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VOTERS GUIDE

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Region I Hanover and Jefferson

REGION II Burgettstown and Smith 2, 4 & 7

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CALIFORNIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION I California 1, 2 & 4

REGION II California 3, W. Brownsville 2, & W. Pike Run 1 & 2

REGION III Allenport, Coal Center, Elco, Long Branch, Roscoe

CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION: CANONSBURG Canonsburg all precincts except 1-4

REGION: CECIL Canonsburg 1-4 and all Cecil

REGION: N. STRABANE N. Strabane

CHARLEROI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Charleroi, Dunlevy, Fallowfield, N. Charleroi, Speers, Stockdale, Twilight. At large.

CHARTIERS-HOUSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT Chartiers Township and Houston Borough. At large.

FORT CHERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT McDonald, Midway, Mt. Pleasant, and Robinson. At Large.

McGUFFEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION I Blaine, Claysville, Donegal 1, 2, & 3

REGION II Buffalo, Green Hills, E. Finley, W. Finley

REGION III

Morris, S. Franklin

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT Peters Township. At large.

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

AT LARGE (Regions I, II, and III)

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REGION II Carroll Twp. 2 & 5; Monongahela; New Eagle

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REGION I Amwell; North Franklin

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WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT Washington and E. Washington. At Large.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
AND
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA–CITIZEN EDUCATION FUND
NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE
MUNICIPAL ELECTION, November 7, 2017
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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 the Washington County Board of Elections, 724-228-6750. The League of Women Voters of Washington County, 724-228-9889, and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Information Center, 1-717-234-1576, also provide election information.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The material in this Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) and the League of Women Voters of Washington County (LWVWC). It may not be altered or reprinted without the permission of the League. The candidates are those whose names appear on the ballot on November 7, 2017 and they are listed according to their ballot order. Also on the ballot but not listed in this guide are candidates for municipal office including mayor, council, auditor, supervisor, tax collector, judge of election and inspector of election.

Voters Guide information is taken directly from candidate replies to League questionnaires. 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 policy of the LWVWC for Washington County candidates is to use the abbreviation N/A to indicate the candidate did not supply information for that portion of the questionnaire, and to use ellipses (...) to show where material in excess of the word limit has been cut.

All Washington County candidates were given the opportunity to list a campaign website, if any, and one other way voters could contact them for more information (phone number, etc.). Such information supplied by the candidates is listed under the heading "For more information." This information is made available for the sole purpose of providing voters with convenient access to additional information. Contact information does not in any way represent an endorsement by the League of such candidate or an approval of the information that may be provided by the candidate's website or campaign.

PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE LEAGUE

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. Its policy is one of nonpartisanship. It does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement of any candidate by the League of Women Voters.

LWV WASHINGTON COUNTY WRITE-IN POLICY

The League of Women Voters of Washington County publishes Voters Guides and conducts candidates forums to accomplish the following goals: to educate the public, giving voters a chance to learn the views of all serious candidates, and to motivate voters to participate in the elections.

The League of Women Voters of Washington County will include in its Voters Guide and Candidates Forums write-in candidates for offices the League will cover in its Guide or Forum. To be included in the Voters Guide or Candidates Forum any write in candidate must meet two of the following criteria as ascertained by the League:

- *public or media announcement of the candidacy;
- *existence of a campaign committee;
- *evidence of fund raising or planned activity for campaign;
- *demonstration of significant voter interest and support.

The burden of proof rests with the candidate. Written notification by write-in candidates must be submitted to the League by the date announced by the League on its website and in the local media.

WHAT IS A MUNICIPAL ELECTION?

In Pennsylvania, municipal elections are held in odd-numbered years for county, city, ward, borough and township offices and school directors. Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, State Supreme Court justices, and judges of the Superior and Commonwealth Court are also elected in odd numbered years. All judges seeking retention for an additional term run in the municipal election on a Yes/No basis without political party identification.

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 31, 2017. Voted civilian absentee **ballots** must be received back at the Board of Elections by 5 P.M. on Friday, November 3, 2017. 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, November 3, 2017.

Qualified electors who become physically disabled or ill between 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election and 8 p.m. on Election Day or who must be absent from their municipality of residence on Election Day, may receive an Emergency Absentee Ballot. They must complete and file with the Court of Common Pleas in the county where they are registered to vote, an emergency application or letter or other signed document which includes the same information as that on the emergency application.

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 phone 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 and resolve the problem 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 may 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.
Any disabled voter having questions regarding the accessibility of a polling place should consult the county Board of Elections.

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. **If you are not a new voter and are not voting at your polling place for the first time, you are NOT required to bring or provide identification.**

WRITE-IN VOTING IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Write-in voting of a candidate who is not on the ballot: check with the workers at your polling place before entering the voting booth.

1. When the appropriate office comes up on the screen, press the box next to the line for Write-in.
2. An image of a keyboard will appear on screen. Using the keyboard, spell out the candidate's name.
3. Press *Cast Write-in* and your write-in vote will be entered for the appropriate office, as you will see on the ballot screen.

WASHINGTON COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE:

(724) 228-6750 , Room 206, Washington County Office Building, Courthouse Square, Washington, PA, 15301.

ONLINE VOTERS GUIDE

This Voters Guide can be found on the LWVWC website: washingtoncountypalwv.org.

A statewide Voters Guide and other useful information for voters can be found at the LWVPA website: www.palwv.org .

CERTIFICATION NOTE

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

BEGIN LWVPA-CEF VOTERS GUIDE

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 75 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

JUSTICE 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 \$206,054**

Candidates (choose 1):

Dwayne Woodruff

Party: Democratic



Mailing Address: 4885A McKnight Road Suite 265 Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Campaign Phone: (412) 538-8501

Website: <http://www.Woodruff2017.com>

Campaign Email: info@Woodruff2017.com

Twitter: twitter.com/Woodruff2017

Facebook: <http://Woodruff2017>

Municipality: Pittsburgh Allegheny County

Education: June 1988 Duquesne University School of Law Juris Doctor Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Areas of Study: Taxation, Securities,

Corporations & Contracts.

May 1979 University of Louisville B.S. Finance Louisville, Kentucky

Qualifications: -17 years private practice on defense & plaintiff side -12 years serving on Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County -National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges -Allegheny County Jail Oversight Board -Juvenile Court Judges' Commission -PA Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee -National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges - Allegheny County Bar Assoc, -American Bar Assoc. -Pennsylvania Bar Assoc. -Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice -Allegheny County Interbranch

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: A judge should possess the most important quality of Discernment which is obtained through the ever-expanding accumulation of knowledge, wisdom, experience and compassion.

Knowledge - knowing/fully comprehending the law. Wisdom - knowing what the law requires and what affects rulings will have on the parties and society. Experience - knowing the people/cultures/community. Compassion - incorporating mercy in rulings when proper and just; humbly realizing 'there but for the grace of God go I'.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: A judge should recuse himself/herself when he/she is unable to quell one's own passion or when a bias exists. Yes, I have recused myself in cases where there is familiarity with the parties involved and/or I felt that there would be a perceived bias. Propriety always suggests that it is more important to create an open and fair perception of neutrality than to allow questions that impugn the judicial process.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: As a judge, I have worked earnestly to secure equal justice for all; I lead the development of new court procedures that provide necessary legal assistance to pro se litigants; Appointed by PA Supreme Court to 3 statewide commissions all dealing with 'access to justice'; Chaired Allegheny County (AC) Commission on Juvenile Justice, implementing system reforms (published booklet, October 2012) & Under my leadership AC became first court in Commonwealth to practice continuing judicial education.

Sallie Mundy

Party: Republican



Mailing Address: PO Box 412 Harrisburg, PA 17108

Website: <http://KeepJusticeMundy.com>

Campaign Email: keepjusticemundy@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://KeepJusticeMundy>

Education: University of Pittsburgh School of Law (J.D.), 1987

Washington and Jefferson College (B.A.), 1984

Qualifications: Highly Recommended by the PA Bar Association. Judge, The Superior Court of Pennsylvania, 2010-2016. Member Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Board. Member Disciplinary Hearing Committee, past chair. Legal Intelligencer's Top Women in Law, 2016. Former Lawyer in State College and Philadelphia region for 22 years. Former Public Defender, Tioga County in 2008-2009.

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: The single most important quality for any jurist is integrity. A Judge must be transparent, efficient and direct. When explaining a ruling in a written opinion, a judge needs to address not only the lawyers in the case, but the clients as well. It is important that everyone has a clear understanding of the decision and the reasoning behind it.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: Whenever a circumstance, such as the identity of the parties or their lawyers or the issue presented raises a question in the mind of the Judge that could compromise integrity, it is incumbent upon that jurist to engage in a process of introspection. Judges are human beings, subject to the same life experiences from which opinions are generated. The question is not

whether you do or do not have opinions; rather the real question is can you set aside those feelings or opinions and judge fairly.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: Access to justice requires more than an assurance that the courtroom doors be open and accessible to all citizens. To give true meaning to those words, we must insure that they have the legal representation necessary to make that access meaningful. As a former member of the IOLTA Board, I am aware of the breadth of the problem, and the potential to address it through pro bono service. My intention is to substantially expand pro bono legal services to bridge the gap between Legal Aid for the indigent and fee paying clients. An idea I intend to explore is to offer CLE credit for pro bono service.

