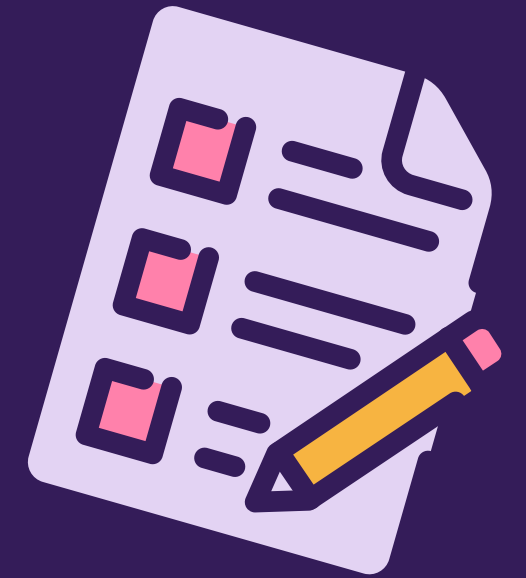


# **The Local Lowdown: All About the Ballot**



# What We'll be Covering:

- **Judicial Retention**



- **All the local offices on your ballot**



# Why Are Judicial Retentions Important in 2025 in PA?



# WHAT IS JUDICIAL RETENTION?



**PENNSYLVANIA IS 1/11 STATES THAT USE THIS SYSTEM**

- After an initial 10-year term, judges and justices appear on the ballot (yes or no) to determine another 10-year term.
- Non-partisan: No party affiliations are listed to focus solely on qualifications and performance.
- Unlike federal judges, PA voters have a direct say in whether judges remain on the bench.

