked 41 out of 50 in an annual ranking of most livable states that looks at health care, education, economy, infrastructure, opportunity, fiscal stability, crime & corrections, and natural environment; this is down from 38 last year <sup>18</sup>
  - Related to infrastructure and economy, PA is 29 out of 50 in broadband access

### Education

- School funding in Pennsylvania ranks as the most unequal (rich vs. poor districts) in the nation due to over-emphasis on local funding <sup>1</sup>
- PA residents graduate from college with the highest amount of debt in the country <sup>2</sup>
- Pennsylvania ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the US in quality of public education for all <sup>3</sup>
- Spending on pre-K programs is well below PA's border states who spend as much as four times what we do <sup>14</sup>
- PA has the worst community college system when considering data about in-state tuition and graduation rates<sup>22</sup>

### Environment and Infrastructure

- Pennsylvania ranks 44 in the state of our natural environment <sup>4</sup>
- Pennsylvania is the only state that does not tax those pulling oil and gas from our state <sup>5</sup>
- Pennsylvania has the third worst drinking water in the country <sup>6</sup>
- The state received a grade of C- from the American Society of Civil Engineers due to its aging/deteriorating water and sewage systems <sup>16</sup>
- Pennsylvania is ranked #2 for having the most structurally deficient bridges in the US<sup>17</sup>

### Economic Equality

- PA is one of 21 states still using the Federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Nearby states: Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Ohio all have higher <sup>7</sup>
- PA is the 6th worst state in which to start a new business<sup>21</sup>
- PA is 24th in the nation for worker-friendly policies<sup>23</sup>

### Community Health and Safety, including Gun Violence Prevention

- Pennsylvania is one of four states with the highest opioid deaths <sup>8</sup>
- Since the Parkland shooting, 26 states (including 15 with Republican governors) have passed and signed 55 laws addressing the gun-violence crisis; but not PA <sup>9</sup>

### Voter Accessibility

- Pennsylvania places 31st for voter accessibility<sup>15</sup>

### Reproductive Rights and Choice

- 82% of Pennsylvania counties have no abortion providers or Medicaid does not cover abortion. Public funding is available for abortion only in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest <sup>10</sup>

### Equality and LGBTQ

- Pennsylvania has no statewide law prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ people, meaning it is legal to fire someone, evict them from housing, or deny them service at a restaurant just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer<sup>11</sup>
- PA ranks 40 of 50 states in the share of women in elected office; this is up in 2019 from 49<sup>19,12</sup>

### **Campaign Finance Reform (get money out of politics)**

- Pennsylvania is one of 11 states with no campaign finance limits for Governor or Legislature<sup>13</sup>

### **Election Modernization**

- Pennsylvania's absentee ballot deadline is so strict that mail-in ballots arrive late 11 times higher than the rest of the nation<sup>20</sup>

### **Criminal Justice Reform**

- Pennsylvania's proposed risk-assessment tool that would give judges the information they needed to divert low-risk individuals from prison into alternative sentencing programs is racist<sup>23</sup>

#### **Citations**

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