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: \$194,422 (Vote for 4)

Candidates (choose 4):

Maria McLaughlin

Party: Democratic

Campaign Phone: (215) 605-3114

Campaign Email: info@mclaughlin4superiorcourt.com

Twitter: twitter.com/honmmclaughlin

Facebook: <http://JudgeMcLaughlin4SuperiorCourt>

Education: JD

Qualifications: As a Judge in the largest Judicial district in our Commonwealth, I've had the opportunity to issue thousands of rulings. I have been appealed only 5 times and have never had a decision overturned. I believe this uniquely qualifies me for the Superior Court.



Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: It is most important for a jurist to be objective because parties must have confidence that their case will be heard fairly and impartially.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: I have recused myself in a criminal matter after hearing argument on a bail reduction motion. It would be inappropriate for me to hear the underlying case because information was revealed during this motion that would be prejudicial to the defendant in his underlying case.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: As a sitting Judge I always ensure that all parties are treated fairly and equally regardless of the issue before the Court. I also believe it is my duty as a Judge to educate the public and is the reason I take part in many community based organizations. I believe I should be a good example both on and off the bench.

Carolyn H. Nichols

Party: Democratic



Mailing Address: 2900 Grays Ferry Ave. PO Box 3998 Philadelphia, PA 19146

Campaign Phone: (267) 586-5260

Website: <http://www.nicholsforpa.com/>

Campaign Email: CarolynNicholsPA@gmail.com

Twitter: twitter.com/nicholsforpa

Facebook: <http://@nicholsforpa>

Municipality: Philadelphia, PA

Education: Eastern University, St. Davids, PA MBA, 2000-2002; Temple University, Phila., PA, LLM Trial Advocacy, 1992-1994; Temple University, Phila. PA., Juris Doctor, 1981-1985; Temple University, Phila., PA, BFA, 1973-1978

Qualifications: Before becoming a judge, I was a licensed attorney for over 20 years, practicing law in local government and as an independent solo practice attorney. Phila. Court of Common Pleas Judge, Criminal Trial Div. 2011-present; Dep. Secretary of External Affairs, Mayor's Office, 2005-2006; Asst. Gen. Counsel at PPPA, 1999-2005; HR Dir. for Crime Prevention Assoc., 1997; Asst. Legal Counsel PHDC, 1995-1996; Asst. City Solicitor, City of Phila. Law Dept., 1990-1994

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: There are 3 important qualities: knowledge and respect for the law, judicial temperament, and a commitment to community service. Judges must apply the law evenhandedly and make difficult decisions without bias or regard to personal beliefs, popular opinion or political pressure, and operate with the highest personal integrity. We must also respect the Rule of law,

follow the precedential law in decision-making and rulings. We should also work to improve our neighborhoods thru community service

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: Impartial judges are a cornerstone of equal access to justice for all citizens. Recusal is a significant decision and is undertaken only when a judge's impartiality can be reasonably questioned. Circumstances, where recusal might be considered, would be conflicts of interest such as, personal economic gains or losses related to the outcome of a case, the involvement of a family member or friend in a case, or if there was a case that I previously worked on as an attorney.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: In order to ensure fair and equitable treatment for a fair trial, I make sure that defendants are represented by competent legal counsel who will zealously defend them. If there is a conflict with the Defenders Office, I appoint legal counsel who can fulfill that role. Concerning all litigants, victims, and defendants alike, they come to court for justice and seek a full and fair hearing of the issues. Everyone, regardless of their background, or income level, deserve to be treated with respect.

Debbie Kunselman

Party: Democratic



Campaign Phone: (412) 999-0547

Campaign Email: judgetebbieforsuperiorcourt@gmail.com

Twitter: twitter.com/JudgeKunselman

Facebook: <http://Deborah Kunselman>

Education: "J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School, cum laude B.A., Penn State University, with Honors and with High Distinction"

Qualifications: 12 years experience as a trial court judge in Beaver County: presided over family, juvenile and civil matters; 13 years experience as an attorney: represented clients in personal injury, family and employment cases; 8 years as Chief County Solicitor for Beaver County; "Highly

Recommended" by the Bar

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: Integrity. If you cannot trust a judge to do the right thing, and follow the law, then who can you trust?

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: I have and would recuse in cases involving family members, close friends, or former clients. I have also recused in matters involving my campaign officers. I would also recuse in other cases as required by the PA Code of Judicial Conduct, Rule 2.11.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: As a judge, on the bench, I can treat self-represented litigants with respect, so they are not intimidated by the legal system. Off the bench, I can speak at seminars and to the general public about the need for all people to have access to a lawyer to protect their legal rights. I can also advocate for state funding for our public defenders. (Pennsylvania is one of only two states that does not provide any state funding to the public defenders' office.)

Geoff Moulton



Party: Democratic

Campaign Phone: (215) 817-3312

Campaign Email: Geoff@judgemoulton.com

Twitter: twitter.com/JudgeMoulton

Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/judgemoulton>

Education: B.A. Amherst College; J.D. Columbia University School of Law

Qualifications: The Judicial Evaluation Comm'n of the Pennsylvania Bar Association concluded: "This commission believes that the candidate possesses the highest combination of legal ability, experience, integrity and temperament and, therefore, highly recommends his candidacy for the Pennsylvania Superior Court."

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: Beyond the baseline requirements of professional competence, integrity, and appropriate judicial temperament, the most important qualification is a commitment to ensuring that every participant in the judicial system is treated fairly and with dignity and respect.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: Judges should recuse themselves when their impartiality might reasonably be questioned. In the context of the current judicial campaign, I have recused myself in situations where lawyers providing significant support to my campaign, or members of their firms, represent clients in our court.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: I believe deeply in our civil justice system, but it is far from perfect, in large part because too many litigants do not have the resources to afford legal representation in important classes of cases where such representation is not provided by the state. As a result, I have supported and will continue to support efforts to find ways to bridge that gap, including the "Civil Gideon" movement.

Craig Stedman

Party: Republican



Campaign Phone: (717) 234-5424

Website: <http://www.stedmanforjudge.com>

Campaign Email: craigstedman17@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://@stedmanforjudge>

Education: B.A. History - University of Delaware; J.D. Penn State Dickinson School of Law

Qualifications: The Pennsylvania Bar Association awarded me a "Highly Recommended" rating.

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: The most important quality in a judge is fairness. There are many characteristics which make up an excellent judge such as intelligence, integrity, and temperament, but everything a judge does must be forged in fairness. A judge must do the right thing for the right reason in all cases and the Pennsylvania Bar Association specifically noted my commitment to fairness in rating me as Highly Recommended.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

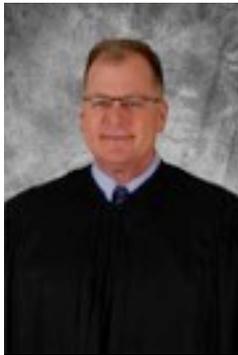
A: I would follow the current law and all ethical standards in deciding whether to recuse myself. Moreover, even if there is no actual conflict of interest, I would be will be extremely cognizant of the appearance of impropriety in making the decision to recuse. Part of justice is making sure that the public is confident that matters were handled fairly, properly, and without taint.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: Judges must start by leading by example when it comes to integrity and must never forget that they serve the public and not the reverse. As District Attorney, I have made a strong commitment to outreach, prevention, and education, and I believe a judge is in a perfect position to engage the community in similar ways without compromising their impartiality. Education is an absolute key in making sure that people know their rights and it will also instill confidence in our justice system.

Emil Giordano

Party: Republican



Campaign Phone: (717) 234-5424

Facebook: <http://judgegiordano>

Education: J.D. Villanova Law School, B.A. Moravian College

Qualifications: I have received a "Highly Recommended" rating from the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: Experience. The Pennsylvania Bar Association cited my "broad experience as a practicing attorney, proven record of judicial leadership, high ethical standards and dedication to the legal profession" as they awarded me a "highly recommended" rating. I believe those are important qualities that will serve me well on the Superior Court.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: I believe I have a proven record of conducting myself in a highly ethical manner as it relates to this issue.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: The biggest issue that needs to be addressed in the courts is the crisis of public confidence our judiciary faces. Through scandal and ethics lapses, the courts are viewed negatively by too many people. That image will only be changed by electing qualified, ethical judges who will comport themselves in an appropriate manner when in office.

Wade A. Kagarise

Party: Republican

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 98 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648



Campaign Phone: (814) 330-1604

Website: <http://www.judgekagarise.com>

Campaign Email: info@judgekagarise.com

Facebook: <http://Kagarise for Superior Court>

Education: B.A. Indiana University of Pennsylvania, J.D Widener University School of Law

Qualifications: Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 15 years experience

as a criminal prosecutor (the last eight as Chief Deputy) handling all types of criminal cases including murder cases, twelve years experience handling civil, family, and labor law. Adjunct Professor, Infantry Veteran of US Army Reserves.

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: I believe experience and temperament are equally important. Judges should have broad based legal experience and should treat those who appear before them with fairness and dignity.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: Consistent with the Judicial Canons, any Judge should recuse themselves when they are unable to decide a matter fairly and impartially or where their fairness or impartiality could reasonably be called into question.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: By working to improve the justice system for all Pennsylvanians. I have and will continue to work towards this goal. My experience on appointed committees has provided a venue to work on improvements. I also believe my experience as an adjunct professor has provided me the opportunity to have an impact on future generations of legal professionals.

