



League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund
NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE
2015 Municipal Primary Election May 19, 2015
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(information received from candidates by April 29, 2015)

Polls open 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.

This Voters Guide may be taken into the voting booth.

FOR ELECTION INFORMATION

Contact your county Board of Elections. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Information Center also provides election information. CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-692-7281

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, except to use standard abbreviations and by editing from the bottom when a candidate's reply exceeded the word limit. The candidates listed are those whose names appear on the ballot as of March 25, 2015. They are listed according to their ballot order. Additional information about judicial candidates and voter information including "Polling Place Lookup" can be found by going to www.vote411.org and typing in your address and zip code.

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

ABSENTEE VOTING

Registered voters who are ill, disabled, or will be absent from the municipality on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot. Completed applications for civilian absentee ballots must be received by the county Board of Elections by 5 P.M., Tuesday, May 12, 2015. Completed civilian absentee ballots must be received back at the Board of Elections by 5 P.M. on Friday, May 15, 2015. If an emergency arises (unexpected illness or business trip) after the Tuesday application deadline, call your county Board of Elections for information on emergency absentee voting. Proof of emergency may be required. An emergency application and ballot can be obtained and voted by 5 P.M. on Friday, May 15, 2015. Any disabled voter having questions regarding the accessibility of a polling place should consult the county Board of Elections.

WRITE-IN VOTING

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

ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS

If your right to vote is challenged at the polls on Election Day and the problem cannot be resolved at the polling place, the judge of elections at the polling place should telephone the county Board of Elections. The problem could be resolved by phone if your name appears on the county records. If it does not and you want to try to resolve the problem, then you can go in person to the county Board of Elections where a judge from the Court of Common Pleas will be on duty to resolve election problems. Alternatively you can ask for and vote by provisional ballot. If it is later determined that you were eligible to vote your ballot will be counted. You will be given instructions on how to determine if your vote was counted.

IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW VOTERS

If you are a new voter or if you are voting at a polling place for the first time then you must bring your voter ID card or a photo ID such as a driver's license, student ID or some other form of Federal or State government issued ID. Some forms of non-photo ID are also acceptable such as a firearm permit, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check. If you do not have any acceptable ID then you must be allowed to vote by provisional ballot.

ON-LINE VOTERS GUIDE

The Voters Guide and other useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania homepage: www.palwv.org

Judicial elections occur in odd-numbered years. Justices and judges may serve an unlimited number of terms until they reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 and are retained or re-elected by the voters. Vacancies that exist before an election may be filled by gubernatorial appointment until an election is held. These selections are subject to Senate confirmation.

10 Year Term

Appellate court jurists
Courts of Common Pleas judges

6 Year Term

Magisterial district judges
Philadelphia Municipal Courts judges

QUESTIONS ASKED OF ALL JUDICIAL CANDIDATES:

- 1. Do you agree with the plurality opinion's interpretation of Article 1, Section 27 of the state constitution as stated in the Robinson Township case of December 2013? If not, why not?**
- 2. Do you agree that the plain English language meaning of the amendment should be the basis for construing it?**

CERTIFICATION NOTE

As of the publication date of this guide, the slate of candidates listed below is accurate based upon the Pennsylvania Department of State's Bureau of Elections unofficial ballot.

JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the Commonwealth and the oldest appellate court in the nation. The Supreme Court's administrative powers and jurisdictional responsibilities are vested with the seven-member court by the Pennsylvania State Constitution and a collection of statutes known as the Judicial Code. Administratively, the courts within the Unified Judicial System are largely responsible for organizing their own staff and dockets; however, the Supreme Court has several committees and boards responsible for writing and enforcing rules for judges, attorneys, and litigants to ensure an efficient and fair judicial review. Annually, the seven justices receive over 3,000 requests for appellate review. **Term: 10 years—Salary \$203,409—Vote for not more than 3**

Democratic

David Wecht—Pittsburgh, PA Indiana Township



Web Address: <http://www.wecht2015.com>

D.O.B.: 5/20/1962

Education: 1984, Yale University, B.A., summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa; 1987 Yale Law School, J.D.

