Citizen Education Fund NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

NOVEMBER 4, 2025 Polls open 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.

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"A STEP AHEAD OF THE VOTE"

FOR ELECTION INFORMATION

Contact your county Board of Elections or visit www.VotesPA.com. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Information Center also provides election information. Call 717-234-1576 with any questions or go to www.Vote411.org.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The material in this Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund. This material may not be altered or reprinted without the permission of the League. Each candidate's reply has been printed as submitted. Candidates were invited to participate in the Vote411 online voters guide sponsored by the LWVPA-CEF via email. All reasonable efforts were made to encourage candidates to participate.

The candidates listed are those whose names appear on the ballot as of October 10, 2025. They are listed according to their party and then alphabetically.

Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement or non-endorsement of any candidate, party, or initiative by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund.

PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE LEAGUE

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan: it neither supports nor opposes any political parties or candidates.

PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTION

ABOUT THIS MEASURE

Judicial retention is a nonpolitical method of reelecting Pennsylvania judges. The merit retention provision of Pennsylvania's constitution allows all but magisterial district judges to be retained with a simple "yes" or "no" vote without ballot reference to political affiliation. This provision was designed to remove judges from the pressures of the political arena once they begin their first term of office.

Shall Christine Donahue be retained for an additional term as Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

YES NO

Shall Kevin M. Dougherty be retained for an additional term as Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

YES NO

Shall David Wecht be retained for an additional term as Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

YES

NO

PENNSYLVANIA JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Superior Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, established in 1895, reviews most of the civil and criminal cases that are appealed from the Courts of Common Pleas in the Commonwealth's 67 counties. The Superior Court consists of 15 judges. The president judge is elected to a five-year term by his/ her colleagues. A large number of appeals flow to the Superior Court from the trial courts. Generally, appeals are heard by panels of three judges sitting in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, or Pittsburgh. The court often is the final arbiter of legal disputes. Although the Supreme Court may grant a petition for review of a Superior Court decision, most

petitions are denied, and the ruling of the Superior Court stands.

Term: 10 years Base Salary: \$247,188 Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

BRANDON NEUMAN COUNTY: Washington

OCCUPATION: Judge of the Court of Common Pleas

EDUCATION: University of Richmond BA in Criminal Justice. Duquesne University
Kline School of Law - Juris Doctorate
QUALIFICATIONS: 8th year as a JudgePresiding over Family, Civil, Criminal and
Veteran's Court -Sheriff & Deputy Sheriff
Education and Training Board. PA House
of Representatives. Served on House
Judiciary Committee, Commission on
Crime Delinquency, and PA Commission on
Sentencing -Former Trial Lawyer

Q. What process would you follow to be fair and impartial in reviewing and evaluating opposing positions in evaluating a case?

A. Part of the reason I was Highly Recommended by the PA Bar Association was that my colleagues indicated I have a high level of integrity, treat all individuals fairly, and is patient with all persons who appear before me. I will not have any preconceived opinions prior to having

appear before me. I will not have any preconceived opinions prior to having heard all of the information. I have a proven record as a judge of patiently listening to each party and applying the law equally and appropriately. I understand that parties deserve and expect an impartial ruling that follows the law. Once a case is properly presented to the PA Superior Court, each party is entitled to be heard as the law allows. I am the best candidate for the PA Superior Court based on my unique experiences and proven record as a judge.

REPUBLICAN

MARIA BATTISTA COUNTY: Clarion

OCCUPATION: Executive/Attorney EDUCATION: 2 undergraduate degrees: Elementary Education, Speech Communication & Theatre, Clarion University, B.S.; Westminster College, M.Ed.; Ohio Northern University, J.D.; University of Pittsburgh, Ed.D.

QUALIFICATIONS: 15+ years experience in Civil, Criminal and Administrative Law; Former Assistant District Attorney; Former Attorney with the Governor Corbett Administration; Served as an Administrative Hearing Officer where I presided over hundreds of hearings and issued hundreds of administrative decisions.

Q. What process would you follow to be fair and impartial in reviewing and evaluating opposing positions in evaluating a case?