Mary Murray

Party: Republican

Mailing Address: 200 Parliament Drive Moon Township , PA 15108

Campaign Phone: (412) 264-0440

Website: <http://www.mary4judge.com>

Campaign Email: judgetemarymurraycommittee@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://Judge Mary P. Murray Committee for PA Superior Court>

Municipality: Moon Township

Education: Duquesne University, BS/BA 1992, MBA 1995, JD 1996

Qualifications: As Magisterial District Judge for over 13 years and as an attorney for over 20, I have heard cases and practiced law in the areas that come before the Superior Court. In my tenure as a Magisterial District Judge, I have handled over 70,000 cases which make me aware of the concerns of PA citizens.



Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: The most important quality in a jurist is to listen to the evidence presented at a hearing and to apply the law in a fair and impartial manner. As a jurist giving every citizen their day in Court and being fair and impartial is the only way democracy can continue to flourish in our county.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: I have recused myself from cases where police officers who appear regularly in front of me were either victims or defendants. I have also asked for a change in venue on cases where

someone has run against me in a recent campaign or if someone called me at my home and tried to influence my decision on a case.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: On the bench, I make sure that my staff provides litigates information on their rights to appeal and phone numbers for legal representation through Neighborhood Legal Services or Lawyer Referral Services or the Public Defender's Office. Additionally, we try to provide interpreters when requested by the litigants. Off the bench, every citizen should lobby for adequate funding for the Courts and Legal Service organizations.

Jules Mermelstein

Party: Green

Mailing Address: 821 Twining Road Dresher, PA 19025



Campaign Phone: (215) 806-0201

Website: <http://Jules4Judge.com>

Campaign Email: jules@mermelstein4judge.org

Twitter: twitter.com/Jules4Judge

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Mermelstein4Judge/>

Municipality: Upper Dublin Township

Education: BA Political Science Temple U. Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa JD American University's Washington College of Law, Cum Laude. M.Ed. in Secondary Social Studies at Arcadia University. Perfect 4.0.

Qualifications: Proven record of integrity: 5 terms as township

commissioner, no scandals; afterwards awarded medal for "Outstanding Citizen" Handled multiple cases before Superior Court. 2 decades teaching teens values in Sunday School. Taught government and US history at the college and high school level. Licensed PA lawyer for 37 years, with no disciplinary complaints.

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: Integrity. The public needs confidence that decisions will be based on the law as applied to the particular facts of the case. Personal interest and bias must not even appear to be a consideration by the judge. The Pennsylvania justice system's credibility has taken a hit. 3 Supreme Court justices have had to resign in disgrace, 2 Attorneys General have gone to jail, 2 judges sold juveniles to a private prison, and the Phila. DA was led away in handcuffs in fed. ct. See Jules4Judge.com/integrity

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: I would recuse myself in any case in which a party, or their attorney, contributed any money to any of my political campaigns; if I had a financial or political interest in the outcome of the case; if I believed that I could not fairly and impartially decide a case or if, for some reason, it appears that I could not fairly do so. Even if I believed I could fairly decide a case, if there was an appearance that I could not, then I would recuse myself. Public confidence in our system is #1.

Q: As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?

A: I will grant petitions to waive court filing fees which would be an unreasonable burden. I will also decide all cases based on the principles of justice, without regard to how good or experienced the attorneys are representing the parties. Off the bench, I will volunteer to speak at law schools and at Bar Assoc. events promoting pro bono. I would be willing to advocate for more support for equal access. I will work closely with the PA Legal Aid Network with sponsorships for fellows and events.

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 \$194,422 (Vote for 2)

Candidates (choose 2):

Ellen Ceisler **Party:** Democratic

Mailing Address: 1525 Locust St. 6th Floor Philadelphia , PA 19102

Campaign Phone: (215) 735-6760

Website: <http://CeislerforPA.com>

Campaign Email: info@ceislerforpa.com

Twitter: twitter.com/ceislerforpa

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeEllenCeisler/>

Municipality: Philadelphia

Education: Montgomery County Community College (Associates Degree 1977) Temple University (BA 1979); Temple University School of Law (JD 1986)



Qualifications: I have been a Common Pleas Court judge for ten years, handled over a thousand bench and jury trials, decided thousands of legal motions, written close to 700 Opinions, and presided in an appellate capacity handling precisely the types of governmental agency appeals that the Commonwealth Court handles. Recommended by PA. Bar

Association who, after a thorough and independent investigation, determined my judicial reputation and record is one of "fairness, thoroughness, independence, and integrity

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: A judge must possess the utmost integrity and independence. A judge must approach every case, and every litigant, in an impartial, unbiased, and respectful manner. A judge must give every case the full, careful, and thorough consideration every case deserves before rendering a decision. And finally, a judge must be timely and prepared in all areas of responsibility.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: I am well versed in the Judicial Canon of Ethics. I would absolutely recuse myself from any matter in which I could not be completely fair and impartial. I conduct my personal and professional life in such a manner as to avoid potential conflicts. I have recused myself once in ten years based on a close relationship with a character witness in the case.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: I have frequently presided over matters involving unrepresented litigants. I always treat these individuals with the same respect as I would attorneys. I carefully consider all of their issues, pleadings, and arguments, and, to the best of my ability, provide the time and patience necessary to put unrepresented parties at ease by fully explaining the process. Judges should participate in appropriate community outreach programs to help citizens understand our judiciary.

Irene M. Clark

Party: Democratic



Campaign Phone: (412) 848-3731

Campaign Email: ireneforjudge@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://Irene M. Clark for Judge>

Education: 1982-Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania-B.S., 1988-CUNY Law School, J.D., 1999-McGregor School of Antioch University, M.A./Conflict Resolution

Qualifications: Judge-Pittsburgh Municipal Court-1993-2003; Public Interest Attorney-preventing and addressing blighted and abandoned real estate, training and educating on laws we have, drafting of and advocating for laws we need, implementing new laws, representing inaugural PA land banks-2003-present.

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: The capacity to be reflective is the most important quality in a jurist. It describes being thoughtful and contemplative. The teaching mantra of my public interest law school was “plan,

do, reflect". It instilled regular historical review of my place in and contributions to social justice as a lawyer and former judge. Just as the moon reflects only the light of the sun, a good jurist's character, conduct and standards reflect only the highest values and aspirations of our system of democracy.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: I did not recuse myself from any case during ten years of judicial service on the Pittsburgh Municipal Court. Although I cannot anticipate circumstances under which I would recuse, I will always adhere to judicial conduct rules. I will continuously reflect on my impartiality from an objective point of view, readily disclose relevant information and be guided by Formal Advisory Opinion 2015-4 of the Judicial Ethics Committee of the PA Conference of State Trial Judges.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: My record demonstrates commitment to social justice as a public interest attorney and to quality court administration as a former judge. As an appellate judge, I will do my part to eliminate the 'justice gap'. On the bench, I will review trial judges' use of existing authority to appoint counsel for litigants. Off the bench, I will join and advance the state and national Civil Gideon movement and persevere for systems' change needed for PA to achieve a record of excellence on access to justice.

Paul Lalley

Party: Republican

Campaign Phone: (412) 395-1273

Campaign Email: lalley4judge@gmail.com



Education: "Dickinson School of Law -- J.D. 1996 University of Pennsylvania -- B.A. 1993"

Qualifications: I am highly recommended by the Allegheny County Bar Association for Commonwealth Court and have twice been recommended by the Pennsylvania Bar Association for the Commonwealth Court. I am a former Pennsylvania Supreme Court law clerk and a successful appellate litigator.

Facebook: <http://lalley4judge>

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: Fairness to the parties is the most important quality in a judge. It means treating parties with courtesy, respect, patience, and an open-minded willingness to listen to their positions and allow them to have their say.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: I would recuse myself from any case where the Code of Judicial Conduct requires my recusal, or in any case where, after serious reflection, I would find that I could not give impartial consideration to a party's cause for whatever reason.

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: Supporting the efforts of the ACBA and the PBA to ensure the provision of effective legal services to all members of our society, regardless of their means, is what I would continue to do if I am elected to the Commonwealth Court.

Christine Fizzano Cannon

Party: Republican



Mailing Address: 115 North Jackson Street Media, PA 19063

Campaign Phone: (215) 990-8928

Website: <http://www.FizzanoCannonforJudge.com>

Campaign Email: christinefizzanocannon@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/judgefizzanocannon>

Education: Widener U. School of Law, J.D. cum laude 1994, University of Arizona, B.A. 1991

Qualifications: I am honored to be the only candidate in the race for Commonwealth Court that is rated "Highly Recommended" for a seat on the PA Commonwealth Court by the Pennsylvania Bar Assoc. Judicial Evaluation Commission. My 23 years of experience as a judge, attorney, public official, community leader, and special prosecutor have uniquely prepared me for the position on this Court. I am currently the head of the civil division of the Court of Common Pleas where I have closed over 1500 civil matters.

Answer to Questions:

Q: *What is the most important quality in a judge?*

A: I believe intellect, integrity, humility and temperament are important qualities for effective judges. As head of the court's Civil Trial Section, I listen and consider all sides of each matter before me with impartiality. A courtroom experience is often a rare and difficult experience for litigants. With this in mind, I apply a high level of courtesy and patience in the courtroom, which I believe can positively affect the level of trust and comfort that a litigant has in our justice system.

