



Citizen Education Fund **NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE**

PRIMARY ELECTION

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

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(Information obtained from Vote411.org and from candidates.)

CAMPAIGN
“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 Judge-Presiding 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 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?
YES NO

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 high-paying 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 governance
- Delivering high-quality county services
- Long-term, responsible planning
- Accountability to all residents—especially seniors and those on fixed incomes
- 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
QUALIFICATIONS: I am a lifelong Luzerne County resident and live in Hazle

ELECTION DAY
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)

