



League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund
NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE
2015 Municipal Election November 3, 2015
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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: 1-800-564-6598.

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 September 14, 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, October 27, 2015. Completed civilian absentee ballots must be received back at the Board of Elections by 5 P.M. on Friday, October 30, 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, October 30, 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. At the end of a term, a Judge can be retained (or not) 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 Court
judges

QUESTIONS ASKED OF ALL JUDICIAL CANDIDATES:

- 1. What is the most pressing reform needed in the Judicial System? How will you work to achieve these reforms?**
- 2. What are your top three priorities if elected?**

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

Answers to Questions: Question 1 I am the only candidate for the Supreme Court of PA who has

proposed a comprehensive ethics and transparency, recommending: 1) an end to all judicial gifts – It is high time that all such gifts (from trinkets to golf outings) be banned to promote confidence in our judiciary. 2) An end to judicial nepotism – Notwithstanding recent actions by our Supreme Court, my proposal would end nepotism in this generation, not future ones. 3) Requiring judges to respond to all recusal requests. Judges should act with an abundance of caution. To that end, I recommend that all PA judges be required to state their reasons on the record for granting or denying such requests. 4) Place cameras in all PA Courtrooms: such monitoring would permit citizens to see what judges are doing in their name and on their dime. 5) Mandatory ethics training for judicial candidates: There is a need to instruct prospective judges in the ethical requirements that they must uphold. **Question 2** If elected to the PA Supreme Court, my top priorities are 1) Working diligently and daily to safeguard the rights of Pennsylvanians guaranteed by the Constitution. I am dedicated to ensuring that the privileges and protection of our society are made equally available to all of our Commonwealth citizens.

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.

Answers to Questions: Question 1 Improve the quality of representation for indigent defendants in the criminal justice system. There are too few public defenders and conflict counsel to meet the needs of indigent citizens accused of crimes. Too often a defendant first meets his attorney right before trial or hearing, which is the same time the attorney first sees the defendant's case files. Justice cannot be served under these circumstances. Court administrators should be required to transmit the case file to appointed counsel in a timely way and note this on the docket. In those cases where the file has not been transmitted in time for a meaningful consultation with the client, continuance of the proceedings should be granted as a matter of right. Public defenders and conflict counsel should be required to take at least six credits of continuing legal education credits in courses designed by the Supreme Court for the defense bar.

Question 2 A. Restore integrity and dignity to the Supreme Court. **B.** Write opinions that are clear and concise in their analysis and holdings so that lawyers, judges and the public can readily understand the impact of the decision and the rules to follow in future cases. **C.** With the goal of depoliticizing the internal workings of the Court, collaborate with other Justices and develop and publish operating procedures on the administrative functions of the Supreme Court. For example, develop and publish guidelines for the Supreme Court appointments of administrative judges in Allegheny and Philadelphia counties. Currently there are no such published guidelines.

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)

Reply to Questions not received.

Republican

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.

Answers to Questions: Question 1 I see the greatest challenge as restoring public confidence in the Law and our Courts, and ensuring equal access to the Courts. I believe the entire legal profession, judges and lawyers, needs to rededicate itself to acting with integrity, ethics and professionalism. I believe lawyers and judges need to more faithfully follow the laws we have and forcefully punish those who violate the law. When judges and lawyers see they are not above the law, they will take care to act ethically. I believe we need to review access to our Courts and ensure equal access for all individuals. **Question 2.** A. Protect our fundamental Constitutional rights guaranteed to all Americans. B. Work to restore integrity and a high standard of ethics in our entire legal system. C. Promote access to and transparency in the Courts.

Michael 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.

Reply to Questions not received.

Judith 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: Question 1 The most important task for our judicial system is to restore faith in the judiciary. Our judiciary has been rocked by scandal in the past few years, and members of the bench must make sure that our Courts are open, transparent and above reproach. Judges must always act with respect—respect for the rule of law, the lawyers who appear before them and other members of the judiciary. As a sitting judge, I am personally accountable for my own behavior and I strive to serve with honesty and integrity. I also believe that common sense reforms must be enacted including a ban on gifts, strong anti-nepotism policies openness as to how the

judicial discipline system functions and transparency as to the manner in which people are appointed to Supreme Court committees. As a justice on the Supreme Court, I will work to enact such reforms and do all that I can to bring our judiciary back to high esteem. **Question 2** If elected my top three priorities will be 1) to serve with honesty to decide each case solely on the law and facts and to interpret the law and not legislate from the bench. 2) to promote transparency in our Court and enact reforms that will restore our citizens faith in the Courts and 3) to implement procedures that our citizens have equal access to justice.

