



For Our Future PA 
Action Fund

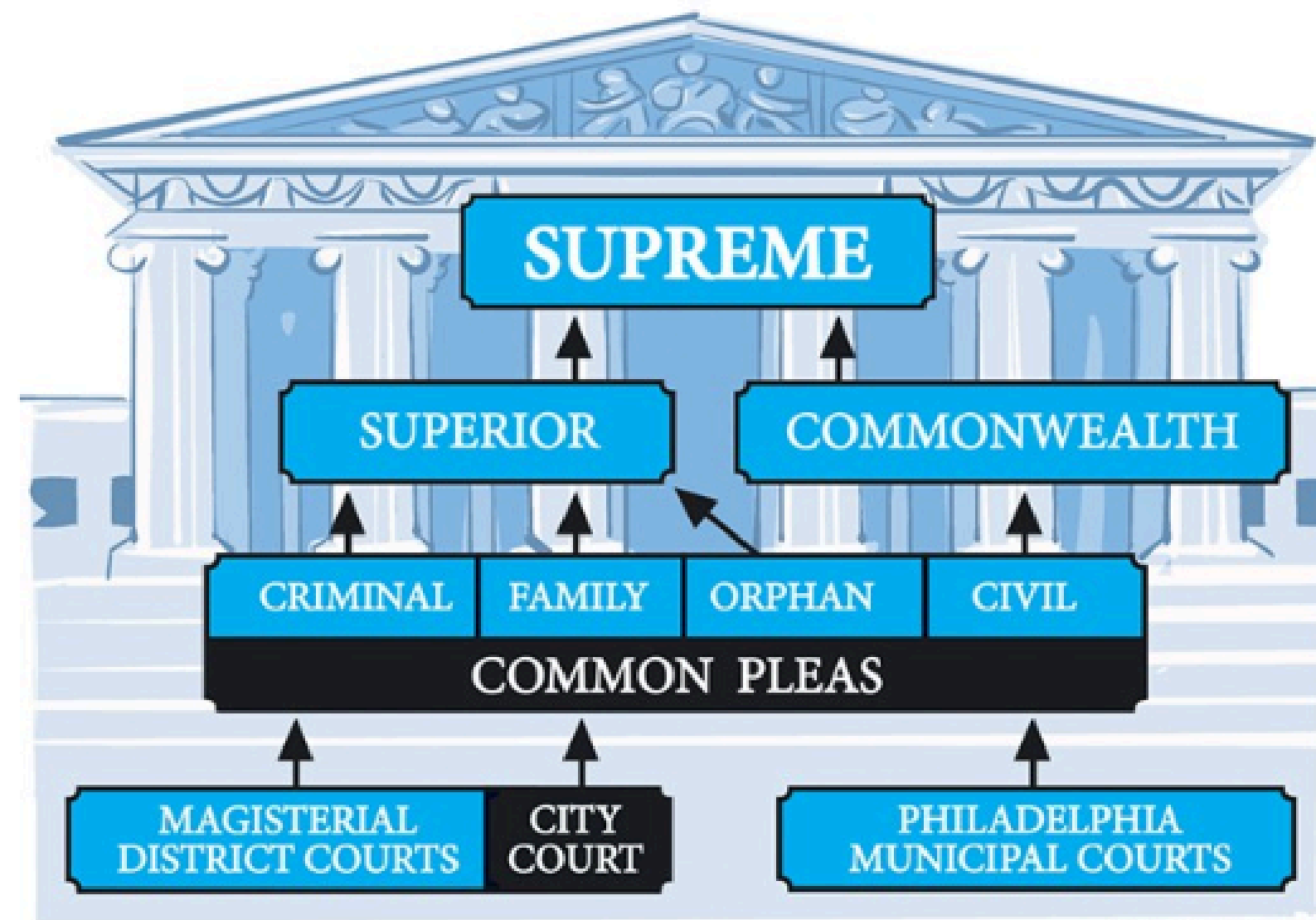
Courts Are On The Ballot: How PA Courts Work

Pennsylvania Court Structure

State Courts: Review appeals from legal cases that have already been heard in a Lower Court

Lower Courts: The courts whose decisions may be overruled by an Appellate Court

- Common Pleas are County
- Courts District/City/Municipal are local courts.



