CHANGING the WORLD

In Three Simple Steps
and
One Slightly Less Simple Step

Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network
(UUPLAN)

19 August 2019

“America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

Harry Truman
Dates..... Pennsylvania Voting Dates.

• October 7, 2019       Last day to register for the November 2019 General Election (4 weeks before the election.)
• November 5, 2019     General Election !!!!!  Be there!
• March 30, 2020       Last day to register for the April 2020 Primary
• April 28, 2020       Pennsylvania Primary.
• October 4, 2020       Last day to register for the November 2020 General Election. (4 weeks before the election.)
• November 3, 2020     General Election !!!!!  BIG BIG DAY!

Keep the November 3, 2020 General Election in your sights!
New UUPLAN Mission Statement

Approved by the UUPLAN Board of Trustees February 2019

To Pursue Justice by Voting, Advocating and Making Just Public Policies.
Step 1: **VOTE VOTE VOTE! ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS!!!!**

- Register to vote. Ask people if they’re registered and if they vote.
- *Use it for Elevator chat.*
- “If you don’t vote, you can’t complain. Somebody else is making decisions for you.”

- Have voter registration forms handy:
  - In car glove compartments, backpacks, purses, at church information.
  - Offer to mail or hand carry the form to the county Bureau of Elections.
  - Have a couple of US postage stamps handy or take it to the county bureau of elections.

- Vote in all elections for what you know.
- Be a “Super Voter”! What’s a Super Voter? 8 out of last 10 elections
- Talk about voting a lot, particularly with kids.
Register to Vote in Pennsylvania

• On line: pavoterservices.pa.gov

• At PennDOT locations and many other PA state government offices

• Mail application to county voter registration offices: Bureaus of Election

Must be a US citizen and 18 years old on or before the date of the election.
Pennsylvania Voter Registration Form

Register to vote
With this form, you can register to vote in elections in Pennsylvania.

Send or deliver this form to be registered in the next election or to register for the next primary or election. No postmark is necessary. Addressee for all Pennsylvania counties is the county's board of elections or other office at least 30 days before the next election.

If your registration is accepted, you will receive a confirmation letter from your county by first-class mail within 30 days, and you will be notified by your county or a voter registration official of your county or voter registration organization if you register to vote. The deadline for voter registration is October 15 of the year of the next election.

Verifying your identity
When you send the first form your registration to your county or voter registration organization, you must also provide identification. The following are acceptable forms of identification:

- Driver’s license
- State identification card
- Federal government identification
- Military identification
- Pennsylvania voter registration card
- Pennsylvania income tax card
- Pennsylvania unemployment compensation card
- Pennsylvania wine and liquor tax card
- Pennsylvania public assistance card
- Pennsylvania public pension card
- Government-issued ID card
- Passport
- Firearm license
- Voter registration card for non-citizens

In the military
If you are a member of the military, you may be registered to vote in Pennsylvania. If you are a member of the military, you may be registered to vote in Pennsylvania.

County Voter Registration Office addresses
For more information about voting, visit our website: www.votesPA.com.

Questions?
Call your County Voter Registration Office or call 1-877-VOTESPA (1-877-868-7372).

For more information about voting, visit our website: www.votesPA.com.

Penalty for falsifying declaration

Confidentiality

Neither the Secretary of State nor any other federal or state officer or employee shall disclose your personal information.
Absentee Ballots are mildly complex.

1. Get an Application from the county or online. Votespa.com

2. US mail or hand deliver the application to the county voter registration office. *Do it for others.*

3. County will mail absentee ballots when the ballot design is finalized.

4. Send absentee ballot to county voter registration office right away. It must be received by 5pm on the Friday before the Tuesday election. There are some complex special exceptions. *Screw-ups happen.*

5. It can be rescinded on Election Day at your voting precinct.
• Sadly, each county has its own form.
• Keep these handy.
• Have US postage stamps handy.
• A person can still vote at the polls on election day if circumstances change.
HELP FOLKS VOTE. SHOW KIDS HOW IT’S DONE.

