

# ITE RESEARCH REPORT

# INVEST *to* ELECT

ILLINOIS

**SUBJECT:** John Fetterman

**REPORT CURRENT AS OF:** May 20, 2022

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- INCUMBENT
- CHALLENGER
- OPEN SEAT

**PRIMARY DATE:** May 17, 2022

**STATE OR DISTRICT:** Pennsylvania

**CANDIDATE(S) BACKGROUND:** John Fetterman was born in 1969 to teenage parents in West Reading, PA. While they started out financially challenged, Fetterman's father became a successful insurance executive and both parents were conservative Republicans. John graduated from Albright College (Bachelor's in Finance), U.Conn (MBA) and Harvard (Master of Public Policy). He was Mayor of Braddock, PA from 2006-2019. He ran for Pat Toomey's US Senate seat in 2016, but was beaten in the primary by Katie McGinty. He was the only statewide Democratic candidate in PA to endorse Bernie Sanders. He has been serving as PA's Lieutenant Governor since 2019. The Friday before the primary, Fetterman suffered a stroke. It was caused by atrial fibrillation and relatively minor; on the day of the primary he had a pacemaker/ defibrillator inserted and is apparently recovering well. In that primary, Fetterman won approximately 59% of the Democratic vote, winning in every county.

Fetterman seems appealing to rural voters in PA. His strategy is to campaign in every county in the state, even those which are solidly Republican, in the hopes that he can win over enough voters on the fence and get out the votes of non-Republicans in order to get a bigger total statewide, even if he doesn't get a majority in each and every county. His policies straddle progressive, liberal and moderate stances. Filibuster: should end. Abortion: opposes limits. Criminal justice reform: yes to prison reform, rehabilitation programs, clemency for model prisoners; no capital punishment; don't "defund" police. Environment: need to balance decarbonization efforts with their effects on jobs, i.e. fracking is ok with limitations, for now, but should transition to renewables. Gun rights: supports universal background checks and ending loopholes for mentally ill and domestic abusers to purchase firearms. Healthcare: supports expansion of the Affordable Care Act. \$15 minimum wage supporter. Wealth tax supporter, but vague on what income level would be taxed.

There is controversy over an incident which occurred in 2013 in Braddock, while Fetterman was mayor. After hearing what he thought were gunshots being fired, Fetterman saw a man wearing a ski mask running, so Fetterman hopped into his truck with a shotgun and chased down the man, holding him at gunpoint until the police could arrive. Fetterman said he believed the man could have been running toward a school. The man turned out to be an unarmed black jogger wearing a ski mask because it was winter. Many think that Fetterman needs to mend relations with black voters as a result. According to the New York Times, the black man in question is currently serving a term in state prison.

**CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN FINANCES: As of 4/27/22**

**Raised: \$15,876,594 Cash on Hand: \$1,865,097**

**OPPONENT(S) BACKGROUND:**

The PA primary results so far are that the two front-running Republicans, Mehmet Oz and David McCormick, are within 0.1% of each other's votes, paving the way for a recount. Oz, the TV celebrity and controversial physician, was endorsed by Trump. McCormick is a hedge fund billionaire. Neither has held elective office. The two campaigns and PACs have already spent \$55 million on the primary race, with help from Murdoch and Koch as well.

**OPPONENT CAMPAIGN FINANCES: As of 4/27/22**

**Mehmet Oz (R): Raised: \$15,071,813 Cash on Hand: \$911,57**

**David McCormick(R): Raised: \$15,915,575 Cash on Hand: \$1,854,008**

**STATE POLITICAL CLIMATE:** PA has been described as Pittsburgh (midwest-ish) on one end, Philadelphia (east coast, definitely) on the other, and North Alabama in between. (Quora) Traditionally it has been a Republican state overall, but with a more moderate stance on social issues than other Republican states. Washington Post: In 2018, Democrats swept statewide races and picked up house seats, while Republicans nominees for governor and senate held firm in rural areas. WaPo also divides PA politically into 7 regions: 3 strongly Democrat-Allegheny and Philadelphia counties, and the suburbs of the Southeast; 3 strongly Republican-West, Central, and the Dutch country around Harrisburg and Lancaster; and a swing region in the Northeast of the state.

The 2022 primary also resulted in Douglas Mastriano winning the Republican nomination for Governor, running against Democrat Josh Shapiro in November. Mastriano has been called unelectable by conservative as well as liberal pundits—an extreme Trump supporter pushing the big lie.

**BIDEN +/- 2020 Biden: 50.01%, Trump: 48.84%**

**POLITICAL REPORTS AND POLLS (e.g., Cook Political Report, FiveThirtyEight, Sabato's Crystal Ball)**

I found no post-primary predictions as of today in any of the political reports. They need a little more time to produce them.

**SUPPORT:**

YES

NO

TBD

**NEWSLINKS:**

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