



PENNSYLVANIA

2020 HEALTH CARE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE GUIDE

Health care [access and cost](#) remains one of the [most important problems facing America](#).

- Pennsylvania has the twelfth-lowest uninsured rate in the United States ([6% in 2018](#)).
- Pennsylvania's [unemployment rate jumped from 5.8% in March to 16.1% in April](#) on a seasonally adjusted basis. In June 2020 unemployment was 13%, which likely has **severed tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians from their employer sponsored insurance**.
- Between March and April of 2020, [nearly 50,000 people enrolled in Pennsylvania's Medicaid program](#); this is five times greater than enrollment between March and April of 2019.
- As of June 30, 2020, [a disproportionate number of those infected](#) (34%) and those dying (29%) in Pennsylvania are **Black, Indigenous, and people of color**, who make up only 19% of the state's population.
- [Access to health care in rural areas](#) has only become more challenging during the pandemic and will likely have **lasting impacts on rural communities**. Rural hospitals in Pennsylvania are [buckling under the dual financial burdens](#) of preparing for potential COVID spikes and decreased utilization in non-COVID services.
- **Seniors are at greatest risk**. As of June 30, 2020 [over 90%](#) of COVID deaths in Pennsylvania were among patients aged 60 or older.
- In April 2020, the state's independent fiscal office projected a [budget shortfall of \\$3.7 billion](#) through the end of the fiscal year 2020-21.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the need for practical solutions that address both the immediate challenges and the long-term gaps in our health care systems to ensure Pennsylvanians can access quality health care they can afford.

KEY MESSAGES FOR CANDIDATES:

- Acknowledge the moment:** "Our country is at a pivotal moment. The pandemic, economic recession, and national discussion on race have created a renewed call for action. They have also magnified the critical problems that exist in our health care system."
- Take an active stance:** "It is long past time to examine our systems and address gaps that have existed for decades. We must find solutions and common ground to build a health care system that serves everyone."
- Commit to prioritize people's needs:** "I will put people's health care needs first and I'm already formalizing the ways I gather input and work with community and business leaders to put effective solutions in place."
- Commit to both addressing disparities and finding common ground:** "The health care system, as it's currently structured, isn't working for far too many. I will work to address the lack of fairness and shared needs to build a health care system that works for all of us."



Learn more about United States of Care at unitedstatesofcare.org.

For more information or to seek assistance, contact USofCare at Help@USofCare.org.