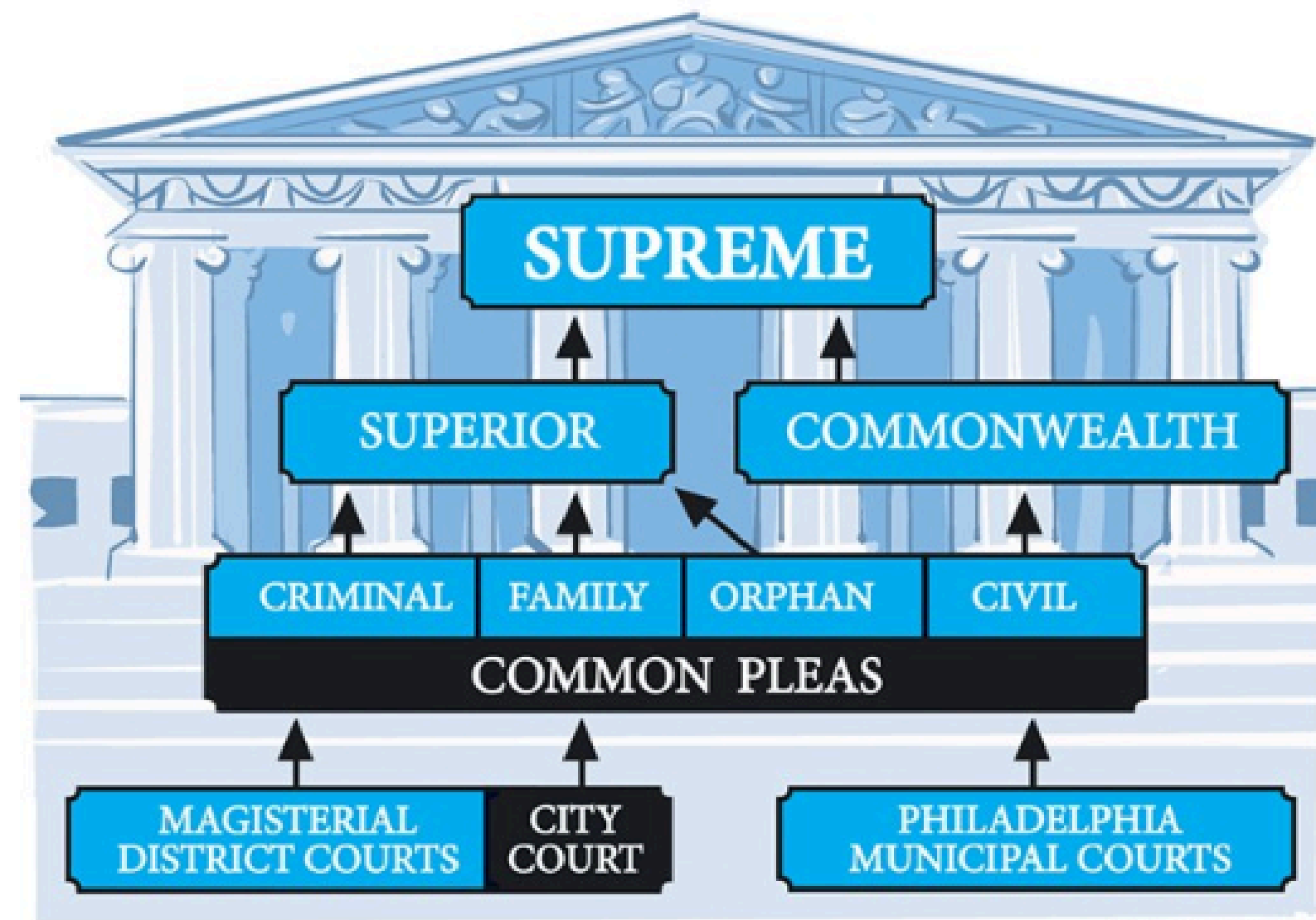


# Pennsylvania Court Structure

**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

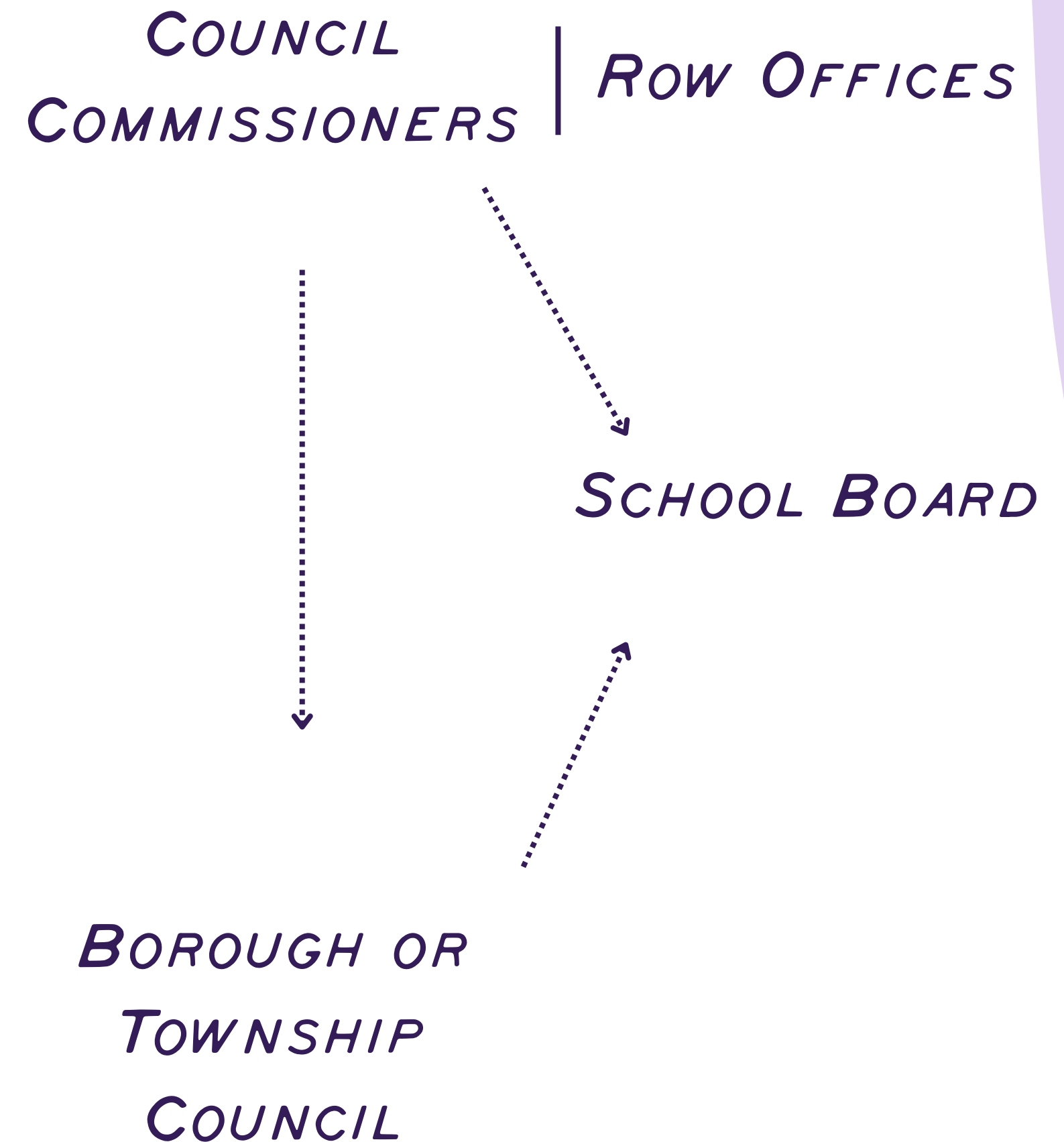
- Common Pleas are County
- Courts District/City/Municipal are local courts.



(Infographic by Jeff Schreckengost/Pittsburgh City Paper)

# Different Levels of County and Local Office

- County Commissioners or Council
- Row Offices\*
- Borough or Township Council
- School Board Directors



# SO WHAT DO THESE OFFICES DO?

## COUNTY COUNCIL/ COMMISSIONERS

County Commissioners are essentially the CEOs of the county, with authority over budgets and finance, debts, contracts, appointment of department heads and staff in offices that report directly to the board. Commissioners are elected to four-year terms.

They also set policy for their county and can enter in binding agreements.



