

Pennsylvania Auditor General

April 23, 2024 Primary

This Voters' Mini-Guide is an excerpt of the [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) online Voters' Guide -- a project of the League of Women Voters. All information in Vote411 Voters' Guides is submitted by the candidates and has not been edited or altered in any way.



To vote in this election, you must register by April 8, 2024. You must be registered as a Democrat to vote in the Democratic Primary or as a Republican to vote in the Republican Primary. Candidates of other parties are not included in Pennsylvania's Closed Primary.

Description of office: The principal role of the Auditor General is to determine whether state funds are being used in accordance with the purpose and guidelines that govern each use of the Commonwealth's dollars. The Auditor General conducts financial and performance audits of individuals, state agencies, and organizations that receive state funds, including school districts, state liquor stores, and public employee pension funds. These audits are designed to measure how effectively government programs are using public money to meet their stated goals and objectives. The office performs more than 6,000 audits each year and is responsible for auditing all Pennsylvania state programs that are allocated federal funds.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$197,748

Vote for ONE.

Democratic Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 2 for **Pennsylvania Auditor General**

- Malcolm Kenyatta
- Mark Pinsley

Republican Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 1 for **Pennsylvania Auditor General**

- Tim DeFoor

Democratic Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 2 for **Auditor General**

Malcolm Kenyatta

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: State Representative

Education: B.A. in Public Communications and a minor in Political Science from Temple University, M.S. in Strategic and Digital Communications from Drexel University, and completed the Harvard Kennedy School’s Executives in State and Local Government program

Qualifications: He is a member of State Government Committee with oversight of state agencies and elections, where he chairs the Subcommittee on Government Operations; Chair of Automation and Technology in the Commerce Committee; and as a member of the Finance and Judiciary committees

Campaign Website: <http://malcolmkenyatta.com>

Facebook URL: <http://facebook.com/malcolmkenyatta>

X Handle: twitter.com/malcolmkenyatta

Instagram URL: <http://instagram.com/malcolmkenyatta>



Questions:

Q: *What improvements, if any, would you make to the Auditor General’s office?*

A: As Auditor General, I will rebuild the bureau of school audits, restart the annual compliance audits ended by the current Auditor General, and demand accountability from all our schools — including cyber charter schools. I will stand up for our workers by creating the first ever Bureau of Labor and Worker Protections and use the power of the office to take on wage theft, employee misclassification, and union busting. I will use the office to measure and support efforts to make communities healthier and safer. We need transparency on how huge hospital nonprofits and long-term care providers use state dollars.

Q: *How can you make the work of the Auditor General’s office more transparent to the public?*

A: I’m running for Auditor General because it’s time for the underdog to be a watchdog for Pennsylvania’s working families. To ask the tough questions, to help reimagine and streamline government, and to help build the coalitions to fix what’s wrong. It’s what I’ve done as a State Representative for nearly five years, working to protect workers’ rights, enact common-sense gun safety policies, and root out government corruption and waste. We deserve a government that works for working families. That starts with being serious about fixing what’s broken. And it means having an Auditor General who isn’t afraid to stand up for those too often forgotten by our government.

Democratic Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 2 for **Auditor General**

Mark Pinsley

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Lehigh County Controller

Education: Northeastern University (BSBA); Indiana University: Kelley School of Business (MBA)

Qualifications: Lehigh County Controller (2020-); DermaMed Solutions: President (2011-)

Campaign Website: <http://votemarkpinsley.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/VoteMarkPinsley>

X Handle: twitter.com/mpinsley

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/markpinsley/>



Questions:

Q: *What improvements, if any, would you make to the Auditor General's office?*

A: The Auditor General is an often-overlooked position and yet has immense power in influencing government. Just as I have as Lehigh County Controller, I will use the full powers of the position to audit for impact. As Auditor General, I vow to divest funds from anti-choice companies, as I did with Wells Fargo in Lehigh Co; audit the state healthcare system where there are hundreds of millions of dollars wasted by price-gouging insurance companies, as I did in Lehigh Co; reveal misdiagnosis of medical child abuse, saving children from wrongful separation, as I did in Lehigh Co; report on the economic costs of underfunding our schools and recommend fair funding; create a wage theft hotline for union workers to report wage theft to my office.

Q: *How can you make the work of the Auditor General's office more transparent to the public?*

A: The Auditor General position is not known because, for decades, it was improperly used or underutilized. As Auditor General, I will audit to impact Pennsylvanians. Every single dollar and cent spent by the Commonwealth impacts Pennsylvanians. My job will be to show just how that is the case--how workforce development programs are working, how the state can increase funding for public schools, how Pennsylvanians could have more access to adequate healthcare, how Crisis Pregnancy Centers incur costs on taxpayers and women's health, how Pennsylvania can have a smooth and just transition to green energy with good union jobs. The Auditor General's office's role is transparency, and it must be shown with audits that change policy.

Republican Primary Ballot: Choose 1 of 1 for **Auditor General**

Tim DeFoor

Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Occupation: Auditor General

Education: Associate degree in paralegal studies from Harrisburg Area Community College. University of Pittsburgh- Bachelor's degree in psychology and earned a second Bachelor's degree in sociology and history. Master's in project management from Harrisburg University of Science and Technology.

Qualifications: Dauphin County Controller from 2016 to 2020. Elected Pennsylvania Auditor General in 2020. Over 30 years of experience as a Special Investigator with Pennsylvania's Office of Inspector General, as a Special Agent with Pennsylvania's Attorney General and in the private sector and federal government.

Campaign Website: <http://defoor4pa.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/DeFoor4PA>



Questions:

Q: *What improvements, if any, would you make to the Auditor General's office?*

A: Under Tim's leadership, the Auditor General's office has focused on transforming the office in various ways, which include: how the Department recruits and retains employees; how it audits, making the work more efficient and effective for the taxpayers; and how it is building the next generation, focusing on the need for financial literacy education to be taught across the entire Commonwealth through the 'Be Money Smart' initiative.

Q: *How can you make the work of the Auditor General's office more transparent to the public?*

A: Tim has transformed and improved how the Auditor General's office conducts public and charter school audits to ensure that administrators and school boards are accountable and transparent with taxpayer dollars.