A. The Superior Court is one of two intermediate appellate courts in PA. The Superior Court is responsible for appeals in criminal and most civil cases from the Courts of Common Pleas. This court is also responsible for appeals involving children and families. When a matter is appealed to the Superior Court, it is the role of the judges assigned to the case to review the record from the lower court along with the issue or issues on appeal. Each case has opposing positions/parties. Each case should be fairly and impartially evaluated by the judges based on the specific facts, law and if applicable, the constitution. It is not the role of the court or any judge to legislate from the bench.

PENNSYLVANIA JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Commonwealth Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, established in 1968, is unlike any other state court in the nation. Its jurisdiction generally is limited to legal matters involving state and local government and regulatory agencies. Litigation typically focuses on subjects such as banking, insurance, utility regulation, and laws affecting taxation, land use, elections,

labor practices, and workers compensation. The Commonwealth Court also acts as a court of original jurisdiction, or a trial court, when lawsuits are filed by or against the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Court is made up of nine judges. The president judge is elected to a five-year term by his/her colleagues. Generally, appeals are heard by panels of three judges sitting in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, or Pittsburgh.

Term: 10 years Base Salary: \$247,188 Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

STELLA TSAI

COUNTY: Philadelphia

OCCUPATION: Judge, Court of Common

Pleas

EDUCATION: B.A. - Pennsylvania State University J.D. - University of Pennsylvania QUALIFICATIONS: My 35 plus years of experience in law and the judiciary have equipped me with the skills and insights necessary to address the complex social, economic, and governmental issues facing our Commonwealth.

Q. What process would you follow to be fair and impartial in reviewing and evaluating opposing positions in evaluating a case?

A. My job requires me to act impartially and to treat all parties with respect. I want all parties to feel that they are on a level playing field. I do my best to put the parties at ease and allow them to have a free and fair opportunity to present their case, including language access, and that parties receive what they recognize to be due process under the law.

REPUBLICAN

MATT WOLFORD

COUNTY: Erie

OCCUPATION: Attorney

EDUCATION: Undergraduate degree: Penn State; Juris Doctorate degree: Temple University School of Law

QUALIFICATIONS: 38 years of relevant experience in government and private sectors, including Commonwealth Court hearings and appeals; ranked "Highly Recommended" by the PA Bar Association; see website for additional details.

Q. What process would you follow to be fair and impartial in reviewing and evaluating opposing positions in evaluating a case?

For this response, I assume that the Commonwealth Court is acting in its capacity as an appellate court. In my view, appellate courts should be "hot" courts, meaning that prior to oral argument, judges should become versed in the legal arguments presented. This requires reading the opening, response, and reply briefs; and, to the extent indicated by the arguments, reviewing portions of the reproduced record. Timely preparation allows judges to take advantage of the opportunity to ask unbiased, intelligent questions at oral argument. During oral argument, judges should treat all counsel with dignity and respect; and should be mindful of the extraordinary expenditure of time, effort, and resources required to appear before the Court.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH COURT JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTION

Shall Michael H. Wojcik be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Commonwealth Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF THE COMMON PLEAS

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Court of Common Pleas is the general trial court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Term: 10 years Base Salary: \$227,411 Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

MARK BUFALINO COUNTY: Luzerne

QUALIFICATIONS: Throughout my career, I have tried approximately 30 jury trials and litigated a wide variety of cases, including complex criminal, civil, zoning, municipal and labor law cases. I believe I possess the knowledge and experience to serve as the next Judge of the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED: I have practiced in various counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including all appellate courts. I have also litigated many cases in federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. Regardless of the type of case, I have been — and remain — dedicated to the rule of law. That will be my overriding priority.

REPUBLICAN

TOM MOSCA

Candidate has not responded.

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Luzerne County Council is the legislative body governing Luzerne County and providing direction to its operation of providing service and protection to the citizens of Luzerne County. Council is composed of 11 members.

Term: 4 years **Base Salary:** \$8,000 per annum *Vote for no more than FIVE.*

DEMOCRAT

CHRIS BELLES

MUNICIPALITY: Luzerne County QUALIFICATIONS: I was born and raised in Luzerne County, and I know the challenges we face here. I have a particular set of leadership skills that I've acquired in my career that will help me make Luzerne County government more efficient, organized, and competitive so that our families are better served.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED: For my whole life, most of the challenges in Luzerne County were caused by economic decline and underdevelopment. This campaign is about building a better future for Luzerne County. My biggest priority will be partnering with municipalities, businesses, and labor to attract investment into Luzerne County so that we can have more highpaying jobs, improve our infrastructure, and build more homes. We have much untapped potential here, and we need to be developing the county intelligently. We are going to make life better for working people so that more of our families, friends, and neighbors can stay here, build lives here, and share in life's joys with us in Luzerne County. Simply put, the Belles campaign is about more money in your pocket.

