

Candidate Statements for 2020 Pennsylvania Council Representative

Candidate: Tyler Kusma

Candidate Residence: South Abington

Candidate Status: Incumbent

Why are you interested in serving in a NARP/RPA Leadership Position?

I joined the Council over the summer because Pennsylvania had a vacancy and I wanted to make sure our commonwealth could speak with its strongest voice. Since that time, I have enjoyed my time on the Council and been active, but there is still more work to do. I want to make sure my region of Northeastern Pennsylvania continues to be represented at the state and regional level and also be a voice for those who are living in areas without passenger rail because the expansion of service is a critical component of the RPA's mission.

If elected to a Council position, what are the primary goals you personally would pursue?

From a rail advocacy standpoint, my primary goal is advocating for the restoration of passenger rail to Northeastern Pennsylvania. As a member of Council, I want to increase communication with the members in Pennsylvania and push for RPA to focus on the expansion of service in areas without.

What is your passenger rail advocacy experience?

I have focused on the restoration of passenger rail to the Northeastern Pennsylvania region, particularly through the restoration of the Lackawanna Cut-off. To support that end, I started the Scranton Rail Restoration Coalition earlier this year to push for the restoration of service and have a permanent grassroots group in support. As part of that, I have met with congressional offices and a Vice President of Amtrak. I joined the Rail Passengers Association about two years ago (my first year of college) and joined the Council of Representatives this summer.