Q: *Under what circumstances would you recuse or have you recused from a case?*

A: It is important not only that a judge approach each case with an open mind and complete impartiality, but also that a judge avoid even the appearance of impropriety or partiality, which could undermine the public's confidence in the judiciary. I abide by the rules of judicial conduct

which note that a "judge shall disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

Q: *As a member of the judiciary, what can you do on and off the bench to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice?*

A: As a judge, I cannot advocate for or against specific legislation on the state level, however, I believe that everyone should have access to the justice system. I worked as a special prosecutor representing individuals who could not afford an attorney in presenting their cases before the court. In addition, I ensure that equal access to justice exists in my courtroom where I treat everyone I encounter fairly, impartially and equally, including litigants, attorneys, staff and the public.

RETENTION QUESTIONS

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. Magisterial district judges run in competitive elections. Mandatory retirement age for judges is 75 years, but retired judges may continue to serve the Commonwealth as senior judges if approved by the Supreme Court.

Information on each of the candidates was provided by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission. Ratings were provided by the Commission and do not indicate endorsement or opposition of the individual candidates. The linked questionnaires were completed by the candidates and provided by the Commission.

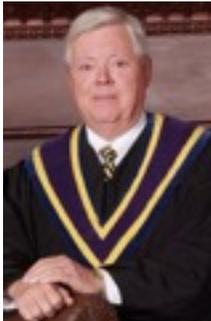
Retention candidates appear at the end of the ballot in the form of a question.

“Shall (candidate’s name) be retained for an additional term as (office sought)?”

(Vote yes or no)

SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Chief Justice Thomas Saylor



Rating: Recommended for Retention

The candidate has served on the Supreme Court since 1998; he has been Chief Justice since 2015. The candidate is known by attorneys and his colleagues for adhering to the principle that all persons accused of a crime have constitutional rights that should not be diminished. His opinions, which are described as

well written, thoughtful and intellectual, provide the reader with a logical path to the conclusion reached. The candidate possesses a unique legal aptitude, leadership abilities and a high degree of integrity that is well suited for the Supreme Court. His judicial temperament is above reproach. For these reasons, the commission believes the candidate should continue his distinguished service to the court and to the public and, therefore, recommends his retention.

Read the [candidate's questionnaire](#).

Justice Debra McCloskey Todd



Rating: Recommended for Retention

The candidate has served eight years on the Superior Court and ten years on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. She is a distinguished member of the judiciary and is described as enthusiastic, hard-working, attentive and intelligent. The candidate's opinions are thorough, concise, scholarly and easily understood, and she carries out her administrative duties with seriousness of purpose. She headed the Elder Task Force which later became Elder Justice in the Courts. The candidate is a member of the Elder Justice Advisory Council serving as its judicial liaison. She is also the court's liaison to the Veteran's Courts and the Interbranch Commission on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness. The candidate's integrity, legal ability, judicial temperament and commitment to the legal profession serve her well on the bench. The commission recommends her retention.

Read the [candidate's questionnaire](#).

SUPERIOR COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Judge Jackie Shogan



Rating: Recommended for Retention

The candidate has served as a judge of the Superior Court since 2008. Throughout her career and particularly in her position as judge, she is recognized as possessing a keen grasp of complex legal principles. She has demonstrated sound judgment and possesses excellent judicial temperament. Her opinions are exceptionally well written, concise and thorough. In her role as chair of the court's Internal Operating Procedures Committee, the candidate is devoted to improving the quality of justice and the efficiency of the court. Her integrity and character are beyond reproach, and she is held in high regard by members of the legal profession who have appeared before her. The candidate has consistently demonstrated all the qualities necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of an appellate judge, and the commission recommends her retention.

Read the [candidate's questionnaire](#).

End LWVPA Voters Guide material
Begin LWVWC Voters Guide material

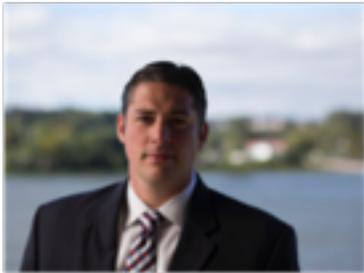
JUDGE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Job description: The Washington County Court of Common Pleas is composed of six judges who share a variety of responsibilities. The judges are elected to 10-year terms, and are then eligible for retention on a yes-no retainer question. Common Pleas trials involve Criminal Court, Orphan's Court, Juvenile Court, Family Court, Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, DUI Court, and Veterans' Court.

Term: 10 years Salary: \$178,868

Question: How would you describe your role as a judge where one party is represented by an attorney and the other is self represented (pro se)?

BRANDON P. NEUMAN



Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Municipality: N. Strabane Twp.

D.O.B: 11/01/81

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: www.neumanforjudge.com

Education: Graduate of Canon McMillan HS; BA, Univ. of Richmond; MA, Law, Univ. of Pgh.; JD, Duquesne Univ. School of Law

Occupation: State Representative for the 48th District and a practicing attorney

Qualifications: I currently write laws which judges interpret. I am an appointee on the PA Commission of Sentencing (currently drafting sentencing guidelines for judges) and Criminal Justice Advisory Committee for the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency. I am also a civil litigator who represents mostly individuals who were neglected or abused in nursing homes.

Answer to question: My role as a judge in this situation is to be fair, ensure unrepresented parties know their rights, and advance justice. I will ensure reasonable rules are in place to balance the scales of justice in a fair way. I will be transparent on how proceedings will take place and what is expected of each party. The focus in my courtroom will be that all persons have the opportunity to be heard in an impartial...

WASHINGTON COUNTY ROW OFFICES

COUNTY CONTROLLER

Job description: The controller gathers budget information, prescribes accounting systems to be used by all county offices, audits and pays all invoices, administers county payroll, performs audits of all elected county offices and District Judges, and generates the year-end financial reports.

Term: 4 years Salary: \$82,775
VOTE FOR ONE

Question: What goals do you have for the Controller's office?

MICHAEL L. NAMIE



Nominated: Democratic

Municipality: Canton Twp.

D.O.B: 3/18/64

Party of registration: Democratic

For more info: 724-228-4497; [www.facebook.com/Namie For Controller](http://www.facebook.com/NamieForController)

Education: BA, Business Administration, W&J Coll., 1986

Occupation: Washington County Controller

Qualifications: Washington County Controller since 2002; Deputy Controller 1991-2001; Member: Washington County Retirement Board; Washington County Salary Board; Washington County Prison Board. Former Past-President PA State Association of County Controllers.

Answer to question: To continue to meet the taxpayers' expectations that there is a "watch dog" making sure that taxpayers' dollars are being spent properly. I have always operated my office under budget; having saved in excess of \$395,000. In addition to the Audited Financial Statements that are currently posted on the County's website, I plan to create a "Friendly Understandable Financial Report" which tracks expenditures, revenues and the County's financial condition in a more user-friendly report.

RECORDER OF DEEDS

Job description: The recorder of deeds maintains the records of real property in the county and collects real estate transfer taxes. In addition, he or she keeps other records, i.e. military discharges, plot plans for developments, and charters of non-profit organizations.

Term: 4 years Salary: \$82,775
VOTE FOR ONE

Question: What goals do you have for the Recorder of Deeds office?

DEBBIE BARDELLA



Nominated: Democratic

Municipality: Speers

D.O.B: 1/22/55

Party of registration: Democratic

For more info: 724-483-2238

Education: 1972 Honor Graduate of Avella HS

Occupation: Recorder of Deeds

Qualifications: Having worked in the office of Recorder of Deeds as a Clerk-Typist II, Assistant Deputy, Deputy Recorder of Deeds and currently the Recorder of Deeds makes me completely qualified for this office.

Answer to question: My goals are to continue the instant recording process, increase our e-Recordings and preserve a record number of historic documents. This office currently utilizes state of the art recording, scanning and e-Recording systems. The recording system shall continue to be upgraded annually and all records and processes will remain transparent. Financial audits are above reproach and the integrity of the office shall remain intact. Staff will continue to assist all users of the office.

JAMES ROMAN



Nominated: Republican

Municipality: Peters Twp.

Party of registration: Republican

D.O.B: 11/02/71

For more info: www.voteforjamesroman.com

Education: PhD (ABD) at Univ. of Pgh.; MBA at Point Park Univ.; MA at Duquesne Univ.; & BA at Univ. of Pgh.

Occupation: Realtor® with Costa Select Realty

Qualifications: As a College Professor and Realtor®, I deal with people of various backgrounds and help educate them on real estate. This experience allows me to help make the process easier for people when it comes to...

Answer to question: As the Recorder of Deeds, I will start by simplifying the filing fee structure for filing a deed so it is easier for consumers to understand their recording fees when buying and selling real estate. This will ensure consumers better understand their costs before they decide to buy or sell read estate. This will improve upon the current process.

SHERIFF

Job description: The sheriff, as an officer of the court, serves writs, warrants, summons, and other judicial documents, transports prisoners, enforces strike injunctions, executes sheriff sales, and carries out orders of the county court.

Term: 4 years Salary: \$82,775

VOTE FOR ONE

Question: What could you contribute to Washington County's justice system as sheriff?

SAMUEL ROMANO



Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Municipality: South Strabane Twp.

D.O.B: 2/20/65

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: BA from Michigan State Univ. 1988; concentrating in criminal justice; Trinity HS graduate

Occupation: Washington County Sheriff

Qualifications: Washington County Sheriff since 2006; College degree from Michigan State Univ.

Answer to question: I will continue to maintain the administration of fairness and equity determined by law as I have over the past 12 years. Working with other law enforcement agencies to help fight the opioid addiction battle our county struggles to win, developing programs to help educate our youth, and making the Sheriff's Office more available to the public while improving the well-being of our citizens.