STEVEN M. COSLETT
MUNICIPALITY: Forty Fort
QUALIFICATIONS: As a 23-year
employee of Luzerne County Corrections, I
served as a union steward and went through
5 contract negotiations, and previously was
the foreman of a million-dollar company
where one of my positions was in sales and
finance.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED: Infrastructure issues: Get our bridges repaired and replaced

Opioid crisis: We must put people in place who have the knowledge to better treat the problem, not just treat the symptoms. RCO: This ordinance will lead to a better product and local labor being used in Luzerne County.

Communication: There has been a longstanding gap in communication from elected officials and the public, we must be available not only in the Council chambers but be available to get answers they need. Correctional Facility: There has been little to no oversight at the County Prison for many years, there are safety and personnel issues that waste taxpayer money and must be addressed ASAP.

Budget and Finance: To continue responsible management of taxpayer dollars

TONY PERZIA

Candidate has not responded.

DAWN SIMMONS

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a U.S. Air Force Veteran that served with distinction both stateside and abroad. My military service shaped my leadership skills, resilience, and unwavering commitment to public service. I am a local realtor and community advocate with strong ties to Luzerne County. PRIORITIES IF ELECTED: My priorities are economic growth, infrastructure development, accessible housing, environmental protections, and transparent leadership that works together to better our local community.

DENISE WILLIAMS

QUALIFICATIONS: Have served community through roles in healthcare, education & civic engagement: R.N. - CEO's Home Help Program Coordinator, Religious Education, Saint Therese's Church, Shavertown Step by Step - Community Support Specialist.

Luzerne County Fair Districts/PA Chair, Luzerne County Board of Elections **PRIORITIES IF ELECTED:** As a County Council member, I will focus on:

- Responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars
- Eliminating waste and inefficiency
- Open and transparent governanceDelivering high-quality county services
- Long-term, responsible planning
- Accountability to all residents especially seniors and those on fixed
- Enhancing overall quality of life to make Luzerne County a great place to live, work, and raise a family

To every resident of Luzerne County, I pledge to do my homework on every issue, listen carefully, speak up when it matters, and always put the people first. I believe in doing what's right—every time.

REPUBLICAN

JOHN LOMBARDO MUNICIPALITY: Pittston City

QUALIFICATIONS: I am a fulltime Firefighter/EMT for the City of Pittston and currently serve as the Chair of County Council. I have extensive experience through my tenure on Council with contract negotiations, collective bargaining, managing and passing a fiscally responsible County Budget, and crisis management. **PRIORITIES IF ELECTED:** If re-elected, my goals will be to continue focusing on the future of Luzerne County, and how our government can work for all 76 municipalities. I would like to maintain a positive working relationship with our County Manager, Romilda Crocamo, and her administration. I believe that the interplay between our branches of government is one of the most crucial aspects of success. My top priorities this time around would be:

- Maintaining fiscal responsibility while paying off our county debt
- Supporting our Veterans and Seniors by Reviving the Homestead Tax Exemption
- Streamlining county services, while increasing their effectiveness for our residents
- Continuing to attract economic growth to the area
- Increasing Election Integrity.

JACKIE SCARCELLA
MUNICIPALITY: Hazle Township
QUALIFICATONS: I am a lifelong
Luzerne County resident and live in Hazle

PROBLEMS

Report an election issue by calling: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)

1-888-API-VOTE

(Asian multilingual assistance) 1-844-YALLA-US (Arabic) Twp. 23 years in finance, two terms on the Hazleton Area School Board (VP 2019–20), Penn State Hazleton Development and Alumni Stewardship Officer, committed to fiscal responsibility, transparency, low taxes, and principled leadership.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED:

Fiscal Responsibility

Leverage my 23 years in finance to ensure prudent budgeting, reduce wasteful spending, and align county expenditures with resident needs.

Taxpayer Protection

Advocate for low taxes and oppose unnecessary tax increases, ensuring that county resources are used efficiently and effectively.