# COUNTY COUNCIL/ COMMISSIONERS

## EXAMPLES OF WHAT THEY DO

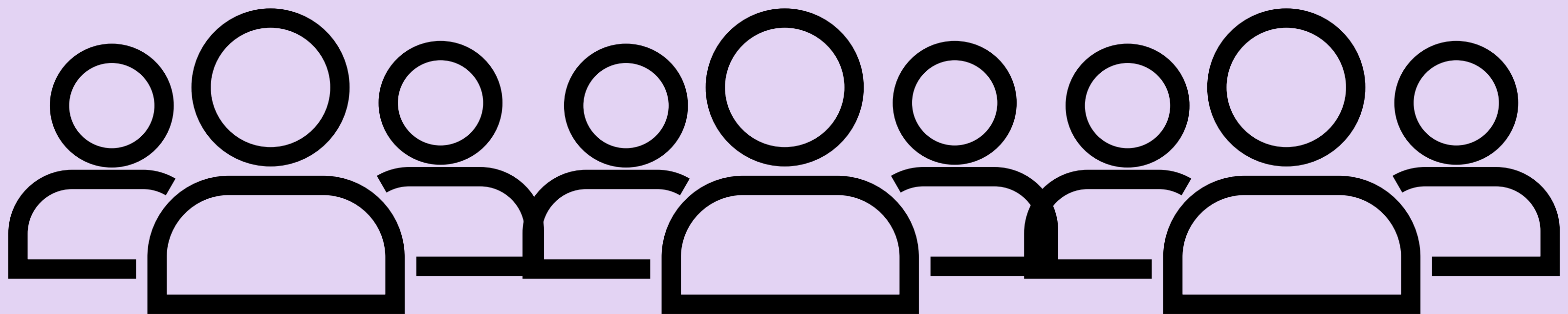
*MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
(COMMISSIONERS)  
INCREASES MINIMUM WAGE  
FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES*



*CENTRE COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS EAGERLY  
ANTICIPATING OPENING OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING*

# SO WHAT ARE THE ROW OFFICES?

*THE "ROW OFFICES" IN PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES REFER TO THE GROUP OF NINE INDEPENDENTLY ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS WHICH ARE: CLERK OF COURTS, CONTROLLER, CORONER, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, PROTHONOTARY, RECORDER OF DEEDS, REGISTER OF WILLS, SHERIFF, AND TREASURER*





## Clerk of Courts

The County Clerk's Office manages vital records such as vital certificates, business filings, and processing Judicial records for the County Court of Common Pleas.

## Controller

This office is responsible for overseeing the county's financial affairs, including budget management, auditing, and accounting.

## Coroner

The Coroner's Office is a team of medicolegal death investigators.

## District Attorney

District Attorney is the chief law enforcement of the county. This office works closely with federal, state, and local police agencies in the County in the investigation, prosecution, and prevention of crime.

## Sheriff

The sheriff is responsible for enforcing laws within the county, including law enforcement, serving court orders, and maintaining county jails.

## Recorder of Deeds

The Recorder of Deeds is responsible for property records, including deeds and mortgages.

## Treasurer

The Treasurer's Office collects property taxes and oversees county funds.

## Prothonotary

Prothonotary handles judicial records and court services

## Register of Wills

The primary duties include probating estates, acting as the inheritance tax agent for the State, processing applications for marriage licenses, maintaining dockets for adoptions, terminations of parental rights, and guardianships for minors and incapacitated adults

# *ROW OFFICES*

## **EXAMPLE OF WHAT THEY DO**

*BUCKS COUNTY SHERIFF SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH  
ICE*

*BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SAY SHERIFF DOES  
NOT HAVE POWER TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH ICE*





# Last but not Least

## Borough/Township Council

Borough councils are responsible for the overall governance and administration of a borough, including enacting local laws, managing budgets, and overseeing public services. They also play a role in maintaining public safety, regulating land use, and promoting the general welfare of the borough's residents.

## School Board Directors

They are responsible for establishing the vision and goals for the district, setting policies, approving budgets, and overseeing the hiring and evaluation of the superintendent. In essence, they act as the governing body for the public schools in their district.

# Examples of Pennsylvania Municipal Ballots

Ballot ID: 377  
Norristown 1-2  
130102

Official Republican Ballot  
County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Municipal Primary, Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Instructions to the Voter:  
1. TO VOTE YOU MUST COMPLETELY BLACKEN THE OVAL TO THE RIGHT OF YOUR CHOICE. An oval darkened to the right of any candidate indicates a vote for that candidate.  
2. To cast a write-in vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, you must darken the oval to the right of the line provided and print the name in the blank space provided for that purpose.  
3. Use a black pen or marker.  
4. If you make a mistake, DO NOT ERASE. Ask for a new ballot.  
WARNING: If you receive an absentee or mail-in ballot and return your voted ballot by the deadline, you may not vote at your polling place on Election Day. If you are unable to return your voted absentee or mail-in ballot by the deadline, you may only vote a provisional ballot at your polling place on Election Day, unless you surrender your absentee or mail-in ballot and envelope to the judge of elections to be voided to vote by regular ballot.

Judge of the Superior Court (Vote for One)	Jury Commissioner (Vote for One)	Norristown Council At-Large (Vote for Not More Than Two)
MARIA BATTISTA <small>Clarion</small>	MERRY BRODERICK WOODS <small>Upper Dublin</small>	
ANN MARIE WHEATCRAFT <small>Chester</small>	Write-In	Write-In
Write-In		Write-In
Judge of the Commonwealth Court (Vote for One)	Norristown School Director (Vote for Not More Than Four)	Norristown Council Ward 1 (Vote for One)
MATT WOLFORD <small>Erie</small>	CYNTHIA DAVENPORT	
JOSH PRINCE <small>Berks</small>	TERELL L DALE	Write-In
Write-In	JORDAN ALEXANDER	
	Write-In	
	Write-In	Write-In
	Write-In	
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas 38th District (Vote for Not More Than Three)		Judge of Election (Vote for One)
LAUREN HUGHES <small>Norristown</small>	Write-In	
MARY PUGH <small>Springfield</small>		
RAYMOND MCGARRY <small>Abington</small>	Norristown School Director 2 Year Term (Vote for One)	Write-In
Write-In		
Write-In	Write-In	
Write-In		