WASHINGTON COUNTY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

Job description: The magisterial district judge (formerly called district justice) handles traffic violations, landlord/tenant matters, civil actions of less than \$12,000, summary offenses, and preliminary hearings in criminal cases. Magisterial district judges who are not lawyers must complete a course of instruction and pass an exam before taking office. The magisterial district judges are regulated by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and are directly responsible to President Judge Katherine B. Emery.

Term: 6 years Salary: \$89,438

VOTE FOR ONE

Question: What is your understanding of the role of the Magisterial District Judge in criminal and civil courts?

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT 27-1-02

Carroll, Donora, Monongahela, New Eagle

MARK WILSON



Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Municipality: Monongahela

D.O.B: 5/4/57

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Graduate, Ringgold HS; Indiana Univ. of PA -Municipal Police Officers Academy, May-August 1990; Comm. of PA – Magisterial Dist. Judge Certified, Feb 2005 by Admin. Office of PA Courts

Occupation: Magisterial District Judge since Jan 2006

Qualifications: Served 2 yrs. as state constable; 15 yrs. police officer; 2 term incumbent; adjudicated over 50,000 cases.

Answer to question: In criminal cases a district judge shall only consider the testimony and evidence presented by the prosecution and any defense a defendant may present. If the prosecution establishes a prima-facie case, which means a crime was committed and the accused committed it, the charges shall be held over to the Court of Common Pleas. In civil cases, which normally involve two citizens in a dispute over a contract or property, a decision shall be rendered based on evidence and testimony and a judgement entered, subject to appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT 27-3-01
Finleyville, Nottingham, Peters, Union

JACOB MACHEL



Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Municipality: Peters Twp.

D.O.B: 7/12/88

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: BA Political Science W&J Coll. Peters Twp. HS

Occupation: Real Estate

Qualifications: Board certified by the commonwealth of Pennsylvania Judiciary to serve as a District Judge. I have over 500+ hours spent in the judicial office I am running for. I won both tickets in the primary and a lifetime member of the community. Zero ...

Answer to question: It is critically important that Magisterial District Judges uphold the dignity of the judicial office at all times. Being fair, impartial and honorable are essential characteristics that a District judge must firmly abide by in criminal and civil matters that he/she will oversee. Compassion for crime victims, along with an impartial approach to both sides of an issue are vital qualities a District Judge must possess while serving the citizens of their respective districts.

JESSE D. PETTIT



Nominated: Independent

Municipality: Peters Twp.

D.O.B: 10/21/1974

Party of Registration: Independent

For more info: Facebook:Pettit4districtjudge, 724-260-5285,

Education: JD (Univ. of Pgh. School of Law, 2001); BS, Pre-law/Legal Communications (OH Univ., 1997); Trinity HS Graduate, 1993

Occupation: Attorney

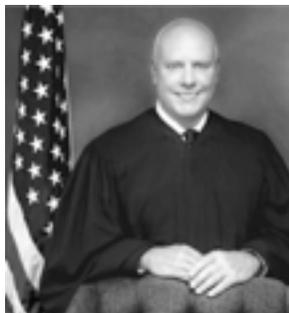
Qualifications: Practicing Attorney of 16 yrs.; Former Deputy Attorney General in Pennsylvania Attorney General's office; Former Assistant District Attorney; Extensive trial and courtroom experience; As a husband and father of 4, I understand the impact my decisions will have on public safety and our...

Answer to question: Magisterial District Judges are a major part of the criminal/civil judicial process. District Judges must have the experience necessary to hear evidence presented in each case, understand the applicable law and make proper legal decisions. District Judges must be fair, impartial and ensure that everyone has equal access to the court system. Decisions made by District Judges directly impact public safety therefore a District Judge must be capable of holding people accountable for their actions.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT 27-3-05

E. Washington, N. Strabane, S. Strabane

JAY WELLER



Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Municipality: N. Strabane

D.O.B: 4/28/54

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: BA, Shippensburg Univ.; MA, Univ. of Pgh./Graduate School of Public & International Affairs

Occupation: Magisterial district Judge

Qualifications: 24 yrs. of faithful & uncompromised service as a District Judge; 15 yrs. of prior law enforcement; Lifetime of public service

Answer to question: The role of a Magisterial District Judge is to be dedicated to the understanding and Fair application of the law. To hear both sides of an issue and deliver a decision based upon the facts without any outside interference. A district Judge always needs to strive to be fair, even tempered and a champion to victims of crime.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT 27-3-07

Burgettstown, Cross Creek, Hanover, Jefferson, Midway, Smith.

GARY H. HAVELKA



Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Municipality: Hanover

D.O.B: 5/03/60

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: BS, Business/Marketing, PA Teachers Certification

Occupation: District Judge

Qualifications: 25 years in office

Answer to question: N/A

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Job description: Boards of school directors are the governing agencies for local school districts. They have the responsibility for planning, setting policy and evaluating school operations. They may levy taxes, issue bonds, hire personnel, provide for school

buildings and purchase textbooks and supplies. They adopt rules and regulations to govern their own affairs and the conduct of employees.

Term: 4 years (Except where noted) Salary: Unpaid

Question: What are the most important issues facing your school district and how would you plan to address them?

AVELLA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION I *Cross Creek*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

COREY McCONN

Nominated: Democratic

D.O.B: 10/22/76

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: W&J Coll., BA Political Science and History

Occupation: Marketing – Pennsylvania Transformer, Canonsburg, PA

Qualifications: N/A

Answer to [question](#): Providing a safe and productive learning environment is an ongoing issue facing all school districts. Schools must continually strive to improve, both for the kids, and ultimately the community. Keeping the focus on accountability and improvement is a primary job for a school director.

There is also the issue all schools in Pennsylvania have to contend with. This would be the annual fiscal ineptitude that is pervasive in our leadership in Harrisburg.

Region II *Hopewell & W. Middletown*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR TWO

No candidate

Region II

TERM: 2 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

No candidate

Region III *Independence*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

LESLIE J. CUNNINGHAM

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

BENTWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bentleyville, Cokeburg, Ellsworth, North Bethlehem and Somerset. At large.

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR FOUR

LISA STOUT-BASHIOUM

Nominated: Democratic

D.O.B: 4/9/61

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: 724-747-0585

Education: BA, Communications and Political Science, Univ. of Pgh; Bentworth HS

Occupation: Tourism Planner and Guide, Rivers of Steel Heritage Tours and Pittsburgh Transportation Group

Qualifications: Served for 8 yrs. on Bentworth School Board, Board Treasurer 4 yrs., Board Vice President 1 yr., parent of 6 Bentworth students, active in many Bentworth School District activities, President Bentleyville Bicentennial Committee, Past President of Bentleyville Area Historical Society, Vice President of From Alex With Love Scholarship Foundation, Scholarship Chair for Bentleyville Lions Club

Answer to [question](#): Bentworth School District's greatest challenge is to meet the needs of all students, while considering the current economic climate, without raising taxes. My primary goal as Bentworth School Director is to serve student needs by supporting excellence at all academic levels, helping those with special needs, and by offering a variety of athletic and extracurricular opportunities in order to produce confident, well-prepared and well-rounded graduates to the highest degree possible within the district's budget.

JOHN M. PETRISEK

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 10/6/70

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: 724-239-2330

Education: BA, W&J Coll., 1992; JD, Ohio Northern Univ., 1995

Occupation: Attorney and Small Business Owner

Qualifications: 16 yrs. on Bentworth School Board, Board Treasurer 4 yrs., Board President 5 yrs., father of 3 Bentworth students, Practicing Attorney, extensive community involvement and volunteer youth football coach for 21 yrs.

Answer to [question](#): The greatest issue facing Bentworth is continuing to provide a quality education and ample extracurricular opportunities for our student's while simultaneously being fiscally responsible. My primary goal is to serve as an effective liaison between the community and our administration and staff, to assure the direction of

our district is in line with our community's core values and to continue to build upon the excellent work already being done within our district.

JUDITH A. MCCARTY

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 8/20/49

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Beth-Center HS (1967); Calif. U. of PA – BS in Ed (1970); Calif. U. of PA – MA in Ed (1974); Certified by Dept. of Ed. – PA as Instructional Support Teacher

Occupation: Retired Elementary Teacher – Bentworth SD; Board of Education – Bentworth; Board of Trustees, Bentleyville Public Library; Capital Campaign Committee for Bentworth Community Center Building Project

Qualifications: 37 yrs. in Education; 8 yrs. ...

Answer to [question](#): Our district needs to keep up-to-date with technology and continue to create a diverse, enriching and challenging education for all of our students. We need to meet not just academics, social and physical needs but a total package with a sound budget for all students in the Bentworth School District.

MATTHEW HARDING

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 8/13/81

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: Assoc. Degree in Computer Management, Penn Commercial; Registered Communications Distribution Designer, BICSI

Occupation: Director of Support Services, Canon-McMillan SD

Qualifications: Vast experience in K-12 Education at the administrative level

Answer to [question](#): Bentworth is an amazing school district with great talent. I would like to see the trend of current Blue Ribbon and Schools to Watch accolades continue. To accomplish this, a school board member should support the professional and administrative staff in their efforts.

