



About the Candidate

Marc Friedenbergs is a native of Northeast Philly, the oldest son of Charles and Lori. He first moved to State College fifteen years ago to enroll at Penn State's College of Information Sciences and Technology, where he graduated in 2006 with a Master's thesis. Marc has always had a passion for figuring out how technology could be used to improve people's lives -- his Master's thesis was focused on helping emergency responders locate each other in the field.

After studying cyber law and internet privacy at Columbia Law School, Marc graduated in the midst of the Great Recession in 2009. He worked for two law firms and pursued cases against the Wall Street banks that caused it, using his skill with computer technology to sift through the data and prove that fraud had occurred. While suing the big banks, Marc saw firsthand the greed, corruption, and carelessness that has taken over our economy and our government, and has never forgotten those experiences while talking to working people out on the campaign trail.

In 2012, Marc was recruited for a teaching position at his alma mater, Penn State's College of Information Sciences and Technology, and returned to State College, excited by the opportunity to give back to the community as an educator. Today, he serves on the Faculty Senate and teaches classes related to cyber law and the global economy.

Marc never thought he would go into politics, but after Congress tried to kick millions of Americans off their health insurance to give a massive tax break to the ultra-wealthy, Marc felt called to act. He first started a group called PA5 Truth and Action, dedicated to organizing local activists and concerned citizens and mobilizing them against the effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The repeal effort was successfully beaten back, but it became clear that Congressional Republicans -- the recipients of millions of dollars in donations from the health insurance industry, Big Pharma, and Wall Street banks -- had decided to stop listening to their own constituents altogether. Marc decided to step up and run to give the people of Pennsylvania a chance to vote for a representative who would work for them, rather than for big corporations and ultra-wealthy donors.

Marc is the proud husband of his incredible and supportive wife (and high school sweetheart) Becky, and the loving father of his two wonderful young daughters, Claire and Molly.

Website: <https://marcforpa.com>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/MarcForPA>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MarcForPA>
Donate: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/marc2019?refcode=express_lane_other
Profile: <https://marcforpa.com/meet-marc>

How can people volunteer? <https://marcforpa.com/volunteer>



About the District

Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District is located in the north central and northeastern parts of Pennsylvania, including the Northern Tier region, parts of the Susquehanna Valley, and part of Happy Valley including State College. It was represented by Tom Marino until January 23, 2019, when he stepped down from office.

Prior to 2018, the 12th district was located in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania redrew this and other state congressional districts in February 2018 after ruling the previous map unconstitutional due to partisan gerrymandering.

The current population is 703,764, and is 49% male and 51% female. 93.71% is White, 3.12% is Black, 1.32% is Asian, 1% is Hispanic. The median household income is \$53,080 and the unemployment rate is 6.4%.

About the Opponent

Fred Keller is a Republican member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing District 85. Keller was elected to the office in 2010.

Keller lists fiscal responsibility as one of his top priorities. He highlights his experience in the state legislature and says he "pass[ed] timely and balanced budgets with no tax increases or general fund borrowing."

Keller says that he wants to bring to Congress "pragmatic, conservative principles to ensure liberty, freedom and respect and the rule of law."

Keller graduated from the Don Paul Shearer Real Estate School. His professional experience includes working for Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. for the past 25 years, eventually being promoted to plant manager. He has also served as the auditor for Middlecreek Township.

Marc on the Issues

ECONOMY/JOBS

- **Budget:** Marc understands the importance of proper investment in our communities. Right now too much of our money is spent on tax breaks for the rich and big corporations, and we need to be smarter about where our money goes.
- **Job Creation:** Marc will invest federal money in long-overdue infrastructure projects that create good-paying jobs here in Pennsylvania: clean energy like wind and solar power, roads and bridges, and his personal mission to bring fast, affordable broadband internet to every home and business in our district.



