

Rise Up WV Voter Guide – 2020 Primary Elections

Endorsed candidates (Democratic ballot)*

Congress, 2nd District: Cathy Kunkel.

Governor: Stephen Smith

State Auditor: Mary Ann Claytor

State Attorney General: Sam Petsonk

WV Senate 17th District: Jon Hague

WV House 35th District:

Kathy Ferguson, Rusty Williams, Kayla Young

WV House 36th District:

Amanda Estep-Burton, Larry Rowe

WV House 37th District:

Mike Pushkin

Recommended candidates**

West Virginia State Supreme Court

Division 1: Richard Neeley

Kanawha County Magistrate:

District 2: Rusty Casto

District 7: Jess Bails

District 8: Hollis Lewis

District 9: Gary Sheff

Kanawha County Commission:

Mark Hunt

Kanawha County School Board

District 1: Jennifer Bulger



Rise Up WV is a Kanawha County organization fighting for a political system that works for all of us – not just the wealthy few. We believe in **healthcare for all, workers rights, a strong public education system, ending discrimination and oppression, responsive government, and protecting our water and air.**

Rise Up WV is not affiliated with any political party or candidate. This guide is not paid for by any candidate's campaign. Learn more at www.riseupwv.org.

***Endorsed candidates** have our full support. We interviewed them, collected questionnaires from them and/or invited them to a candidate forum, and then voted to endorse them because they support our issues.

****Recommended candidates** were not interviewed or asked for questionnaires, and may or may not fully align with our platform, but based on our research we believe they are the best choice.

About the candidates we endorsed

U.S. House of Representatives, District 2: Cathy Kunkel. Cathy is a powerful advocate for West Virginia. An energy policy analyst by trade, after the 2014 water crisis she co-founded Advocates for a Safe Water System, a major movement for protecting our drinking water. Her platform calls for infrastructure investments in drinking water, broadband, reclamation and transportation. She seeks to diversify the economy, protect pensions, strengthen public schools, eliminate student debt, and pass Improved Medicare for All.

Governor: Stephen Smith. Stephen has a bold and very detailed platform to support healthcare for all, quality public education and other programs that benefit working families, all without adding to the state budget. His commitment to not take corporate money shows his willingness to stand up to wealthy interests. As a former nonprofit director he has a track record of working to combat poverty in West Virginia. He stood with striking school employees helping to raise over \$300,000 to support workers during the 2018 strike. He shares our belief that change comes from people organizing around their demands and holding politicians accountable.

State Auditor: Mary Ann Claytor. Mary Ann has decades of experience in governmental accounting that would enable her to look out for taxpayers' best interests. She is committed to efficient, accountable, government. She stands for Healthcare for All, disability rights, union and workers' rights, clean water and air.

State Attorney General: Sam Petsonk. As a public interest attorney, Petsonk has fought tirelessly for working West Virginians on black lung, coal company bankruptcy, and the loss of miners' pensions. His platform shows how the A.G. could better protect workers' rights, fight the opioid crisis, and support quality public schools.

Senate 17th District: Jon Hague. Jon Hague seeks to expand unions into all areas of employment, roll back right to work laws, publicly fund elections, and invest public funds to diversify and expand WV's economy. He believes we need enough treatment beds for every person struggling with addiction.

House 35th District:

- **Kathy Ferguson** has fought for clean air for years on the front lines of environmental justice in the Kanawha Valley, especially for the people of Institute, a historically African American community. She supports economic diversification, a strong and fair public education system, and ending Right to Work.
- **Rusty Williams** has turned his personal experiences as an uninsured cancer survivor towards advocating for Healthcare for All. As a citizen advocate, he led the successful charge to pass the WV Medical Cannabis Act, pushed successfully for an insulin co-pay cap with the Team for Insulin Affordability, and helped countless other people make their voices heard in the legislature.
- **Kayla Young** has worked hard to build supportive networks for women, and would fight for pay equity, women's health, rural hospitals, worker protections, stronger schools, and full funding for PEIA.

House 36th District:

- **Amanda Estep-Burton (re-election)** is a working mom who truly understands the struggles of West Virginians. She introduced bill to provide every working West Virginian with paid family and medical leave, and fought cap insulin co-pays at \$25. She also supports a \$15 living wage, ending Right to Work, non-discrimination laws, campaign finance reform, and a clean environment.
- **Larry Rowe (re-election)** has advocated for non-discrimination laws, ending Right to Work, and a \$15 minimum wage. He supports stricter limits on campaign contributions and wants to reform our cash bail system to stop discriminating against low income folks and people of color. He works to increase support for higher education, public broadcasting, humanities, and the arts and culture.

House 37th District: Mike Pushkin (re-election). Mike stands with public educators and opposes charter schools. He fought to pass the West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act and works to address racial inequities in the state. He voted for bail reform, capping insulin co-pays, and increased foster care funding. He voted against privatizing foster care and loosening limits on campaign contributions.