BETTY ADAMS BELLICINI

Nominated: Republican

D.O.B: 9/29/48

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: 724-239-4653

Education: BS, Elementary Education, Calif. Univ. of PA

Occupation: Retired teacher

Qualifications: Educator for 40 yrs.; Board experience; Lifetime spent in district

Answer to [question](#): The main issue is to provide the best educational system for our students while operating within the confines of the budget. In order to meet this challenge, there is a need to simultaneously renew our schools and curriculum. It is necessary to maintain safe schools and offer the district's children the best possible

learning environment. I will make decisions based on what is both economically and educationally sound to achieve these goals.

BETHLEHEM-CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION I *Centerville 1,2,3,4,6*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

SHAWNA N. ROBERTS

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

REGION II *Centerville 5 & E. Bethlehem*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR TWO

JOHN B. GREENLEE

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 3/19/70

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: BA, English, Fordham Univ., 1992; JD, Duquesne Univ. School of Law, 1995

Occupation: Attorney

Qualifications: Four years on the Beth-Center School Board where I also serve as Treasurer. I have practiced law since 1995. I also serve on the Fredericktown Area Chamber of Commerce, Fredericktown Library Board and the Intermediate Unit 1 Board of Directors.

Answer to [question](#): The most important issue facing Beth-Center is maximizing our students' educational opportunities while working within our district's budget. This is particularly challenging given our district's limited tax base, recent cuts in education funding on both the state and federal levels. We must also focus on hiring strong teachers and administrators who will create a positive educational environment for our students.

SAM MARCOLINI

Nominated: Republican

Did not reply

REGION III *Beallsville, Deemston, Marianna & W. Bethlehem*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

DONALD L. CRILE

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION I *Hanover & Jefferson*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

CHRISTOPHER KRAMER

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 9/28/63

Party of Registration: Democrat

For more info: 724-899-3030

Education: BA Journalism/Media Communications, Univ. of Pittsburgh

Occupation: Self-employed, Kramer Farms LLC, greenhouse, winery and brewery in the district.

Qualifications: Current president, Burgettstown School Board, with 8 years tenure.

Extensive experience working with youth in educational setting as well as 45 years in Scouting.

Answer to [question](#): The most important issue facing our district right now is apathy among students and in the community in regard to education. Over the next four years I plan to assist our administration and faculty in implementing our long-range comprehensive plan and to showcase the great things happening in our schools. We need education to become as important in the home and community as it is among our staff if our children are going to succeed.

REGION II *Burgettstown, Smith 2,4, & 7*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

CHRIS MATALIK

Nominated: Democratic

Did not reply

REGION II

TERM:2 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

No candidate

REGION III *Smith 1, 3, 5 & 6*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR TWO

JON VALLINA

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

BILL PRICE

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 5/19/37

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: wdprice55@gmail.com

Education: BS, Education, Calif. Univ. of PA; MA, Education, WVU; Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility, Univ. of Pgh.

Occupation: Retired former Superintendent of Burgettstown School District

Qualifications: 40 yrs. in Public Education as Teacher, Secondary, Principal, Superintendent; 15 yrs. as a member of the Board of Education; Serving as Treasurer; Chairman of Education Committee; Educational Advisory Committee for District; Negotiations Committee

Answer to [question](#): The main concern as with most Districts is maintaining and improving the education of students while struggling with increased costs while attempting to balance tax payer funding and state subsidies.

CALIFORNIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION I *California 1, 2 & 4*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR TWO

BARRY R. NICCOLAI

Nominated: Democratic

Did not reply

ERIC J. AMBER

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

REGION II *California 3, W. Brownsville 2, W. Pike Run*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

AMY TODD

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

REGION III *Allenport, Coal Center, Elco, Long Branch, Roscoe*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

DIANE SCRIP

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

TERM: 2 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

JOHN W. BITONTI

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 11/8/62

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: 724-747-5803

Education: California HS 1981; W&J Coll. 1985 (BA); Duquesne Law School 1988 (JD)

Occupation: Attorney

Qualifications: Knowledge of the district (life-long resident), ability to effectuate compromise, problem solving and negotiation skills and being a reasonable, level-headed person.

Answer to [question](#): The main issue in our school district is the challenge of providing a high quality education on a limited budget. I plan to control costs to a reasonable extent that will not compromise the educational experience, as well as, attempt novel funding methods so that taxes do not have to be raised too much.

CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION: CANONSBURG *Canonsburg except 1-4*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR TWO

MARY E. KLINE

Nominated: Democratic

D.O.B: 4/06/67

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Canon-McMillan HS, 1985; Univ. of Pgh, BA Communications & Rhetoric , 1989; Univ. of Pgh. Graduate School of Public & International Affairs, MPA, Public Administration & Policy, 1996

Occupation: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Auditor

Qualifications: Attended / have family in CM schools. Committed to preparing kids to face and overcome current and future challenges.

Answer to [question](#): Financial – closely monitor construction costs and other spending to act as a responsible steward of the public’s tax dollars. Social – work with District employees to ensure that students and families whose lives are affected by addiction have access to resources for treatment and support as needed.⁴⁶ Honor my dad by ensuring that all of my decisions are made by answering the question, “what is best for the kids?” just like he always did.

REGION: CECIL *Cecil and Canonsburg 1-4*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

DARLA BOWMAN-MONACO

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 5/18/52

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Grad HS, Some Business School

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: This would be my 3rd term on the CM Board. I had worked at CM in many departments for 35 years. I bring knowledge of past labor, building & grounds, and some transp. Everyone at the table brings something special.

Answer to [question](#): We are faced with overcrowding, pension, stadium repair, and the future of public education; all students education & graduations. We are bldg. new schools & expanding high school; reno of stadium; facing pension has been high on list to fund the states mistake for years; keeping the student curriculum & activity top on the list of everything. Being an award winning school academically and our many state champ. athletic teams to continue!

REGION: N. STRABANE

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

ZEFFIE L. CARROLL

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

TERM: 2 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

PETER MONIODES

Nominated: Democratic

D.O.B: 1/16/58

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Assoc. Bus. – County Coll. of Morris

Occupation: Consulting Partner – NCR Corp.

Qualifications: Business Background, President of Parish Council, Treasurer of Fraternal Organization.

Answer to [question](#): The most important issues facing our school district are our ability to continue to provide quality education to our students, keeping taxes at reasonable levels to not impact our senior citizens and to make sure we have the capacity in our schools to handle our growing demographics. This can be accomplished by having a school board that is closely engaged with the school administration to ensure everyone is working together to a common goal.

CHARLEROI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Charleroi, Dunlevy, Fallowfield, N. Charleroi, Speers, Stockdale, Twilight. At large.

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR FOUR

JOSEPH CARUSO

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 6/30/52

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Graduated from CHS in 1970 and from Cal U in 1974 with BS in Education

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: Lifelong resident of the CASD. Taught 32 yrs. for district before retiring in 2012. Elected to the board 4 yrs. ago with two priorities, our students and our tax payers. Those priorities haven't changed.

Answer to [question](#): With less state subsidies and tax dollars it's important that we spend our money wisely. We have to keep as many teachers and programs as possible while eliminating waste whenever we can. My platform hasn't changed. I'm not looking to get family members jobs and I have no axes to grind with anyone. On any vote I make, I ask myself how does this affect the students and how does it affect the taxpayers.

KENNETH J. WILTZ

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 8/25/44

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Graduate of Charleroi HS; Duquesne Univ., BS, Education,

Occupation: Retired Executive Director, Mon Valley YMCA

Qualifications: School Board Member for 40 yrs.; Knowledgeable of budget and finance issues; Active in community and youth programs; Serve on a number of volunteer boards
Answer to question: Some important issues facing our school board is a variety of grossly underfunded programs from our state government. Programs, such as, Cyber Schools, Special Education, and rising Pension costs have placed tremendous strains on our budget; while only receiving modest increases in state funding. We must provide legislators with a grass root voice on nearly every educational policy matter we face. Districts need help to continue to invest in our future – our students.

BARBARA L. PEPPER

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: N/A

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: BS, Calif. Univ. of PA; MA, Education, Calif. Univ. of PA

Occupation: Retired educator from the Charleroi Area School District

Qualifications: As a CASD School Board member, I bring a broad perspective. As a former educator; detailed knowledge of the District, educational standards, true appreciation of the diverse needs of the students, as well as comprehension of the budgeting process. As a lifelong resident; dedication to be objective and fair, and fiscally responsible to all community stakeholders.

Answer to question: The most important to our District are the students. High academic standards for EVERY child, begins with prudent planning. Holding ALL District members accountable for student achievement, school accountability, and safety is innate to success. While the goal is to provide the best education for all students, fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers is required. Utilizing governmental tax monies discreetly, exploring avenues to garner grants and funding, and always remembering our vision: our children.

THOMAS NUTTING

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 8/27/48

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: 724-963-5331

Education: 1966 Charleroi HS; 1970 BA Secondary Spanish – Calif. State Teacher’s Coll.; 1991 MA Spanish – Univ. of Pgh.

Occupation: Retired; Substitute Teacher

Qualifications: 34 yrs. as a Spanish Teacher in the Uniontown Area SD; 1 yr. –St. Sebastian –BelleVernon; 1 yr.–Madonna-Monongahela

Answer to question: Like many districts, Charleroi also faces many financial challenges; one of them being the fact that the state government cannot come to an equitable decision on where to spend taxpayer dollars. This causes districts to borrow more money and incur interest charges which if the state passed a budget, would not have to happen. With dwindling revenue, including a dwindling tax base, it is difficult to maintain all the programs we offer our students. Despite...