Montgomery County Board of Elections  
Neil Makhija, Chair  
Jamila H. Winder, Vice Chair  
Thomas DiBello, Commissioner

Norristown 1-2  
130102

Vote Both Sides of Ballot

Ballot ID: 1269  
Cheltenham 5-3  
310503

Official Democratic Ballot  
County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Municipal Primary, Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Instructions to the Voter:  
1. TO VOTE YOU MUST COMPLETELY BLACKEN THE OVAL TO THE RIGHT OF YOUR CHOICE. An oval darkened to the right of any candidate indicates a vote for that candidate.  
2. To cast a write-in vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, you must darken the oval to the right of the line provided and print the name in the blank space provided for that purpose.  
3. Use a black pen or marker.  
4. If you make a mistake, DO NOT ERASE. Ask for a new ballot.  
WARNING: If you receive an absentee or mail-in ballot and return your voted ballot by the deadline, you may not vote at your polling place on Election Day. If you are unable to return your voted absentee or mail-in ballot by the deadline, you may only vote a provisional ballot at your polling place on Election Day, unless you surrender your absentee or mail-in ballot and envelope to the judge of elections to be voided to vote by regular ballot.

Judge of the Superior Court (Vote for One)	Jury Commissioner (Vote for One)	Judge of Election (Vote for One)
BRANDON NEUMAN <small>Washington</small>	ANDREA BAPTISTE <small>Collegeville</small>	Write-In
Write-In	Write-In	
Judge of the Commonwealth Court (Vote for One)	Cheltenham School Director (Vote for Not More Than Four)	Inspector of Election (Vote for One)
STELLA TSAI <small>Philadelphia</small>	DANIEL SCHULTZ	Write-In
Write-In	CAROLINE WATTS	
	LEAH MULHEARN	
	ZACHARY EPPS	
	Write-In	
LAUREN HUGHES <small>Norristown</small>	Write-In	
RAYMOND MCGARRY <small>Abington</small>	Write-In	
MARY PUGH <small>Springfield</small>	Write-In	
Write-In		
Write-In	Cheltenham Township Finance Officer (Vote for One)	
Write-In	MELVIN PITTS	
	Write-In	

Montgomery County Board of Elections  
Neil Makhija, Chair  
Jamila H. Winder, Vice Chair  
Thomas DiBello, Commissioner

Cheltenham 5-3  
310503

# Voter Turnout in PA Municipal Elections

- Municipal turnout is usually quite low compared to general elections. For example, the 2023 Pennsylvania Municipal Primary saw only about 27.5% of registered voters cast ballots. ([Politics PA](#))
- By comparison, the 2024 general election (which includes federal and state-level offices) achieved a 77% turnout among registered voters and 69% among the voting-age population, one of the highest levels recorded in decade. ([Politics PA](#))

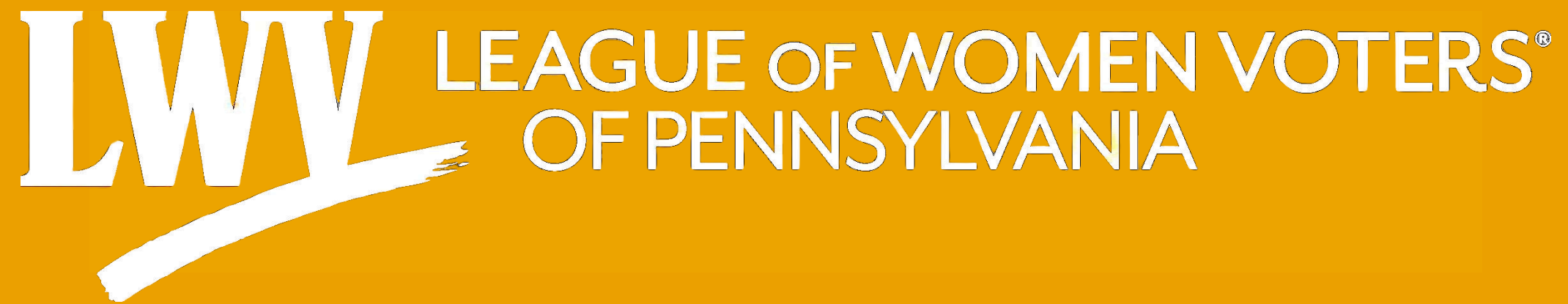
# Why Local Elections Matter:

- U.S. Municipal Elections Often Draw Only 15–27% of Eligible Voters. National research shows that local elections in the U.S. typically see just 15–27% of eligible voters turning out—strikingly low compared with federal contests. ([National Civic League](#))
- In Pennsylvania’s 2021 municipal primary, turnout was only 20%, compared to 30% in the general election. This means just 2 in 10 voters chose the municipal primary participants, and 3 in 10 then elected the officials governing local offices. (Smith, Danielle, “[PA Group Pushes to Educate Voters Ahead of Municipal Primary](#),” Public News Service, March 15, 2023)
- Political science researcher JoyAnna Hopper of the University of Scranton notes local elections often struggle with turnout between 15% and 27% of eligible voters. Many people underestimate the day-to-day impact of these positions (like potholes, zoning, park maintenance) ([WVIA](#))



# Down-Ballot Voting & Voter Drop-off (Roll-off)

- What is roll-off?
  - When voters participate in top-tier races (like governor or president) but skip local or municipal offices further down the ballot—a common issue in municipal elections.
- Why it matters in local context:
  - Municipal roles (e.g., school board, zoning, municipal judges) directly affect residents' daily lives.
- Low turnout or high roll-off undermines democratic representation and can lead to decisions being made by very few voters.
  - The Democratic primary for mayor in Harrisburg in 2025 was decided by just 83 votes. ([WGAL](#))
  - In the 2025 municipal primary election in Harrisburg, voter turnout was notably low. Several counties, including Dauphin, Lancaster, and Lebanon, saw less than 25% of eligible voters participate ([WGAL](#))