(Infographic by Jeff Schreckengost/Pittsburgh City Paper)

District/City/ Municipal Court

Responsibilities

- Determining whether serious criminal cases go to the Court of Common Pleas
- Setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases
- Preliminary arraignments and hearings
- No Jury Trials

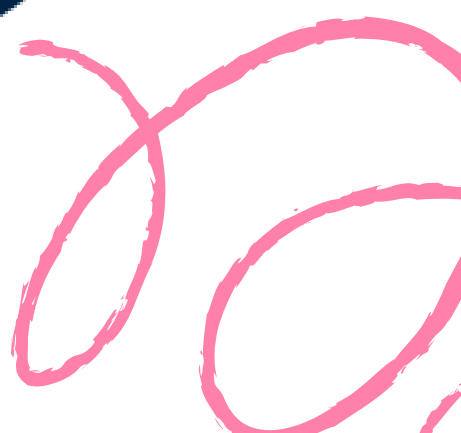
The Municipal Court hears cases in 3 divisions:

Criminal: Bail hearings and misdemeanor cases with less than five years of potential incarceration

Traffic: Moving violations and parking disputes

Civil: Landlord-tenant disputes, small claims and debt collection cases under \$12,000, code enforcement cases brought by city government for issues such as housing code violations, and real estate or school tax cases under \$15,000

Problem-solving courts – Drug Treatment Court, DUI Court, Project Dawn Court (Sex Work) and Veterans Court – offer rehabilitation and other services



Court of Common Pleas

Responsibilities

- Hearing criminal and civil cases, including those involving families and children
- Hearing appeals from the minor courts and appeals not assigned to another court
- Holding civil, criminal and jury trials

The Court of Common Pleas has 3 Divisions:

Trial Division: Oversees most felony criminal cases and civil cases with claims that typically exceed \$12,000

Family Division: Covers topics such as delinquent acts by juveniles, divorce, child abuse, and parental rights

Orphans Court Division: Handles questions involving powers of attorney, guardianship, and estates of the deceased

Problem-solving courts at this level include Juvenile Treatment Court and Mental Health Court



BETTER CIVICS



Superior Court

Responsibilities

- The appeals court for most citizens and businesses
- One of the busiest intermediate appellate courts in the country, receiving hundreds of thousands of filings per year and deciding more than 8,000 individual cases

Meek Mill Vindicated

The Superior Court overturned a decision made by the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 2019.

The Court stated that rapper Meek Mill's conviction on gun and drug charges should be vacated after reviewing the evidence of an eyewitness with questionable credibility.



Commonwealth Court

Responsibilities

- Reviewing civil cases involving the state or local governments
- Hearing appeals and sometimes sits as a trial court in certain cases brought by or against the Commonwealth, such as a constitutional challenge to a state law or a tax dispute
- The only court like it in the country

Soda Tax is A-OK

In 2016, the American Beverage Association (ABA), among others, argued that the Philadelphia Beverage Tax, commonly referred to as the "Soda Tax," violated a state statute.

After the case was dismissed by the Court of Common Pleas, the ABA appealed, but the Commonwealth Court affirmed the decision by the lower court and held that the Soda Tax was legal.

Supreme Court

Responsibilities

- The highest court in the Commonwealth and the oldest appellate court in the nation
- Known as the “court of last resort” and can assume jurisdiction over any case in the PA court system
- Seven justices serve on the Court and they make final judgments on the interpretation of PA’s laws and Constitution

Count the Ballots

Amid the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election, a suit filed by Rep. Mike Kelly and others requested that the state reject 2.5 million mail-in ballots, alleging that no-excuse absentee ballots violated a state law.

The state Supreme Court unanimously dismissed the lawsuit with one justice writing that it was trying to “subvert the will of Pennsylvania voters.”



When we vote, we're hiring someone to do a job.

Judicial Salaries Range Between:

Supreme Court \$261,976

Superior & Commonwealth Court \$247,188

Common Pleas \$227,411

Phila Municipal \$222,149

Magisterial District \$113, 713

This makes the case for voters to be well-informed on the selection process, since voters pay judges salaries through taxes.