- OFFER to DRIVE PEOPLE to the POLLS.

- PROVIDE HELP in the voting booth. No advanced notice needed. Fill out a simple form at the polling place.

- TAKE KIDS into the voting booth. Talk about what’s happening.

- Be a paid Poll Worker. Run to serve or ask to be appointed. *(it’s a long day but it pays $95 to $125 plus mileage. Must attend 90 minute class and be certified. Day starts at 6:30 AM and goes until results are processed. Polls close at 8 PM.)*
Help a Candidate you Support.

• GIVE MONEY to a candidate or Political Action Committee you support.

• WORK on a CAMPAIGN.

• INVITE AND INVOLVE YOUTH to help.

• HANDOUT CARDS for a candidate on Election Day at Polls where you’re known.

• YARD SIGNS. LETTERS to the Editors of Newspapers. POST.
Step 2: Learn some Stuff.


- Pick one or two issues. Learn by talking about them.

- Know the names of SIX Pennsylvanians who represent you:
  - PA House of Representatives member. There are 203:
    109 Republicans. 93 Democrats. 1 vacancy. 52 women

- Our two US Senators: Casey and Toomey.
- Your member of the US House of Representatives. PA has 18.
- Governor Tom Wolf.

- Have some thoughtful opinions and be able to state them simply.

  "I think the first duty of society is justice"...

  Alexander Hamilton
LEARN STUFF at UUPLAN Justice Team Meetings

• 38 Unitarian Universalist congregations in Pennsylvania – 5,359 UU members (2019).

• 6 active Justice Teams each meet once a month for about an hour.
  - Criminal Justice Reform
  - Environmental Justice
  - Reproductive Justice
  - Economic Justice
  - Good Government
  - Gun Violence Prevention

• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQA) and Immigration Justice Teams are on hiatus.

• All justice team meetings are held via a zoom.com website or by phone.

• UUPLAN brochure has the dates, times and zoom information.

• Check out the uuplan.org website for the specific legislation we’re following.
Who we are: **UUPLAN** and **UUPLAN Education Fund**

More Acronyms

- Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)......“our lobbying arm”.
  - Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 501 c4 non-profit organization. It can freely lobby and endorse candidates.
  - Contributions to UUPLAN are not tax deductible.

- UUPLAN-Education Fund...... “our educational arm”. Name was once UUPALM (UU PA Legislative Ministry)
  - IRS 501 c3 non-profit organization. It cannot lobby or endorse candidates.
  - Contributions to UUPALM are tax deductible.

- The Board of Trustees (8) and the Staff (3) of both organizations are the same people.
Step 3: **Advocate** ...........Lots of ways

- Attend city, county or town council meetings.
- **Talk** to friends periodically about stuff you care.
- Call a legislator. Get to know your legislators.
- Send post cards to legislators.
- Meet with your legislators. Know their names and staff.
- Demonstrate and protest. Attend rallies.
- Circulate petitions.
- Post on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. Blog.
- Write letters to the editors of newspapers.
- **Join advocacy groups.** There are many. UUPLAN has 7.
- Talk on radio talk shows.
- Wear buttons. Put up signs. Use bumper stickers.
Advocating at public meetings

• Assume your audience knows nothing.
• Sit up front. Don’t clump up with friends. Be independent.
• Be courteous. Look good. Wear bright clothes. Rehearse what you want to say.
• Sit near an aisle or near a microphone.
  Always use a microphone, if possible.
More about Talking at Public Meetings

• Speak clearly, loudly and slowly. Identify yourself. State your purpose. Tell a short story. Have a few facts. Ask if there are questions?

• Don’t speak in codes. Define acronyms. Better yet, don’t use them.

• If multiple people attend, everyone should speak even if they say the same thing.