**VOTE**

**411**

**ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED**

August 25, 2025



**Finding NONPARTISAN  
candidate and voting  
information can be  
challenging and time-  
consuming...**

**...the League of Women  
Voters' [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)  
website can help.**

# Vote411.org: Make your game plan to vote

**VOTE 411**

English Register to Vote Donate

**ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED**

Brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund

Register to Vote Check Your Registration Find What's on Your Ballot

**HAVE YOUR CANDIDATES ANSWERED OUR QUESTIONS?** If not, see how you can help! Find out

**PERSONALIZED VOTING INFORMATION**

- ✓ See What's On Your Ballot
- ✓ Check Your Voter Registration
- ✓ Find Your Polling Place
- ✓ Discover Upcoming Debates In Your Area
- ✓ And Much More!

Enter Your Address to Get Started:

Street Address

City Select a state

Zip Code

Submit

- **CHECK** your voter registration status
- **REGISTER** to vote
- **FIND** your polling place or drop box
- **VIEW** upcoming election dates and deadlines
- **RESEARCH** candidates and ballot measures.
- **VIEW** voting rules
- **SIGN UP** for text reminders from Rock the Vote





# But the BEST part about Vote411.org is the VOTER GUIDE!

***Nonpartisan candidate information provided by the CANDIDATES  
Type in your address to see what is on YOUR ballot***

VIEW CANDIDATE

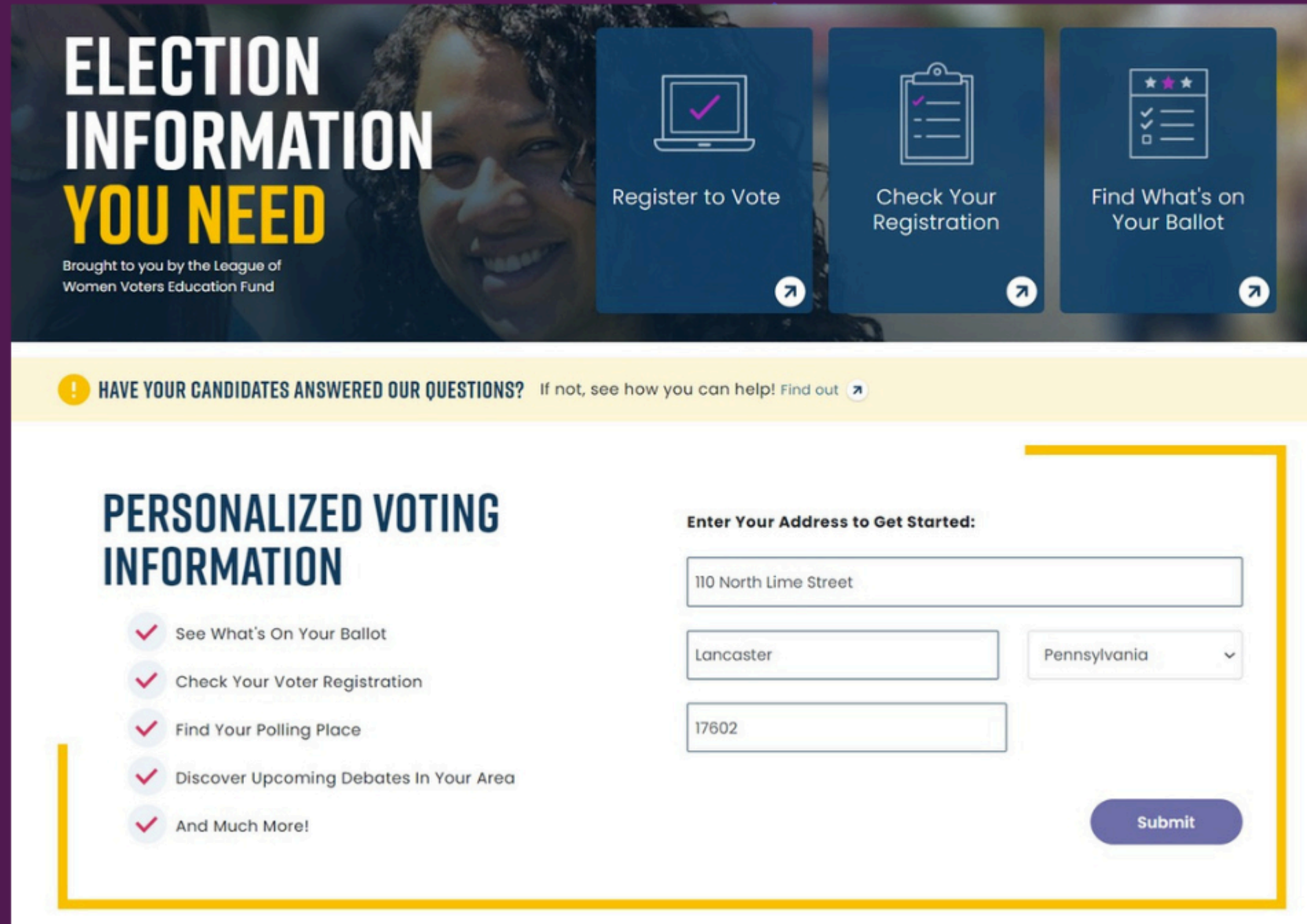
Job Description

Photo, Bio, and Website Link

Answers to 3 Questions

## Compare Candidates Side-by-Side

# Step 1: Type in your address



The screenshot shows the 'ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED' section, brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. It features three main action buttons: 'Register to Vote', 'Check Your Registration', and 'Find What's on Your Ballot'. Below these is a yellow banner asking if candidates have answered questions. The main section is titled 'PERSONALIZED VOTING INFORMATION' and lists five benefits: seeing the ballot, checking registration, finding the polling place, discovering debates, and more. To the right, under 'Enter Your Address to Get Started:', there are three input fields for the address: '110 North Lime Street', 'Lancaster', and '17602'. A dropdown menu for the state is set to 'Pennsylvania'. A 'Submit' button is at the bottom right of the form.

**ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED**  
Brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund

Register to Vote   Check Your Registration   Find What's on Your Ballot

**! HAVE YOUR CANDIDATES ANSWERED OUR QUESTIONS?** If not, see how you can help! Find out

**PERSONALIZED VOTING INFORMATION**

- ✓ See What's On Your Ballot
- ✓ Check Your Voter Registration
- ✓ Find Your Polling Place
- ✓ Discover Upcoming Debates In Your Area
- ✓ And Much More!

**Enter Your Address to Get Started:**

110 North Lime Street

Lancaster   Pennsylvania

17602

Submit

*The League of Women Voters does not share users' private information.*

# Step 2: See the races on YOUR ballot



## YOUR RACES

The races displayed are based on the address you've provided.



### Print your ballot selections

At any point in time, however, you can [print](#) your current ballot summary.

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> <b>Pennsylvania Judge of the Superior Court</b><br>Please select a candidate(s)                 | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>Pennsylvania Judge of the Commonwealth Court</b><br>Please select a candidate(s)             | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>East Hempfield Township Auditor</b><br>Please select a candidate(s)                          | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>East Hempfield Township Supervisor</b><br>Please select a candidate(s)                       | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>East Hempfield Township Tax Collector</b><br>Please select a candidate(s)                    | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds</b><br>Please select a candidate(s)                       | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>Lancaster County Controller</b><br>Please select a candidate(s)                              | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>Hempfield School Director</b><br>Please select a candidate(s)                                | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judicial Retention Election 1</b><br>Please select a candidate(s) | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judicial Retention Election 2</b><br>Please select a candidate(s) | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judicial Retention Election 3</b><br>Please select a candidate(s) | <a href="#">View Race →</a> |



