



## **2022 Legislative Interview Questions**

To submit the responses, fill out the Google Form here: [tinyurl.com/LWVPA](https://tinyurl.com/LWVPA) OR email the form as a Word document to [samantha.anthony@palwv.org](mailto:samantha.anthony@palwv.org).

### **Background Questions**

#### **Background Information**

1. Name and email address of person submitting question responses:

**Mary Erdman, [marcy.erdman@gmail.com](mailto:marcy.erdman@gmail.com)**

2. Local League name: **LWV Lehigh County**

3. Interviewer(s) names: **Mary Erdman, Michelle Graupner, Cydney Wilson (Muhlenberg College Student)**

4. Interview date: **February 15th, 2022**

5. Interview method (public virtual forum, private virtual interview with one or more League members, written responses from legislator, other): **Zoom**

#### **Legislator Information**

1. Name: **Michael Schlossberg**
2. Party and Office (Democrat/Republican, Senator or Representative): **Dem, Rep.**
3. District #**132**. (Also Administrator for House Democratic Caucus)
4. Legislative Staff Contact Info (if any) **Kira Zickler, [Kzickler@pahouse.net](mailto:Kzickler@pahouse.net)**
5. Notes on relationship to LWVPA (optional): **A+ Fully supportive**

**Legislative Questions:**

***Environmental Policy***

1. What do you see as the path forward to combating climate change in Pennsylvania?

**Two ways to combat climate change in PA:**

- 1) Using energy sources that are cleaner and renewable by looking to nuclear energy as a bridge while developing other renewable sources.**
- 2) Transportation - utilizing the federal infrastructure plan to provide more access to electric cars, and places to charge the vehicles. The Federal Infrastructure monies will be a huge help in moving forward.**

**RGGI - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a joint cap-and-trade program committed to reducing carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Supports RGGI, wants to invest in RGGI and is unsure how effective the initiative is at the moment without some of the states surrounding PA supporting the initiative. Clear benefits of less green gas emissions and increased GDP in those states warrant a good look at RGGI.**

2. What are your plans to ensure cleaner water for all Pennsylvanians?

**Governor Wolf has helped to get PA part of the way there to cleaner water due to Proposing to fund DEP substantially and increasing their staff. DEP has not been Adequately funded for decades and is a perpetual “whipping boy.” The Governor took a really important first step in proposing funding and increasing staff of DEP.**

**The federal government with the newly-funded infrastructure plan will also help PA in a big way due to the hundred of millions of dollars for clean water improvements which is something on which we can rely. This will enable cleaner water for our residents while replacing lead producing pipes in older areas.**

**Some have found it in their interest to not adequately fund DEP, but there is more to do, and explains why the Governor has asked for a substantial increase in funding for DEP.**

### ***Social Policy***

3. What are your plans to address escalating gun violence across the state? The League is watching several pieces of gun safety legislation: [HB 235](#) (SB 88) calling for comprehensive background checks, [HB 1903](#) (SB 134) to allow for families to petition for temporary removal of guns from a person who is in imminent danger of harming themselves or others, and [HB 1846](#) (SB 855) calling for firearm safety training for first-time purchasers. Each of these bills are stuck in the judiciary committee. Do you have plans to push along these gun safety measures in the coming year?

**Basically, while the Republicans remain in the majority, and old and outdated procedural rules are not changed; there is very little hope that any of these bills will make it out of committee, because these chairmen refuse to even bring them up for a vote. That is the reality and it is unfortunate since I do support each of these bills mentioned above.**

4. Currently in Pennsylvania, most schools are not receiving adequate funding, and most students do not have the resources they need to succeed. According to the state's benchmark, 277 Pennsylvania districts need more than \$2,000 more per student to adequately support their education. And the poorest districts in Pennsylvania need even more, creating vast inequities in education across the state. What will you do to make sure every student in PA has access to a high-quality public education, as granted by the State Constitution?

### **Level-Up Plan**

**1). Although not entirely created by me, this bill has a very interesting history. Started by a group of education advocates: The Education Law Center, PA Schools Work, Make the Road PA and more who lobbied with the understanding that we weren't going to get more funding for years. The advocates came to me so I was able to propose it and get it folded into the Governor's educational budget.**

**2). The Governor has also proposed full, fair funding and putting effort into achieving full funding equity. It has not been obtainable because it is a very expensive proposition of about \$4 billion, so LEVEL UP is the next best thing.**

**3). Initially written as \$100 million to the 100 poorest school (500 schools districts throughout the state) districts in PA, these schools go through almost the identical fair formula. Most of the schools on the list of poorest schools are rural schools.**

**4). Enacted as part of the PA Budget in 2021; and if the budget can be implemented or improved, PA will be in a better position to more fairly fund our schools state-wide.**

**5). LEVEL UP plan is great but still needs full fair funding to get anywhere in the long term on fair educational funding.**

**60. The Governor has proposed \$1.25 billion in basic education funding as well as \$300 million for the LEVEL UP plan which I firmly support.**

***Government / Election Policy***

5. Do you believe our voting process is secure? Do you believe that there are widespread problems, and if so what are they?

**I do believe that our election and voting processes are secure and I see no widespread problems or examples of concerning fraud at all. The actions of the majority party to remove the power to conduct audits from the Department of State to a Republican *elected* Auditor General, is totally unnecessary and wrong change to make. I would, however, like to expand the use of audits under the Department of State in order to increase the confidence of voters in the election process as we go forward.**

6. Do you support voting by mail? **Yes, I do.**

7. How would you make it easier for more qualified electors to vote? For example, lengthening the timeframe for early voting, or expanding voting hours at the polls.

**I would be in favor of *any* policies that make it easier for all voters to have better access to the voting process; and allow the County Voter Services to more easily count the mail-in and absentee ballots through pre-canvassing policies that would be an improvement over present policies.**

8. Muhlenberg student, Cydney Wilson asked a question about whether Rep. Schlossberg supported women's reproductive rights.

**Very much like the gun control rights; while this majority remains in power, we cannot guarantee that women's reproductive rights will be protected. I fully support women's reproductive rights.**