Independent

Paul P. Panepinto—Philadelphia, PA

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



D.O.B.: 6/25/1949.

Education: 1971, Villanova University, B.A.; 1979 Villanova University, M.A. in Political Science; 1976, Widener University Law School of Delaware

Occupation: Judge, Court of Common Pleas

Qualifications: I spent 10 years in Family Court with 5 years of Administrative experience as the Administrative Judge of Family Court. 10 years in the Trial Division as a team leader in Motions Court, Complex litigation and Mass Torts Program, and trial judge for numerous jury and non-jury trials. I also spent overall 5 years doing

Criminal case trials for juvenile delinquency and adult criminal felony waiver trials where I now preside.

I have worked in Family Court to promote transparency and offer solutions to problems in the system—attacking truancy, promoting permanent placement for kids and uniting families.

In the Civil area I resolved thousands of cases, settling disputes and eliminating frivolous lawsuits.

For Criminal court I am tough on crime—commit the crime—do the time!—But I am fair and understanding when it comes to allowing defendants a chance to rehabilitate their lives from minor convictions.

Answers to Questions:

Question 1

- We need the Supreme Court to decide cases in a more timely matter
- Publish how each Justice votes for all voting issues
- More involvement by Supreme Court in working for a more unified judicial system
- Supreme Court Justices should be more responsive and work to listen to the people, as well be more accessible to promote solutions to problems that the court system can resolve throughout the Commonwealth.

As I did in a leadership capacity I will work to come up with solutions to the problems and to fight for reform and transparency amicably with my fellow Justices. Costs can be reduced by assessing the work product of every department and change those practices and re-negotiate contracts in which costs are too high. I did this in one area specifically. Kids languished in foster care and had no permanents home. The city/state was spending money for foster care when I knew we had plenty of prospective adoptive parents who would adopt these children and cut the entire costs for foster care because after adoption these children were being taken care of by their new parents. We developed a process to move adoptions through the system quickly as a court. Adoptions increased by 43%. Savings were huge. As a justice of PA I'm sure we can revisit the whole court system throughout PA and can reduce costs for every county.

Question 2

- Ethics training for new judges
- Working for problem solving courts and to increase productivity
- Increase access to justice and more transparency in the court system

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: Question 1 The most pressing reform needed in the judicial system are (1) instituting mandatory education for judges on ethics and addressing implicit bias in the Court. (2) ensuring that litigants receive equal access to justice through Civil Gideon, a movement to ensure that every citizen has access to an attorney for critical legal matters (3) increasing resources for judges handling cases of abused and neglected children as well as custody cases. I would implement these reforms by creating a task force to devise specific recommendations preparing a report for the PA Supreme Court. **Question 2** Please see my answer above.

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

Reply to Questions not received.

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

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).

Answers to Questions: Question 1 The most pressing reform needed in the PA judicial system is in the area of judicial ethics. The Courts in our Commonwealth suffer from regular periodic breakdowns where jurist at all levels from the Supreme Court to the Magisterial District Court commit very serious ethical lapses. The result is a lack of confidence in the Court. Citizens deserve better and they are entitled to know that all who come before the Court will receive a fair and impartial hearing regardless of their status. The facts and the law are the only things that should matter to a justice or a judge when deciding a case. Because the ethical rules are set by the Supreme Court, a Commonwealth Court judge would have very little ability to effect change. For my part I will lead by example and hold myself to the highest ethical standards. I will work within the system to improve standards and to ensure compliance with them. **Question 2** 1) Resolve case in the most efficient and expeditious manner possible. 2) Develop collegial relationships with other judges and staff of the Commonwealth Court. 3) Reduce the number of non-precedential opinions issued by the Commonwealth Court.

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.

Answers to Questions: Question 1 I believe that the important reform needed in the judicial system is mandatory ethics training for all judges, including judges of the minor judicial with a required number of hours of course work every year. This training would review the Code of Judicial Conduct and would include lectures and presentations by leading legal ethicists that address specific situations involving the Code. If elected to the Commonwealth Court, I would advocate for mandatory annual judicial ethics training to my colleagues and to the Justices of the PA Supreme Court.

Question 2 My top policy priority if elected would be to support the AOPC's efforts towards expanding the electronic filings of Commonwealth Court documents so that the public can have better access to the record, and therefore hopefully have a better understanding of the parties arguments and issues. My top personal priority, if elected, is to serve the public with fairness, impartiality, intellectual honesty and diligence as a Commonwealth Court judge so that the parties receive the careful attention they deserve.