- **Living Wage:** Marc believes it is important to support unions and will fight for a liveable minimum wage, not just because it will help many families in our district, but because when we have more money to spend in our communities, it helps boost our local economy.
- **Small Business:** Marc believes antitrust laws have been bulldozed by mergers, leaving consumers with little choice in everything from their cable company to their insurance company, while small businesses struggle to compete with massive corporations. Marc wants our internet to remain neutral and equal to all businesses.
- **Tax Policy:** In 2018, Amazon made over 11 billion dollars in profit alone, but didn't pay a cent in federal taxes. Marc believes this is robbery. We have had enough, yet career politicians in Harrisburg and Washington continue to vote in favor of corporate interests. We must fix this behavior and restore sanity regarding our taxes.

EDUCATION

- **Charter Schools:** As an educator, Marc knows education is vital to the future of our district and our country. Decades of federal policy that takes from the middle class to give breaks to the rich has left communities struggling with poverty, leaving schools to suffer. Privately owned charter school companies are set to pounce, focused on using your tax dollars to prop up their profit margins. Our kids' education should not be for sale to a private company.
- **Funding:** Marc believes K-12 federal funding must be expanded. As your Congressman, he will vote for expansion in the rural communities that need more resources and teachers. It's not that we don't have enough tests or standards -- the problem is poverty, and Marc will take the fight against poverty to Congress.
- **Higher Education:** Marc believes we need to help the higher education system in our area grow, including community and vocational colleges. We need someone who will bring federal research money to our universities, encouraging the next generation of scientists and scholars to make breakthroughs.
- **Trade Schools/Vocational Education:** Marc knows college is not the path for everyone, and we need to prepare our students for the future. Trade or vocational schools are a necessary tool many in our district need to succeed in the future. Marc wants to promote this type of education and make it more accessible to our district.

ENVIRONMENT

- **Climate Change:** Marc believes that clean air and water are rights for all human beings, and he accepts the scientific consensus that climate change poses a threat to our future on this planet.



- **Energy Policy:** Marc believes the environmental challenges we face present us with an opportunity to join an energy revolution and build our renewable energy infrastructure. Pennsylvania lags behind the rest of the country on green jobs -- if we commit to a future focused on clean energy, we can hire manufacturing professionals, construction workers, and equipment operators.
- **Environmental Protection:** Marc will work to restore our pollution laws to protect our air. He will empower environmental and wildlife protection agencies to do their jobs, and vote to protect our public lands, the backbone of Pennsylvania's tourism economy, for years to come.

GOVERNMENT

- **Campaign Finance Reform:** Marc believes the number one issue facing our nation is a government corrupted by campaign donors and corporate PACs. Marc is the only candidate fighting to change this. We need to overturn Citizens United, publicly fund campaigns, and stop the revolving door between serving in Congress and making money as a lobbyist.
- **Gerrymandering:** Marc believes gerrymandering is an incredibly anti-democratic evil that our state knows all too well. Even after just redistricting due to illegal gerrymandering, our state may have to change again. We need an independent, non-biased board to ensure our districts are fair and don't favor either party.
- **Opinion of Trump:** No matter your opinion of the President, it is undeniable that he ran his campaign on fixing the corrupt swamp in Washington. Unfortunately he has not fulfilled his promises of draining that swamp. Marc believes we need real reforms in Washington to stop the rampant greed and divisiveness facing our nation.
- **Term Limits:** Marc believes no person should be in office for so long they become out of touch with their district. On top of implementing term limits, we must also stop the revolving door between Congress and lobbyists.