Occupation: Judge, Pennsylvania Superior Court (elected January 2011)

Qualifications: Judge, Allegheny Common Pleas (2003-2011) Family Division Administrator; Allegheny Register of Wills (1998-2003); Vice Chair, Pennsylvania Democratic Party (1998-2001); “Highly Recommended,” Pennsylvania Bar Association

Answer to Questions: I believe that laws are neither static, nor talismanic. While a reasonable jurist must read the text of the amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution plainly and with common sense, I believe that laws, and more specifically judicial interpretation of those laws, must be allowed to evolve within our common law system.

Christine Donohue, Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co.



Web Address: <http://donohueforjustice.com>

D.O.B.: 12.24.1952

Education: 1974, East Stroudsburg University, B.A.; 1980, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: Superior Court Judge

Qualifications: 27 years practicing law; Superior Court Judge, 2008-present; Highly recommended, Pennsylvania Bar Association. Served Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline, Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania, Lawyer Disciplinary Board of Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.

Answer to Questions: In my opinion the Robinson Township plurality’s discussion of the Environmental Rights Amendment is well-researched and based upon a convincing recitation of the historical basis for its passage. Because the analysis is the basis of a three justice plurality decision and the author and one of the joining justices are no longer on the court on which I hope to serve, it would be improper for me to express my agreement or disagreement with the analysis. This is by definition an open question of the law which is likely to again be presented to the Supreme Court. **Question 2:** For the reasons stated in my first answer, I do not believe that I can respond to this question. I note, however that it is well established in the law that the “touchstone” of constitutional interpretation is the actual language of the constitution and it must be interpreted in its popular sense. As the Robinson Township plurality opinion explains, the ultimate goal of constitutional interpretation is to determine the intent of the voters who ratified the constitutional provision.

Kevin M. Dougherty, Newtown, Philadelphia, PA



Web Address: <http://www.doughertyforpa.com>

D.O.B.: 5/19/1963

Education: 1985, Temple University, B.A.; 1987, Antioch School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: Administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Trial Div.

Qualifications: Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia (6 years); Partner, Marino & Dougherty LLP (6 years); Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas (13 years); Administrative Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Family Division (9 years).

Answer to Questions: I agree with the plurality opinion’s interpretation of the Environmental Rights Amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution. I agree with the determination that this legal dispute, in essence, sought vindication of the citizens’ rights to the quality of life on their properties and in their communities, and that insofar as the broadly granted zoning rights to the oil and gas industry attendant to Act 13 threatened the quality of air and water, as well as the health and safety of citizens and the quiet enjoyment of their own private property, the challenged sections of the Act violated the Environmental Rights Amendment. **Question 2:** Yes, the plurality opinion makes clear that the Court employed the plain language of the Amendment as the basis for construing its provisions. The plurality correctly determined that the Amendment granted individual citizens the environmental rights to clean air and pure water, and to the preservation of natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. The plurality properly held that the people, including generations to come, hold common ownership of public natural resources, which the state holds in trust. The plurality properly reviewed the legislative history to conclude that the Amendment’s provisions were intended to be broadly applicable.

John Henry Foradora, Brockway, PA Jefferson Co.

Web Address: <http://www.voteforadora.com>



D.O.B.: 5/27/1966

Education: 1988, Juniata College, B.A. History/Political Science; 1991, University of Notre Dame Law School J.D.

Occupation: President Judge of Jefferson Court of Common Pleas

Qualifications: 1991-1992, Law Clerk; 1992-2002, General Practice; 1992-2002, Trial Attorney; 1992-2002, Municipal Solicitor; 2002-present, President Judge, Officer in the State Conference of trial Judges elected by all Judges in PA.

Answer to Questions: Yes. Question 2: Yes

Anne E. Lazarus, Philadelphia, PA-Philadelphia Borough

Web Address: <http://www.VoteAnneLazarus.com>



D.O.B.: 11/12/1952

Education: 1972, SUNY Stony Brook, B.A.; 1976, Temple University, Beasley Law School of Law, J.D.; 1986, Temple University, Beasley School of Law, LL.M.

