

Candidate Forum 2022 – Candidate Responses

Carol Taylor, PA Senate, District 30

Please explain your position on the preservation and use of Lottery revenues to fund services for older Pennsylvanians.

Lottery revenues were earmarked for services for older Pennsylvanians. I do support providing for those individuals in need, but the funds should not be taken from the funds gotten from the lottery.

What are your thoughts about the practice of shifting lottery funds from HCBS to support institutionalization and what position would you take in that regard?

The original idea was to be able to keep older Americans in their homes, and this should remain the focus.

What are your thoughts about balancing the need to protect vulnerable older adults and to assure the rights of Pennsylvania workers?

A balance of these rights makes sense in that we need to protect older Americans, and also fulfill the need for safe, effective healthcare workers in the field. A lifetime ban eliminates many individuals who might excel at doing this type of work. Financial exploitation is a much larger threat in the healthcare of older, more vulnerable populations.

Do you have a position on expanding efforts to recognize and address financial exploitation, which will mean including the banking and financial services industries in ways they have not been involved up to this point, including allowing them to freeze assets prior to an investigation by state and AAA authorities?

Expansion of efforts to recognize and address financial exploitation should include the banking and financial services industry. However, the freezing of assets prior to any investigation appears to be possibly overreach and may encounter substantial legal challenges.

Given Pennsylvania's aging demographics, the increasing demand for Medicaid waiver funded services and the current direct care workforce crisis, what recommendations might you make to assure Pennsylvania can create a robust and ready workforce, supported by living wages, able to meet the demand for care?

It is obvious that the 19.32 hour restriction in costs is insufficient to attract and keep individuals to do caregiving for older adults, since their wage would be some portion of that amount. The amount has not increased over time, yet all other costs of living have. It needs to be a reasonable reimbursement, and possibly some other creative incentives would help attract a workforce.

What measures would you advocate for in changing this and improving our reimbursement rates in Southwest PA?

As stated earlier, increasing the wages, benefits and travel costs in order to attract and keep a workforce would be necessary.

Please state your position about legislation that ensures justice and equality for LGBTQ+ older Pennsylvanians.

I completely support it, my opponent for the State Senate Seat, Judy Ward, has introduced discriminatory legislation, and would not.