• Hang around after the meeting to talk informally with policy makers and staff. Ask their advice.
Or Participate in an Action.

Carol Stowell of the UU Cong. of York being arrested after dropping dollar bills from the gallery of the PA House of Representatives. May 2019. The House is likely to consider HB1291 Gift Ban because of this action and other lobbying.
Meeting with state or federal legislators.

• Call for an appointment. Meet in their home office or in Harrisburg or Washington, DC.
• Pick no more than one or two issues.
• Know the facts and what you’re asking.
• Go with just one or two others. Be on time.
• Practice your pitch. Role play with others first.
• Goal is to establish healthy relationships.
More about meeting with legislators.

• Minimize small talk. Thank them for taking the time to meet.
• Concisely state the reason for meeting.
• Tell a story and a few facts. 3 or 4 minutes max!
• Ask how they feel about the matter. And then be quiet.
• Be appreciative even if their reaction is negative. Ask advice.
• Leave materials with your name, date and contact info ON TOP.
• Meeting should be 10 to 20 minutes....max.
• Write down notes immediately after the meeting or during it.
• Send a thank you note.
UUPLAN’s new Director of Legislative Affairs
Rev. Joan Sabatino

- Minister emerita First UU Church of Indiana.
- Moved to Harrisburg and started on August 1, 2019.
- Part-time temporary position to be evaluated in January 2021.
- Lobbying and partnering in and around the Capitol.
- UU’s Go to Harrisburg...supported and often.
- Reluctantly continuing as President of UUPLAN Board of Trustees.
- UUPLAN budget increases 50%.
Step 4: Be a Policy Maker
Just slightly more of an effort... but very interesting

• Move from in front of the table to having a seat at the table.
  “If you’re not at the table, you’re probably on the menu!”

• The Tea Party, the Republicans, Karl Rove and evangelical Christians figured this out years ago....
  “Decisions are made by those who show up.”

• An often heard criticism of Progressives: “We preach to the choir.”

• Policy makers are either appointed or elected.
Get appointed to a Policy Making position

Legislators or the Executive Branch usually make appointments. Consider serving on:

- Local boards, authorities and commissions.
- Redevelopment, Housing, and Industrial Development Authorities
- Planning Commissions and Zoning Hearing Boards
- Boards of Trustees of Community Colleges or Boards of Education
- Children & Youth Advisory Board
- State or Federal Advisory Boards
or Run for Election!!!!

• You, your family and your friends will learn a lot. It’s infectious. It’s fun.
• Petition drives test you. Incredibly interesting. Get to know many people.
• You’ll have a real soap box both campaigning and if elected.
• Campaigns and appointed or elected positions have well defined endings.
• Run twice. Name recognition matters.

“The universe will reward you for taking risks on it’s behalf.”
Shakti Gawain
Serving as a Public Policy Maker

• Opportunity to make motions, introduce resolutions, and ask questions.
• Vote your conscience and explain your vote.
• Use parliamentary procedures.
• Negotiation and compromise.
• Set an example for others. Take a turn.
• Get into the “weeds” on issues.
• Legislative and governing entities make public policy and raise awareness. You’ll have access to the press.
Advocacy Day – October 12, 2019

• Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg. $20.

• 9am to 3:30pm. Registration at 8am. Ends with ice cream.

• Morning Program: “Reading the PA Political Tea Leaves”
  Rabbi Michael Pollack, March on Harrisburg, Poor People’s Campaign
  Micah Sims, Common Cause PA
  Carol Kuniholm, Fair Districts PA

• Afternoon: Internal UUPLAN strategizing - priorities, cross pollination....
UUPLAN 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 24 and 25, 2020
Late Friday afternoon to early Saturday afternoon
Main Line Unitarian Church
Devon, Pennsylvania
Some one will be at the table.

When can you serve?

“What do you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

Mary Oliver
www.UUPLAN.ORG