

A Force Multiplier

I am not a lifelong democrat. I am a post-Reagan democrat. There's a difference. I look for the most qualified candidates running for office and support their candidacy. I pause briefly at party affiliation and then go about my research. I have never been a party-only button pusher. And I'm not going to be one now.

Wendi Thomas is the right person to represent all of us in the PA 178th District special election. This election is to fill the unexpired portion of the term of former republican State Representative Scott Petri, who reigned in December 2017 to become the head of the Philadelphia Parking Authority.

Thomas and her opponent are, at first blush, fairly evenly matched. Both are well-educated business women with a record of public service who seem committed to serve the constituents of the 178th. But that's where the similarities end.

Thomas's opponent is seemingly unable to distinguish federal issues from state issues. Her opponent's view on what a single state representative can accomplish are, frankly, unrealistic. Her reasons for running for the state legislature are more anti-republican than pro citizen.

The voters (and non-voters) in the 178th deserve more. This can't be an anti-Trump or pro-Trump election. Not now. Not here in Pennsylvania. Too many issues are at stake: public education, jobs for the 178th, infrastructure, pension reform, balanced state budget, and preservation of open space.

What we need now is a force multiplier. Not a force divider. We need a genuinely firm hand across the aisle. Not more isolated partisanship. We need someone with a proven track record of working with democrats and republicans on a myriad of issues involving 100's of millions of dollars.

If you want a pragmatic, collegial, fiscally-minded, public-education focused, healthcare awareness candidate then **Wendi Thomas is only the logical choice.** Regardless of your party affiliation.

Ed Mayer