Occupation: Superior Court Judge

Qualifications: Pennsylvania Judge; Trial-19 years; Superior Court-5 years; Highest Recommendation, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations. 2-year expertise in Judicial Ethics.

Answer to Questions: I believe that all of the petitioners have standing and that a political question was not presented. I think that the concurring opinion of Justice Baer, in deciding this matter on a substantive due process basis is more in keeping with my judicial philosophy and that it was not necessary for the majority to sweep with so broad a brush. Nevertheless, this plurality opinion certainly puts Pennsylvania at the forefront of the environmental law spectrum and will have significant implications for many years to come. It will require lawyers,

municipalities and legislators to reconsider positions re: Article 1 Section 27, in the light of the pronouncements by the plurality. **Question 2:** I agree that interpretation of amendment begins with the plain meaning of the amendment. Like so many other constructions in law, if we can give meaning to the wording as written, we should not look to outside sources for interpretation. Only if we were to determine that the amendment is ambiguous, would we look to outside sources for clarification. This is hornbook law.

Dwayne D. Woodruff, Pittsburgh, PA-McCandless

Web Address: <http://www.judgedwaynewoodruff.com>



D.O.B.: 2/18/1957

Education: 1979, University of Louisville, B.S. Finance; 1988, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

Qualifications: Pennsylvania Judicial Leader for 10 years—Co-Chair, Allegheny County Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice; Member Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice; Member National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; Vice Chair, Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee; Chair, Pittsburgh SAFE (Shared Accountability for Education) Workgroup; Member, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission; Co-Chair, National Campaign to Stop Violence.

Answer to Questions: Yes, the Commonwealth includes the local municipalities. The local municipalities have not only the authority, but the responsibility to conserve and protect their region “for the benefit of all the people.” The local governments have the authority to regulate, not only because they are granted that authority in the Pennsylvania Constitution, but because as a policy concern, the local municipalities are the entities best equipped to make decisions regarding their own local environment and factors that might affect their land and air quality.

Question 2: Yes, absolutely. See previous response.

Republican

Correale Stevens, Conyngham, PA-Dorrance Twp.



Web Address: <http://www.facebook.com/justicestevensforsupremecourt>

D.O.B.: 10/06/1946

Education: 1968, Penn State, B.A. Political Science; 1972, Dickinson School of Law, J.D. (Law Review)

Occupation: Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice

Qualifications: Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives; Luzerne County District Attorney; Trial Judge on Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County; Superior Court Judge, 15 years (President Judge 2 ½ years), Supreme Court Justice 2013 until current year.

Answer to Questions: This case was argued in the Supreme Court before I became a Justice and decided without my participation. Based on the fact that I would be offering my personal thought on a decision made by my current colleagues, without having read the legal briefs or hearing the oral argument, I cannot comment. Since the Constitutional Convention in 1968 no member of the Supreme Court has ever been in my situation in that as a current Judge I am running in contested election, not for yes/no retention, and I must be careful not to engage the Court in my campaign. **Question 2:** As a general rule I support plain English interpretations. Please see my answer to Question 1.

Anne Covey, New Hope, PA—Upper Makefield



Web Address: <http://www.coveyforjustice.com>

D.O.B. 11/04/1959

Education: 1984, Widener University School of Law, J.D.; 1981, University of Delaware, B.A.

Occupation: Judge of the Commonwealth Court

Qualifications: Judge of the Commonwealth Court, 3 years; Board Member, Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (first woman to serve on the board), 9 years; Attorney in private practice, 27 years.

Answer to Questions: Judges should follow the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions faithfully. The legislative and executive branches enact the laws and judges interpret those laws. I believe we must strike a balance between local control and uniform policy across the state. We must also work for a healthy environment while allowing for investment and job creation. Developing the policies to achieve these aims is the responsibility of the legislative and executive branch, not the judiciary. **Question 2:** I believe in interpreting the law as written and ensuring all amendments are consistent with our fundamental Constitutional rights.