TERM: 2 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

No candidate

CHARTIERS-HOUSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR FOUR

RICHARD M. HALL

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 12/15/46

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: Facebook

Education: BS/Education, Calif. Univ. of PA

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: 36 yrs. on the Board; Extensive Knowledge of Construction Practices & Codes; Degree in Teaching

Answer to [question](#): The most important issues facing our school district are funding and class sizes. The funding issue is being handled by being more financially prudent and applying for and receiving grants for money to reduce class sizes.

SHELLEY BROSE

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

FRED R. ROCKAGE

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

WILLIAM L. HERRIOTT

Nominated: Democratic

Did not reply

JON A KELLY

Nominated: Republican

D.O.B: 4/03/56

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Kent State Coll. Of Podiatric Medicine

Occupation: Retired Podiatrist

Qualifications: I have four years experience on this school board. I was a former teacher

Answer to [question](#): The most important issue facing our district is keeping our district viable while not cutting important programs and keeping tax increases to a minimum

FORT CHERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR FOUR

JEANINE ROBINSON MILES

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 3/14/54

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: Fort Cherry HS, Indiana Univ. of PA – BS in Elementary Education

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: As a lifelong resident of the Fort Cherry School District and my background and experience in public education, I feel I am able to identify many of the needs of the children of the district. I have served four years on the school board. I would like the opportunity to continue, as we move forward toward our vision and goals.

Answer to [question](#): As with most districts in Pennsylvania, the most important issue we face is revenue and trying to operate the district under a balanced budget. Because our hands are tied on many line items such as contractual obligations, PSERS, and federal and state reimbursement, it becomes quite a challenge. I feel the board members of Fort Cherry have worked hard to continue without making cuts to programs affecting the education of our children.

CYNTHIA EGER GASKILL

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 4/24/59

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: 724-796-5931

Education: Fort Cherry graduate; BA, International Affairs, George Washington Univ.; PHR Certification (Professional Human Resources)

Occupation: Human Resources Administrator, All-Clad Metalcrafters, Canonsburg, PA; Benefits, 401(k), Compensation, Payroll, and various Generalist responsibilities.

Qualifications: Parent of Fort Cherry graduate, taxpayer, alumna. Fort Cherry School Board Director 1997-2009, 2013-present. Possesses understanding and experience in school board responsibilities, functions, and relationships.

Answer to [question](#): Fort Cherry has historically delivered education and opportunity to our children on a shoestring budget. This is possible because of resourceful teachers and administrators and frugal spending. Now, due to shrinking state funding and rising state-imposed expenses, (foremost being Pennsylvania's charges to schools for poor state-level pension management) the shoestring is getting shorter. Until state government solves its financial issues, we must continue to be creative and innovative, keeping the goal in sight – STUDENT SUCCESS.

EUGENE BRIGGS

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 9/16/58

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Fort Cherry HS; W. Liberty Univ. – BS in Business Administration; WVU – Graduate studies in education administration

Occupation: Insurance agent

Qualifications: Fort Cherry alumnus; BS degree in Business Administration from W. Liberty Univ; Graduate studies in Education Administration at WVU; district resident; Businessman in the district; volunteer coach in the district

Answer to [question](#): Economics is the biggest issue at Fort Cherry. With the limited revenue that the district operates with, allocation of resources in every area of the district operations is critical. We need to be able to find ways to maintain all the current programs for the students. We must look at not only the present, but, long-term financial planning.

DAWN FIORI

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 6/9/69

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Graduated cum laude from Rutgers Univ. with a BA in Psychology

Occupation: Homemaker. PRN Utilization Review/Clinical Evaluations for Greenbriar Treatment Center

Qualifications: Previous PTA president, ongoing PTA involvement. Work history includes caseworker at CYS, Clinical Evaluator for Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission and Greenbriar Treatment Center

Answer to [question](#): I feel our District's administration and current board are doing an exemplary job with a focus on academic achievement. However, I feel we struggle with managing a budget with the funding currently available. Moving forward, I would like to see us examining alternative funding sources, such as grants, to bulk up our available income, and examining the current budget to consider reducing or eliminating unnecessary, non-academic expenses. I do not think raising taxes is a viable option at this point.

NEAL C. MATCHETT

Nominated: Fort Cherry School

D.O.B: 5/13/75

Party of Registration: Independent

For more info: N/A

Education: BSBA Duq. Univ., MS Robert Morris Univ.

Occupation: Project Manager

Qualifications: 1 yr. incumbent

Answer to [question](#): The most important issues facing our school district right now revolve around our ability to provide the best possible educational environment for our students with limited financial resources, and balancing this goal with the best interests of our other constituents (our staff, administration, tax-payers, and community). In order to

best balance these needs we will need negotiate contracts intelligently and logically and address individual issues with a fair and open give-and-take attitude.

McGUFFEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION I *Blaine, Claysville, Donegal*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

RICHARD D. SHRIVER

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

REGION I

TERM: 2 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

No candidate

REGION II *Buffalo, Green Hills, E. Finley, W. Finley*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

EDWARD R. SZYGENDA

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

REGION III *Morris, S. Franklin*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR TWO

CARL GROUP

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

KEN LEASURE

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Peters Township. At large.

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR FOUR

LISA ANDERSON

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 11/15/66

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: andersonptsd@gmail.com

Education: BA Prelaw 1989, Penn State Univ.; JD 1992, Univ. of Pgh.

Occupation: Office Manager

Qualifications: School Board – 3.5 yrs. (Policy Chair, Education Vice-Chair, PSBA Rep. and Negotiating Committee. Attended 90+ hrs. of educational seminars. Oversaw the rewrite of 200+ District policies.) Attorney. PTA member (14+ yrs. - multiple years PTA President, Vice President and Secretary).

Answer to [question](#): Unfunded mandates. Astronomical increases in pension and special education costs, without increased funding are driving forces for increased property taxes. Charter schools siphon local taxpayer dollars away from District operations. School choice legislation could be catastrophic for public schools. My goal is to become more actively involved in the legislative process so that lawmakers know the effects these costs have on our budget.

REBECCA BOWMAN

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 09/17/57

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Qualifications: With degrees in civil/structural engineering, international finance, and law, I am a small business owner in McMurray, providing services as an attorney, forensic civil/structural engineer, arbitrator, and mediator. Since my children graduated from Peters, I have brought my widely-varied skill set to the school board, serving twice as VP.

Answer to [question](#): A school board strives to assure that the needs of all students are met in the most cost-effective manner possible, looking ahead along a timeline of at least ten years. Districts are faced with legislative mandates for which corresponding funding is not supplied; in light of recent deficit Commonwealth budgets, even committed funding cannot be relied upon. Community partnerships are critical to close the gap and creatively provide the maximum opportunities.

DANIEL J. TAYLOR

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 11/04/68

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: BS/Mechanical Engineering, Univ. of Pgh.

Occupation: Chief Operating Officer All-Clad

Qualifications: 25 yrs. of experience operating businesses up to \$500M and 2000 employees in both union and non-union environments. Currently Chief Operating Officer

for All-Clad Metalcrafters in Canonsburg. Father of 3 current PTSD students and one 2014 graduate of PTSD.

Answer to [question](#): The upcoming decision to keep the current High School, renovate it or to build a new High School is the most important decision facing the District. The future for all stakeholders in the township will be touched in some way by the results of this decision. I believe that all angles of this topic must be rigorously evaluated to insure an improved learning environment for our students and continued value for our taxpayers.

JAMISON HARDY

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 10/1/73

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: BS Education; MDV; MPA; DBA

Occupation: Bishop/President English District CCMS

Qualifications: I have served for 4 yrs. already

Answer to [question](#): N/A

RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

AT LARGE (Regions I, II, and III)

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR THREE

SHERRIE CRAWLEY GARRY

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

LARRY MAURO

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 11/23/43

Party of Registration Democratic

For more info: larmaur@comcast.net

Education: Calif. Univ. of PA, Kent State Univ., Univ. of Pgh., San Diego State Univ., et al.

Occupation: Retired Educator

Qualifications: Educator, Long-term School Board Member, Life of Community Service, Experienced in all aspects of education and school governance.

Answer to [question](#): Ringgold does an excellent job of providing a quality, relevant education for our students in a safe environment. Our programs meet the needs of the high academic students, those interested and/or talented in the arts, and those desiring career related studies. As with public education in general, the most pressing issues that needs to be addressed is finances. Costs continue to rise and educational needs continue to increase. Unfortunately, the already overburdened taxpayers must bear...

JIM DODD**Nominated:** Democratic/Republican**D.O.B:** 8/23/77**Party of Registration:** Democratic**For more info:** www.VoteDodd.com; Open Facebook Group: Jim Dodd for Ringgold School Board**Education:** Bachelor of Education and Master of Counseling, Calif. Univ. of PA**Occupation:** Educator/1:1 Support**Qualifications:** I have over twenty years of experience in leadership roles and currently serve on the Ringgold Board. I am an involved parent of four children in the district. My professional life has been dedicated to helping others.**Answer to question:** There is a need to improve Ringgold's educational standing. Internally, I believe it is important to work collaboratively with administrators, teachers, students and families to identify challenges to excellence. Through a culture of mutual respect and shared responsibility for success, Ringgold can also develop strategic partnerships to identify best practices that ignite a passion for learning in students with low-to-moderate achievement and encourage those with high achievement to excel to new highs.**WILLIAM C. STEIN, JR.****Nominated:** Republican**D.O.B:** 7/19/47**Party of Registration:** Democratic**For more info:** 724-747-4777**Education:** BS, Business Admin, Penn State Univ.**Occupation:** Chief Executive Officer CLI USA, Inc.**Qualifications:** Certified Public Accountant; Owned and operated a successful international business for 25 yrs.; Serving my 14th year on the Ringgold Bd; Background in Finance, Accounting, and Auditing including school audits.**Answer to question:** Ringgold's biggest challenge is providing quality educational opportunities while facing funding cutbacks from the federal and state governments. This is complicated by the legislatures' failure to resolve the state pension plan crisis. Districts must contribute almost 32% of every wage dollar just to pay for pensions. Providing the best education to our students in an environment of financial uncertainty will require keen management and planning. My experience in accounting and business will help accomplish that ...REGION I *Carroll 1, 3, & 4, Donora*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

LARRY MAURO**Nominated:** Democratic/Republican**D.O.B:** 11/23/43**Party of Registration** Democratic

For more info: larmaur@comcast.net

Education: Calif. Univ. of PA, Kent State Univ., Univ. of Pgh., San Diego State Univ., et al.