# Step 3: Select a race to view...

## RACE DETAILS

Learn about all races and candidates on your ballot!

SINGLE VOTE RACE ⓘ

### PENNSYLVANIA JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT ⓘ

#### About This Race ▲

**Description of office:** The Commonwealth Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, established in 1968, is unlike any other state court in the nation. Its jurisdiction generally is limited to legal matters involving state and local government and regulatory agencies. Litigation typically focuses on subjects such as banking, insurance, utility regulation, and laws affecting taxation, land use, elections, labor practices, and workers compensation. The Commonwealth Court also acts as a court of original jurisdiction, or a trial court, when lawsuits are filed by or against the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Court is made up of nine judges. The president judge is elected to a five-year term by his/her colleagues. Generally, appeals are heard by panels of three judges sitting in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, or Pittsburgh.

**Term:** 10 years

**Salary:** \$247,188

**Vote for ONE.**

For more nonpartisan information on appellate court candidates, view the PA Bar Association's ratings and questionnaires here:

[www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2025](http://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2025)

[Show Less](#)

# Step 4: Meet the candidates



## General Information



Democratic  
**Stella Tsai**

My Choice

### COUNTY

Philadelphia

### OCCUPATION

Judge, Court of Common Pleas

### EDUCATION

B.A. – Pennsylvania State University J.D. – University of Pennsylvania

### QUALIFICATIONS

My 35 plus years of experience in law and the judiciary have equipped me with the skills and insights necessary to address the complex social, economic, and governmental issues facing our Commonwealth.

### CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

[stellaforjudge.com](http://stellaforjudge.com)

### FACEBOOK URL

[facebook.com/StellaForJudge](https://facebook.com/StellaForJudge)

### X HANDLE

[@Stellaforjudge](https://twitter.com/Stellaforjudge)

### INSTAGRAM URL

[instagram.com/stellaforjudge/](https://instagram.com/stellaforjudge/)



Republican  
**Matt Wolford**

My Choice

### COUNTY

Erie

### OCCUPATION

Attorney

### EDUCATION

Undergraduate degree: Penn State; Juris Doctorate degree: Temple University School of Law

### QUALIFICATIONS

38 years of relevant experience in government and private sectors, including Commonwealth Court hearings and appeals; ranked "Highly Recommended" by the PA Bar Association; see website for additional details

### CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

[www.mattwolfordforjudge.com](http://www.mattwolfordforjudge.com)

### FACEBOOK URL

[facebook.com/Mattwolfordforjudge](https://facebook.com/Mattwolfordforjudge)

# Step 5: See candidate answers



## Why do you seek to serve as an appellate court judge?



Democratic  
**Stella Tsai**

My Choice

It has been my great honor to serve as judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the last eight years. I decided to run for the vacant seat on the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania because the judges on this Court weigh in on many of the important issues of our day that will affect citizens across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, such as public education, the environment, voting rights, workers' rights, and the right to free and fair elections. The Commonwealth Court is often the last resort for these litigants because the Supreme Court only hears a select number of cases.