Rebecca Warren, Danville, PA—Valley Township



Web Address: Facebook: Rebecca Warren for Supreme Court Justice

D.O.B.: 11/26/1966

Education: 1991, Dickinson School of Law, J.D.; 1988, Bloomsburg University, B.S.

Occupation: Montour County District Attorney

Qualifications: 24 years as an attorney-both civil and criminal prosecution experience; 7+ years, District Attorney/Assistant District Attorney

Answer to Questions: As a judicial candidate, I do not believe it is appropriate for me to comment on this case, particularly considering the fact that this was a plurality rather than a majority decision, the Supreme Court remanded the case for further consideration, and similar issues are being addressed in various forums. **Question 2:** This question requires a judicial candidate to render a decision with regard to Article 1, Section 27 in the context of this case, which I believe is prohibited by the ethical rules. A judge is to be independent, impartial, and avoid actions which would lead to disqualification.

Mike George, Gettysburg, PA—Cumberland Township



Web Address: <http://www.judgemikegeorge.com>

D.O.B.: 2/25/1959

Education: 1981, Washington & Jefferson, B.A.; 1985, Dickinson School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: President Judge, 51st Judicial District Court of Common Pleas (Adams Co.)

Qualifications: 10 years general practice; 6 years District Attorney; 15+ years as trial judge; Recognized by the PA Conference of State Trial Judges for significant contribution to the legal system.

Answer to Questions: As my interpretation of Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution based upon the factual scenario present in the Robinson Township case involves issues which may, in the future, be revisited by the Supreme

Court, I believe I am ethically prohibited from direct comment on your specific question. Personally, I am concerned with the language in the plurality opinion's interpretation which improperly elevates the Court to a legislative and policy making body. **Question 2:** The amendment should be interpreted based upon its actual language as understood by those at the time of adoption.

Cheryl Allen, Allison Park, Hampton Township

No response

Judy Olson, Wexford, PA—Franklin Park

Web Address: <http://electjudgejudy.com>

D.O.B.: 10/1957

Education: 1979, St. Francis University, B.A. Magna Cum Laude; 1982, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D. (Class Rank-2/91)

Occupation: Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania

Qualifications: Judge of Superior Court, 5 years; Judge of Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, 1 year; Practicing Attorney, 26 years; Highly Recommended by Pennsylvania Bar Association .

Answer to Questions: As a sitting judge, I do not believe that it is appropriate for me to comment on whether I agree or disagree with a decision rendered by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, especially since there may be future litigation involving the Act at issue. **Question 2:** I believe that a judge must always strictly construe the plain language of constitutional amendments and statutes in interpreting the law.



JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT JOB DESCRIPTION

The Superior Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, which was 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 who serve 10-year terms. The president judge of Superior Court is elected to a five-year term by his or her colleagues. A huge volume of appeals flow to 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 such petitions are denied and the ruling of the Superior Court stands.

Term: 10 years—Salary: \$191,926-(Vote for 1)

Democratic

Alice Beck Dubow, Philadelphia, PA—Philadelphia

Web Address: <http://www.judgealicedubow.com>

D.O.B.: 3/25/1959

Education: University of Pennsylvania, B.S.1981; University of Pennsylvania School of Law, J.D. 1984

Occupation: Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County

Qualifications: Trial Court Judge, 8 years; Lawyer, 2 years

Answer to Questions: The Code of Judicial Ethics prohibits me from expressing a view that would indicate how I would rule on a case and unfortunately, a specific answer to that question would require me to make such a statement.



Robert Colville, Pittsburgh, PA—Ross Township

Campaign Website: <http://www.judgecolvilleforsuperiorcourt.com>

D.O.B: 8/3/65

Education: 1989, PSU, B.S; 1992, Duquesne, J.D.

Occupation: Judge

Qualifications: Only Candidate Highly Recommended by PA Bar; Endorsed by PA AFL-CIO; 16th year Trial Judge; 3 years Statewide Court of Judicial Discipline; 7 years President/Officer PA State Trial Judges; 4 years Ethics Committee; 7 years Juvenile Court Rules Committee; PA Supreme Court Law Clerk; Lawyer.