HEALTH CARE

- **Abortion:** Marc supports a woman's right to choose. He believes that decision should be between a woman, her family, her doctor, and God.
- **Accessibility:** Marc believes healthcare is a human right. He supports the fight for a single-payer, Medicare-for-all insurance program. It's time we had a simple, easy-to-understand national health insurance system in place so we're all covered.
- **Affordability:** Marc believes that here in the US, we should not leave millions of people uninsured or struggling to afford their health insurance and prescription drugs, or to pay



for the care that their insurance doesn't cover. He will fight to protect and expand Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

- **Marijuana (Medical):** Marc believes medical marijuana should be legal, so we can ensure patients have access to the medicine they need.
[Texter note: Also see Recreational Marijuana]
- **Opioid Epidemic:** Marc believes too many people are dying and communities are being ripped apart due to an addiction epidemic created by Big Pharma. We must provide resources -- drug education programs for schools, NARCAN for police and first responders, and more funding for treatment facilities, nurses, and doctors.
 - Marc also believes we need to improve the way we use information technology as a first line of defense against over-prescribing and pharmacy-hopping. Most of all, it's going to take new leadership in Congress, because the opioid crisis is really a crisis of moral leadership.
- **Reproductive Rights:** Marc believes reproductive rights should not even be in question. In our country every person deserves to have proper access to health care.

HOUSING

- **Affordability:** Marc believes Americans deserve to have access to affordable housing. Raising the minimum wage and ensuring governmental agencies are in place to protect citizens will be priorities for Marc.
- **Homelessness:** Marc believes that in order to ensure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, we must offer certain governmental services to help the most vulnerable in our community, especially the homeless.

HUMAN RIGHTS / EQUALITY

- **LGBTQ Rights:** Marc opposes the proposed ban on transgender military service members, as well as all other attempts to deny legal recognition of marriage, healthcare benefits, or the ability to adopt to LGBTQ individuals. Our government should serve all of us equally. Marc is committed to upholding that principle as your representative in Congress.
- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Marc understands that our system is broken. Private prisons force local communities to jail people longer than needed. Rather than focusing on rehabilitation, our punishment-focused system creates a revolving door with an incredibly high recidivism rate. Marc wants to fix our system to focus more on rehabilitation rather than ineffective punishments.

IMMIGRATION

[BACK TO TOP](#)



- **DACA:** Marc supports DACA recipients and wants to ensure their protection.
- **Family Separation/Detention:** Marc does not support Trump's Family Separation policy and wants to see more humane treatment of individuals seeking asylum here.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Net Neutrality:** Unlike the current leadership in Congress, Marc will fight to overturn the FCC's disastrous decision to eliminate net neutrality protections, so we can always get access to the news and information we choose.
- **Repair & Modernization:** Marc knows our district is long overdue for modernization and repair to our infrastructure. Driving around our district, you see mostly county roads with low speed limits. This stalls growth and hurts our local economy.
- **Rural Broadband:** Marc believes rural Pennsylvania is falling behind the rest of the country in internet connectivity in terms of access, affordability, and speed. This is a top-priority issue for schools, farmers, and job creators. With Marc's background in internet technology, he knows that investing in infrastructure will create good-paying jobs, help kids stay ahead on schoolwork, and keep families in touch across generations.

LOCAL ISSUES

- **Agriculture:** Marc knows our family farms are struggling against low prices, competition from conglomerates, and bad policies that keep milk products out of schools and hospitals. Our farmers need a champion in Congress who can push through policies to make our farms profitable and help rural communities thrive.

PUBLIC SAFETY / LAW ENFORCEMENT

- **Gun Safety:** Marc respects the Second Amendment. He also supports common-sense solutions to gun violence including fixing our broken background check system, banning bump stocks, and investing in mental health treatment. Marc knows from traveling the district that there is a lot of common ground to build on.
- **Marijuana (Recreational):** Marc is in favor of legalizing and taxing recreational Marijuana, along with expunging low-level, nonviolent marijuana convictions.

VETERANS' ISSUES

- **VA Healthcare:** Marc believes our government promised to deliver healthcare, disability compensation, and other benefits to those who serve in our armed forces. Although not perfect, the VA is one of the best healthcare systems in the US. We need to invest in the VA so our veterans can get the benefits they earned.