Qualifications to Look for:

- Legal experience
- Endorsements by organizations you trust
- Educational and professional background
- Community involvement and public service
- Commitment to equal justice
- Compassion, reputation for integrity and fairness
- Prior case decisions

Red Wine & Blue

RALLY YOUR SQUAD



**TEXT RALLY TO
59868**



JOIN YOUR CAMPAIGN & CREATE AN ACCOUNT

SIGN IN OR SIGN UP

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RALLY

Sign up

youremail@gmail.com

We will send a link to your email to create your Rally account

Continue

or



Sign up with Google



Sign up with Yahoo

Sign in w/
Google,
Yahoo or
get a Magic
Link

JOIN CAMPAIGN

RALLY |



Michigan - Rally Your
Squad

About

It is time to Rally Your Squad! Together we can defeat extremism and elect candidates who share our values. You have the power to influence family and friends -- so let's go!

Cancel

Join Campaign

Join Your
State
Campagin



SET UP YOUR PROFILE

RALLY

Michigan - Rally Y...

▼

▼



Welcome

Legal First Name

Legal Last Name

☐ I go by a different name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

RALLY

Ohio - Rally Your S...

▼

J

▼

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Match yourself to the voter file

We've searched for you in the official file of registered voters. Select the best match.

☐ WOMACK, JULIE

✓

Age

56

City

MASON, OH 45040

Party

DEM

Street

ROBERTS PARK

☐ WOMACK, JULIE

✓

Age

42

City

100+ MILES FROM MASON
N RIDGEVILLE, OH 44039

It's okay if you can't find a match! Select "none of these" at the bottom and you can find the match later


ADD YOUR CONTACTS!

Add the names of the people you will contact about voting and elections.

If you use the brainstorm function, be sure and add your list!

Make sure you match everyone to the voter file! If not match, click “None of these.”

Answer the Key Question - we can direct actions based upon your friend's status!

RALLY | Ohio - Rally Your S... 

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Add a Contact

Legal First Name


Last Name

☐ They go by a different name

City State

Age range
☐ 13-17 ☐ 18-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59
☐ 60-69 ☐ 70-79 ☐ 80 or older



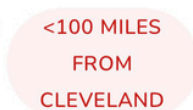
[Next](#)




RALLY | Ohio - Rally Your S... 


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Match Hudson to the voter file

We've searched for **Hudson Smith** from **Cleveland, OH** in the official file of registered voters. Select the best match.

☒ SMITH, HUDSON 
Age  32 City  **<100 MILES FROM CLEVELAND**
WALBRIDGE, OH 43465
Party UNK Street BROADWAY

☐ SMITH, HUDSON 
Age  **NEAR AGE** City  **<100 MILES**

RALLY | Ohio - Rally Your S... 

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Key Question

You know your people best. Tell us about them so we can tee up the best move for you to make next!

It's okay if you aren't sure — this is just a starting point so we can give you ideas for what to do next. You'll be able to update this answer later.

☐ They are ready to step up and volunteer!

☐ They will vote our way and they will definitely vote in the next election

☐ They will vote our way in the next election...but need to make sure they turnout

[Cancel](#)

[Save](#)

REACH OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS

- The Tasks tab shows you the actions available in your state's campaign to share with your contact
- Click a Talk to Your Contacts and then pick a friend to find an action to take or info to share
- Click the action for details and links to share; report back "I did it" once you complete it.
- **Reporting back is VERY important** - support RWB and help us show the impact that we are having together on the election!

The image displays two screenshots of a mobile application interface for a campaign called 'RALLY' in Ohio. The top navigation bar is dark with the 'RALLY' logo, a dropdown menu showing 'Ohio - Rally Your S...', and a user profile icon with the letter 'J'.

The left screenshot shows a task titled 'ASK YOUR FRIEND: Which issue is most important to them'. Below the title is a speech bubble icon and the text 'Talk to the people in your Rally network.' A progress bar indicates 'You've talked to 1 out of 6 contacts for this action.' A blue button labeled 'Talk to Your Contacts' is at the bottom. Below this is a section titled 'Build your squad by entering at least 12 contacts and matching them to the voter file' with a plus icon and a right arrow.

The right screenshot shows a screen titled 'Rally Your Contact' for a user named 'Mark Johnson'. It includes a 'Back' button. The main text says 'ELECTION: Talk to your friend about the election and issues that matter to them'. Below this is a hint: 'Find out the *most concerning issue* to your friend. Hint: This is the issue that will drive them to vote and take other action! Click "I did it" if you have had a conversation, whether that's been via text, phone, or in person.' There is a radio button labeled 'I did it!' and a large blue 'Submit' button at the bottom.