I understand the responsibilities which come with serving as a judge and have an established record which demonstrates my commitment to ethics, integrity, and fairness.



Republican  
**Matt Wolford**

My Choice

I seek to serve on the Commonwealth Court specifically due to its critical importance to the fundamental rights of "We the People." The Commonwealth Court – which acts mostly as an appellate court but can also act as a trial court for certain matters – is limited to cases involving State and local governments. As a result, Commonwealth Court judges are often gatekeepers in striking an appropriate balance between the necessity for government on the one hand versus unreasonable government interference with personal freedoms and private property rights on the other. I believe the Court needs common sense, constitutional conservative judges who are willing to push back on government overregulation and overreach and not legislate from the Bench.

## What process would you follow to be fair and impartial in reviewing and evaluating opposing positions presented in a case?



Democratic  
**Stella Tsai**

My Choice

My job requires me to act impartially and to treat all parties with respect. I want all parties to feel that they are on a level playing field. I do my best to put the parties at ease and allow them to have a free and fair opportunity to present their case, including language access, and that parties receive what they recognize to be due process under the law.



Republican  
**Matt Wolford**

My Choice

For this response, I assume that the Commonwealth Court is acting in its capacity as an appellate court. In my view, appellate courts should be "hot" courts, meaning that prior to oral argument, judges should become versed in the legal arguments presented. This requires reading the opening, response, and reply briefs; and, to the extent indicated by the arguments, reviewing portions of the reproduced record. Timely preparation allows judges to take advantage of the opportunity to ask unbiased, intelligent questions at oral argument. During oral argument, judges should treat all counsel with dignity and respect; and should be mindful of the extraordinary expenditure of time, effort, and resources required to appear before the Court.

***All candidates are asked the same questions.***



# What if information is missing?

Candidates are *invited & reminded* to populate their data, in their own words.

Responses are NOT edited by the LWV.

If candidates *choose* not to participate: only the candidate's name is shown.

This limits voters' opportunity to compare candidates side-by-side!



# Step 6: Select Your Candidates

## Meet the candidates



DEMOCRATIC

**Stella Tsai**

☒ View Answers

Unselect



REPUBLICAN

**Matt Wolford**

☒ View Answers

My Choice

## KNOW YOUR BALLOT

Your Voters' Guide

[View Full Screen](#)

**YOUR ADDRESS** 1339 Windemere Ln, Lancaster, PA 17601, USA [Change address](#)

### YOUR RACES

The races displayed are based on the address you've provided.

Get Selections: [Print](#)



Print your ballot selections

At any point in time, however, you can [print](#) your current ballot summary.

- ☒ **Pennsylvania Judge of the Superior Court**  
Brandon Neuman [Change Selection →](#)
- ☒ **Pennsylvania Judge of the Commonwealth Court**  
Matt Wolford [Change Selection →](#)
- ☒ **East Hempfield Township Auditor**  
Brian E Mullen [Change Selection →](#)
- ☒ **East Hempfield Township Supervisor**  
Alex D Tran, Darren Landis [Change Selection →](#)
- ☒ **East Hempfield Township Tax Collector**  
Megan Brown [Change Selection →](#)
- ☒ **Lancaster County Recorder of Deeds**  
Ann M Hess [Change Selection →](#)
- ☒ **Lancaster County Controller**  
Lisa K Colon [Change Selection →](#)
- ☒ **Hempfield School Director**  
Kait Linton, Richard Garber, Christopher Woolfolk, Erin Small [Change Selection →](#)
- ☒ **Pennsylvania Supreme Court Judicial Retention Election 1**  
Yes - For the Measure [Change Selection →](#)



# Judicial Retention: YES or NO

MEASURE ⓘ

## PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTION I ⓘ

### About This Measure

**Shall *Christine Donahue* be retained for an additional term as Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?**

Judicial retention is a nonpolitical method of reelecting Pennsylvania judges. The merit retention provision of Pennsylvania's constitution allows all but magisterial district judges to be retained with a simple "yes" or "no" vote without ballot reference to political affiliation. This provision was designed to remove judges from the pressures of the political arena once they begin their first term of office.


\* **Source:** [pocourts.us/learn/how-judges-are-elected](https://pocourts.us/learn/how-judges-are-elected)

For more nonpartisan information on judicial retention candidates, view the **PA Bar Association's ratings and questionnaires** here: [www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2025](https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2025)

Learn more about the current justices on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court here: [pocourts.us/courts/supreme-court/supreme-court-justices](https://pocourts.us/courts/supreme-court/supreme-court-justices)

[Show Less](#)