Occupation: Retired Educator

Qualifications: Educator, Long-term School Board Member, Life of Community Service, Experienced in all aspects of education and school governance.

Answer to [question](#): Ringgold does an excellent job of providing a quality, relevant education for our students in a safe environment. Our programs meet the needs of the high academic students, those interested and/or talented in the arts, and those desiring career related studies. As with public education in general, the most pressing issues that needs to be addressed is finances. Costs continue to rise and educational needs continue to increase. Unfortunately, the already overburdened taxpayers must bear...

REGION II *Carroll 2 & 5, Monongahela, New Eagle*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

CAROL FIDA FLAMENT

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

Did not reply

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGION I *Amwell, N. Franklin*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR TWO

FRANCES EATES

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 12/5/53

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: Farmington H.S., Farmington WV; Fairmont State Univ. BA, Elementary Ed; WVU, MA Reading Education

Occupation: Retired Teacher – Public Elem. & Private Preschool

Qualifications: Background in Public School & Early Childhood Education; Previous School Board Experience

Answer to [question](#): Providing academic and career opportunities for all students while being fiscally responsible is the goal of a well-functioning school board. Exploring alternate revenue sources, constantly evaluating and adapting current programs and developing a feasible budget and reviewing it on a regular basis will continue to provide the best for Trinity families. A plan has been developed to address the physical needs of the facilities. The greatest challenge is continuing to move our district forward while...

J.R. SLAGLE

Nominated: Democratic

D.O.B: 8/27/76

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: BA, Accounting, W&J Coll.

Occupation: Senior Manager of Financial Reporting, Arconic

Qualifications: Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) with 15 yrs. of experience with large, complex, public companies.

Answer to [question](#): The biggest issue facing our district, and many others, is the limit of funds available to maintain our facilities. As a member of the Trinity Area School District Board, I would continue to control spending and benchmark against other similarly situated school districts for new ideas on how to better control costs.

BRYAN LOWE

Nominated: Republican

D.O.B: 2/19/76

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: BS, Civil Engineering, Penn State Univ.

Occupation: Civil Engineer

Qualifications: Professional Engineer. Taxpayer. I have volunteered for many years at local schools, various church functions and youth sports organizations.

Answer to [question](#): Providing the best education possible for all the children in the district given limited resources is a major issue. Being cognizant of the limited taxpayer base, including those on a fixed income is important. Making the best financial decisions regarding the number of teachers necessary in the primary grades and evaluating all contracts with outside vendors to provide the most bang for each taxpayer dollar should be considered by our District.

REGION II *Canton*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

TOM DURBIN

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 2/10/48

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: 724-222-1708, Facebook

Education: Danville H.S.; Ashland Coll., BS/Ed.; Univ. of Cincinnati, M.Ed.

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Qualifications: 40 yrs. in education as a high & middle school teacher; 4 yrs. as Trinity School Director

Answer to [question](#): Maintaining a high quality education for Trinity students is my first priority. Funding is a major concern. Limited funding from state and federal governments create a greater tax burden on our local community. In addition “for profit” cyber and charter schools siphon more money away from our district. My goal is to keep Trinity

Area School District the education institution of choice for our young people and keep our local tax dollars in our district.

REGION III *S. Strabane*

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

DANIEL PIATT

Nominated: Piatt for Trinity

Did not reply

WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Washington and E. Washington. At Large.

TERM: 4 YEARS; VOTE FOR FOUR

RHONDA L. BARNES

Nominated: Democratic

Did not reply

PATRICIA R. CHERRY

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 9/9

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: 724-225-6129

Education: High School Graduate with many Seminars, Workshops and Leadership Councils over the years.

Occupation: Administrative assistant at the Washington Senior Center

Qualifications: Community Involvement; Serving on Community Boards; Leadership Abilities; Communication Skills; A strong desire for students to advance through education with active goals pointed toward a higher learning experience

Answer to [question](#): There are a lot of things I will hear and see as a School board director therefore better understanding any issues. Personally I hope to see more Community Engagement and Involvement with Parents and Directors. How: I will address it one-on-one with parents.

TARA L. SPARKS-GATLING

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 2/20/75

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: BA, Chemistry, W&J Coll., 1997

Occupation: Supply Planner at Eastman Chemical Company

Qualifications: I am a tax paying resident with two children currently in the district. I have been involved with the district, as a parent volunteer for the Community Advisory Panel and a member of the PFO. I have also volunteered in the community...

Answer to question: The biggest issue facing the Washington School District is student achievement on standardized test and graduation rates. To address these issues, the board superintendent, administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students must work together to ensure the based educational outcome. We must keep the lines of communication open and create an environment where students feel safe, valued, and nurtured to focus on instruction and perform at high levels. We must find ways to close achievement gaps

WILLIAM C. BILL BRAUN JR.

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: N/A

Party of Registration: Democratic

For more info: N/A

Education: High School Graduate; several Electronic Schools; 41 yrs. Naval Reserve Retiree; 4 navy electricity schools

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: I have served a total of 32 yrs. on the Washington School Board. During that time involved in hiring 4 superintendents 2 football and 2 basketball coaches, many other administrators and teachers.

Answer to question: Most important is to develop a system to help raise the scores of our under achieving students. Second is to publicize what a great school district we are. All problems will be worked on by a board of nine + the superintendent "Prexie Pride" is alive and working

TERM: 2 YEARS; VOTE FOR ONE

JEFFREY L. FINE

Nominated: Democratic/Republican

D.O.B: 11/17/59

Party of Registration: Republican

For more info: N/A

Education: BS & BA, W&J Coll.

Occupation: Tax Accountant

Qualifications: Having served on the School Board for 9 yrs. and being a product of this School District

Answer to question: Pension Crisis. We need to encourage our legislature to address this issue in a timely manner.

Nov. 7 Ballot Question on Constitutional Amendment

This question will be on the November 7 ballot:

“Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to permit the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property with a local taxing jurisdiction, rather than limit the exclusion to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property, which is the existing law.”

Plain English Statement of the Office of Attorney General

The purpose of the ballot question is to amend Article VIII, Section 2(b)(vi) of the Pennsylvania Constitution to permit the General Assembly to pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to increase the amount of assessed value of homestead property that may be excluded when determining the real estate tax owed for homestead property. If the ballot question is approved, the General Assembly could then pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property when calculating the real estate tax owed on homestead property.

The Pennsylvania Constitution currently permits the General Assembly to pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude only a portion of the assessed value of homestead property when determining the amount of real estate tax owed. Under current law, the amount of assessed value that may be excluded from taxation cannot exceed one-half the amount of the median assessed value of all homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction. Local taxing authorities may not increase the millage rate of its real property tax to pay for homestead property exclusions.

The effect of the ballot question would allow the General Assembly to pass a law increasing the amount of assessed value that local taxing authorities may exclude from real estate taxation for homestead property. Currently, local taxing authorities can exclude from taxation only up to one-half the amount of the median assessed value of all homestead property located in the local taxing jurisdiction. But if the ballot question is approved, the General Assembly would have authority to pass a law permitting local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property. Local taxing authorities would continue to be prohibited from increasing the millage rate of its tax on real property to pay for the homestead exclusions.

The ballot question, by itself, does not authorize local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property from real estate taxation. Local taxing authorities could not take such action unless and until the General Assembly passes a law authorizing them to do so. The ballot question authorizes the General Assembly to pass that law.

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The LWVPA offers this explanation:

This amendment modifies the constitutional requirement that all commercial property and homes be treated the same and it would be a first step in any effort to eliminate property taxation for homeowners altogether.

The amendment does not by itself eliminate property taxes, it merely authorizes the House of Representatives to enact implementing legislation giving local taxing authorities — county, municipal and/or school — the option to do so.

Revenue from any property taxes eliminated in this manner must be made up through other means.

Any alternative tax scheme requiring increases in income taxes and/or sales taxes would necessarily benefit senior citizens living on fixed incomes whose earning days are behind them while putting much more of the tax burden on young working families and in the case of a sales tax increase, on the poor.

Proponents say the amendment would be the first step in changing the system so that an inability to pay property taxes could never again result in the loss of homes that people have worked their whole lives to pay for.

Opponents say that the amendment allows taxing authorities to replace a stable tax source (property) with unstable ones (income and sales taxes) that fluctuate with the economy and could be subject to legislative manipulation. Additionally, opponents fear that allowing districts to eliminate property taxation could lead to a loss of local control of education and to a significantly diminishing commitment to public education.

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