

Race in the Spotlight: Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District

The District

PA-15 is the largest geographically in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The District includes the Counties of: Armstrong, Clarion, Jefferson, Clearfield, Centre, Snyder, Union, Lycoming, Clinton, Cameron, Elk, Forest, Warren, McKean, Potter and Tioga. PA 15 also includes a portion of Venango and Indiana Counties.

This race will decide your Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, DC. The new district boundaries will be effective with the new U.S. Congress in January, 2023.

The Candidates

The Incumbent: U.S. Representative Glenn Thompson (R)

The Challenger: Michael Molesevich (D)

Let's begin with the incumbent, **Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson**

<http://www.friendsofglennthompson.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/TeamGT>

A life-long resident of Howard Township, Centre County, Congressman Glenn Thompson was first elected to represent the district in 2008, assuming office in 2009.

Prior to serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Thompson spent 28 years as a therapist, rehabilitation services manager, and a licensed nursing home administrator. He is an Eagle Scout and 30+ year veteran of the Juniata Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. Congressman Thompson received the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 2012. He is a former member of the Bald Eagle Area School Board, past vice-chair of the Private Industry Council of the Central Corridor, and a former Workforce Investment Board member.

As Ranking Member of the Agriculture Committee and a senior member of the Education & Labor Committee, Congressman Thompson is in a unique position to bring his expertise and knowledge to bear on the issues facing rural businesses, communities, and families, in order to improve the lives of the citizens of the 15th Congressional District. He is Co-Chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus.

Congressman Thompson is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and Temple University, where he earned a B.S. and a Master of Education, respectively. He and his wife, Penny Ammerman-Thompson, have three adult sons, Parker, Logan, and Kale.

On The Issues

The Political Courage Test identifies a candidate's positions on the issues. We found Congressman Thompson's response at this link: <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/24046/gt-thompson-ir>

Congressman Thompson lists the following priorities on his website:

Agriculture

- Implementing the Farm Bill with continuing Congressional oversight;
- Creating jobs and expanding technology, such as broadband and cell phone coverage, in order to improve and sustain rural Pennsylvania;

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- Revamping the safety net for dairy producers, along with promoting the nutritional value provided by dairy products; and,
- Ensuring there is proper management of our national forests.

Energy

- Discovering and developing environmentally-friendly ways to produce natural gas, and exploring the ways natural gas can help meet our country's energy needs is fundamentally important in charting our nation's path to energy security;
- Increasing domestic production of fossil fuels;
- Responsibly expanding the use of alternative and renewable fuels; and,
- Increasing conservation, weatherization and energy efficiencies.

Healthcare

- Increasing access to affordable, quality healthcare, including patient choice, for rural communities.

Military Service & Veterans Affairs

- Ensuring that our active duty servicemembers have the tools they need to successfully defend our country; and,
- Providing our active servicemembers and veterans with the best healthcare possible.

Legislative Accomplishments

A few of Congressman Thompson's legislative victories include:

- Specific local/agriculture COVID relief provisions.
- Servicemembers' Telemedicine and E-Health Portability (STEP) Act.
- Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) Act.
- Modernizing Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.
- Two farm bills that ensure safe and affordable food, better Internet connectivity, as well as working to restore a robust rural economy.

National Key Votes

Vote Smart tracks our elected representatives. Operation Wildfire found a few of Congressman Thompson's key votes at this link: <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/24046/gt-thompson-jr>

Some of those votes include:

Supported:

- Sovereign decision of Sweden and Finland to join NATO.
- Duty-free treatment for infant formula.
- Active Shooter Alert Act.
- Expansion of health care, presumption of service connection, research, resources, and other matters related to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military service.

Opposed:

- Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 because it will raise taxes, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. It will cost taxpayers nearly \$472 billion and cut Medicare by an estimated \$250 billion.
- Assault Weapons Ban of 2022 would undermine the bipartisan package passed into law and signed by President Biden. The focus should be on keeping guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves or others.
- Chips and Science Act of 2022 because it provides subsidies for profitable semiconductor makers.
- Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Protection Act effectively imposes price controls that may discourage new energy production, resulting in even less supply while demand continues to increase.

The Challenger: **Michael Molesevich**

www.padistrict15.org and <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPA15>

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Michael Molesevich of Union County was raised in Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania. He earned a B.S. in Environmental Science from Juniata College and an M.S. in Energy Policy & Planning from Bucknell University.

Mr. Molesevich is the owner/founder of Molesevich Environmental Limited Liability Company, and has been assisting businesses, industries and homeowners with energy and environmental matters for over 40 years. He served as Mayor of Lewisburg from 1994-1998 and on the Lewisburg Borough Council from 1990-1994

An active member of several Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Molesevich is also a member of the Sierra Club, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the U.S. Green Energy Council and serves on the Board of Directors of the Union County Historical Society.

On The Issues

The Political Courage Test identifies a candidate's positions on the issues. We found Mr. Molesevich's response at this link: <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/174778/mike-molesevich>

Mr. Molesevich lists several priorities on his website; we've chosen a few:

Agriculture

- Expanding USDA operating loan programs to enable farmers and other agri-business concerns to start and grow their operations;
- Reforming agricultural subsidies to better support small- and mid-sized farms;
- Fully legalizing the production, distribution, and sale of industrial hemp; and,
- Achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, which will create a revolution in agriculture and create new revenue streams for farmers in energy and waste products.

Energy

- Supporting American energy independence and moving to a sustainable economy powered by American renewable energy, creating jobs and investing in a strong, stable grid that will enhance our National Security;
- Protecting working families from price gouging by implementing a windfall profits tax;
- Supporting investments to create millions of jobs in sustainable renewable energy generation, transportation, energy efficiency, advanced manufacturing, and sustainable agriculture;
- Helping the U.S. achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and,
- Restoring the federal Noise Pollution Control Office.

Healthcare

- Supports federal programs and funding to guarantee accessible and affordable healthcare and protect our rural healthcare system.
- Codify Roe v. Wade into federal law.
- Save rural hospitals and healthcare providers in Pennsylvania.

Military Service & Veterans Affairs

- Increasing pay for our nation's military;
- Providing access to fully-funded mental health and suicide prevention services to prevent veteran and active-duty military suicide; and,
- Housing assistance, healthcare services, foreclosure assistance, employment services, mental health programs, justice outreach and re-entry assistance for homeless veterans.

Sources: Candidate Websites and/or Facebook pages, Democratic and Republican Party Websites and/or Facebook pages, PennLive, VoteSmart