Election Integrity

Support measures like photo ID requirements and paper ballots to enhance transparency and trust in our electoral process.

Community Health & Safety Collaborate with local agencies to combat the opioid epidemic and improve public health initiatives.

Infrastructure Improvement Prioritize investments in roads, bridges, and public facilities to foster economic growth and improve quality of life.

BRIAN THORNTON

MUNICIPALITY: West Pittston, PA QUALIFICAITONS: Four years on Luzerne County Council, 11 years on West Pittston Borough Council (6 as Council President), BS Mechanical Engineering Lehigh University, 8 Years in heavy highway and bridge construction in New York City/New Jersey metro region, 30 years in banking, financial services and investments.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED: I will work closely with Republicans and Democrats to achieve the following:

• Strive for no tax increases (I have not voted for a tax increase in 4 years) yet continue to deliver top level services for our county residents. Eliminate all county debt by 2030 (currently on track). Repair and replace critical roads, bridges, and infrastructure across the county.

Confront nepotism at every level of county government.

• Promote and encourage transparency with our county issues at all times. Continue to advocate for our vulnerable children and seniors through support of our departments of Children & Youth, Agency on Aging, and Mental Health services. Finally, I will aggressively confront and combat the opioid crisis.

STEPHEN J. URBAN

MUNICIPALITY: Kingston Borough QUALIFICATIONS: Corporate operations and business experience to be frugal with tax dollars. Technologically savvy to recommend solutions to manual processes to save time. Dedicated and experienced trusted public leader. Makes tough decisions when serving as a County Council Member, holding people accountable.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED:

Vote against initiatives that aren't taxpayer friendly. I will not vote for any budgets that contain tax increases or exorbitant pay increases for County Management. Will support initiatives to bring back paper ballots i.e. election integrity. Continue a track record to invest in infrastructure and capital projects such as roads and bridges. Assist business growth. Sponsor an ordinance to revive the Homestead Exemption. Encourage that we appoint qualified and good people on our County's Authorities, Boards and Commissions. Work to continue to satisfactorily fund the District Attorney's office to support law and order. Hold other County Council Member and County Management accountable to you, the great citizens of Luzerne County.

GREG WOLOVICH

Candidate has not responded.

LUZERNE COUNTY CONTROLLER

JOB DESCRIPTION

The County Controller shall serve as an independent watchdog over County fiscal and management activities.

Term: 4 years Base Salary: \$64,999 Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

TIM MCGINLEY

QUALIFICATIONS: Served 12 years on Luzerne County Council. Chair of Council Budget, Audit and Finance Committee. Consulted and cooperative the third party County auditors.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED: To review all financials transactions of county government. Provide complete reports to county administration. Note any issue and provide recommendations to remedy any issues.

REPUBLICAN

WALTER L GRIFFITHS

QUALIFICATIONS: I am the currently elected Luzerne County Controller and have been involved in Luzerne County Government for over 15 years. In 2018 I was elected to the position of Luzerne County Council and served for 2 years as a County Councilperson. In 2009 I was elected to the position of County Controller.

PRIORITIES IF ELECTED: The priorities of the County Controller is to be the constant overseer of county operations and report any problems or concerns to the County Administration or County Council. My priorities are to be the "Watchdog of the residents of Luzerne County" and always be working to make our county officials as accountable and efficient as possible. The independence, audit ability and unrestricted access of my office to all county information provides me with the ability to continue my work with the administration. My priorities are to always serve the people first as their representative and protect their hard earned tax dollars by conducting the required audits of county funds and oversight on county operations. This is the most important function.

WRITE-IN VOTING

Information for write-in voting will be available at the polling place.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE WILKES-BARRE AREA

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The League of Women Voters of the Wilkes-Barre Area is a nonpartisan organization that promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. Membership is open to any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League. New members welcome anytime. While the League of Women Voters has made every effort to ensure that the information provided to us by the candidate is typed properly in this guide and it will not be liable for damages arising out of error, deletion or omission.

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Online Voters Guide:

The Vote411 Online Voters Guide is available at www.vote411.org. Useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania homepage: www.palwv.org. This Voters Guide is available on the League of Women Voters of the Wilkes-Barre Area homepage: lwvwba.org.