Answer to Question: I agree with the plurality decision as I understand it. (This reservation is of no small moment. As intimated in the Opinion, it remains to be seen how broadly, and in what specific factual contexts the holding will be applied over time). I agree that as a general proposition, in the absence of



indications to the contrary, constitutional and legislative language should be afforded its plain meaning, in order to carry out the collective will of the people. The constitutional language of Article I, Section 27 plainly creates a trust protecting the environment for the benefit of future Pennsylvanians.

Republican

Emil Giordano, Bethlehem, PA—Hanover Township



Web Address: <http://www.emilgiordanoforjudge.com>

D.O.B.: 11/08/1959

Education: 1982 Moravian College, B.A.; 1985, Villanova University School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County

Qualifications: Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 2003-present

Answer to Questions: I do not believe it is appropriate to answer this question.

JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Commonwealth Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, which was 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 such subjects as banking, insurance and utility regulation and laws affecting taxation, land use, elections, labor practices and workers compensation. 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 who serve 10-year terms. The president judge is chosen by his or her colleagues for a five-year term. The court generally decides cases in three-judge panels and sits in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

Term: 10 years—Salary \$191,926-(Vote for 1)

Democratic

Todd Eagen, Dunmore, PA—Dunmore Township



Web Address: <http://toddeagen.com>

D.O.B.: 9/13/1967

Education: 1996, Dickinson School of Law, J.D.; 1990, Point Park University B.A.

Occupation: Attorney

Qualifications: 1996-1997, Law Clerk, Federal Judge William J. Nealon; 1997-

2004, Associate Attorney, Robert D. Miriani, P.C.; 2004 to present, Partner, Lightman, Welby & Stoltenberg, LLC, represent Pennsylvania State Troopers Association and Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association and various other unions.

Answer to Questions: Yes. As the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held, Article I, Section 27 does not serve merely as a source of authority to justify legislative action, but affirmatively creates “an obligation on the government’s behalf to refrain from unduly

infringing upon or violating the (environmental) right(s) including by legislative enactment or executive action.” **Question 2:** Yes, Constitutional interpretation, as the plurality wrote, must begin with the plain language of Article I, Section 27 itself. When the words of the Constitution or legislation are clear, they must be applied because the intention of the drafters should not be denied.

Michael Wojcik, Pittsburgh, PA—Fox Chapel Borough



Web Address: www.wojcikforjudge.com

D.O.B.: 9/24/1964

Education: 1986, Juniata College; 1989, Pitt Law School, cum laude

Occupation: Senior Counsel, Clark Hill PLC

Qualifications: Municipal practice; Member, University of Pittsburgh Law Review, Vols. 49 and 50; Solicitorships: Allegheny County Controller (2000-2003); Allegheny County Airport Authority (2012-present); Bar Ratings: “Recommended” (PBA); “Highly Recommended” (ACBA).

Answer to Questions: Ethical rules prohibit judicial candidates from expressing an opinion on matters that could come before the candidate, if successful. Because Robinson Township is plurality opinion, it is particularly concerning as its precedential value is dubious. I can comment, however that Robinson Township sets out “foundational principles” concerning Article 1, Section 27 that Commonwealth Court is bound to consider in the future. **Question 2:** Yes, unless the result of applying the plain meaning would be cruel or absurd.

Republican

Paul Lalley, Pittsburgh, PA—Upper St. Clair Twp.



Campaign Website: <http://www.lalley4judge.com>

D.O.B.: 9/22/1970

Education: 1993; B.A. University of Pennsylvania; 1996 Dickinson School of Law of the PA State University, J.D.

Occupation: Senior Associate Attorney-Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo & Miller, P.C. Pittsburgh, PA

Qualifications: District Attorney, 8 years; awarded for leadership by PA Bar Association—Recommended rating; Allegheny County Bar Association—Highly Recommended Rating.

Answer to Question: I must decline to answer these questions because to do so would violate my duties under the Code of Judicial Conduct