### Meet the candidates



NO PARTY  
**Yes - For the Measure**

☐ View Answers

My Choice




NO PARTY  
**No - Against the Measure**

☐ View Answers

My Choice


### Meet the candidates



NO PARTY  
**Yes - For the Measure**

☒ View Answers

My Choice




NO PARTY  
**No - Against the Measure**

☒ View Answers

My Choice

### Candidate Answers


#### General Information



No Party  
**Yes - For the Measure**

My Choice

**A YES VOTE WOULD**  
keep Justice Christine Donahue in her seat on the Supreme Court for another 10 year term.

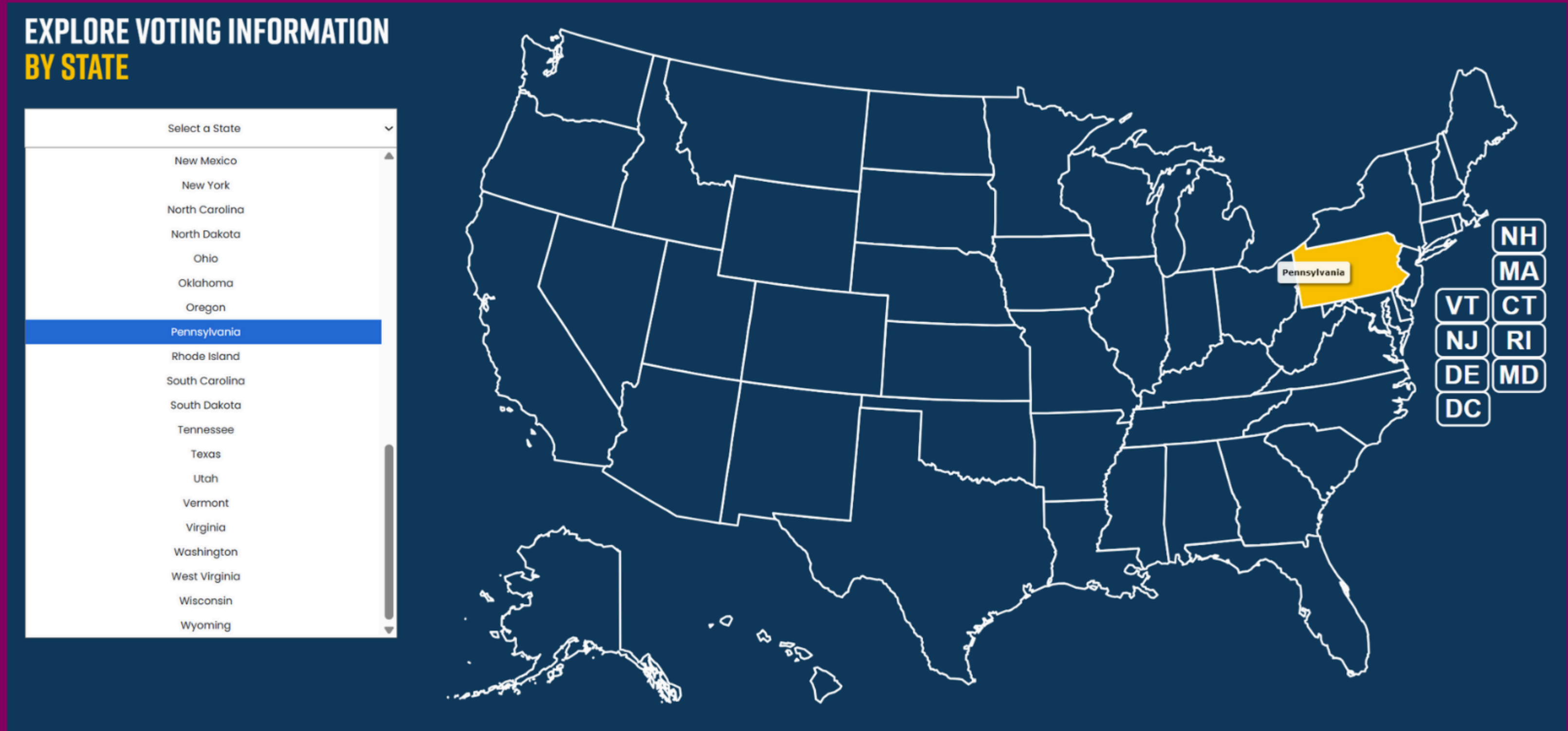


No Party  
**No - Against the Measure**

My Choice

**A NO VOTE WOULD**  
remove Justice Christine Donahue when her term expires and allow the Governor to appoint a temporary replacement with 2/3 approval of the State Senate. A special election would be held in 2027 to permanently fill that seat.

# Questions about voting rules in Pennsylvania?



Upcoming election date and deadlines



### UPCOMING ELECTION DATES & REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Some elections in this list are local and do not apply for all Pennsylvania voters. Please click the "View all" button below to view all election dates in your state.

NEXT ELECTION: GENERAL

**Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

General Elections

[View details](#)

Registration Deadlines

**ONLINE** [Get Registered!](#)  
Monday, October 20, 2025

**BY MAIL (RECEIVED)**  
Monday, October 20, 2025

**IN PERSON**  
Monday, October 20, 2025

There are no additional election dates scheduled at this time.

#### GET READY

- Make Your Voting Plan →
- Preview Your Ballot Info →
- Find Your Polling Place →

#### GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer at the Polls →
- Donate and Support VOTE411 →
- Connect With Your Local League →

### PENNSYLVANIA VOTING INFORMATION

- Absentee Ballot Process**
- Ballot Notice and Cure Process
- Campaign Finance Information
- Candidate and Ballot Measure Information
- Drop Boxes
- Early Voting
- Election Dates

#### Absentee Ballot Process

Spread the word [f](#) [v](#) [l](#)

**Voting By Mail Process**

All registered voters can request a no-excuse mail-in ballot. You do not have to provide a reason for why you want to vote-by-mail; this means you can just request a mail-in ballot and do not need to request an absentee ballot regardless of the reason for voting by mail. You can apply [online](#), by paper form (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)), in person at your [County Election Office](#), or by sending a signed letter to the office. **The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is 7 days before the election, and completed ballots must be received by 8:00 pm Election Day to be counted. Voters are advised to closely follow the instructions on their mail-in ballots.**

You can track your mail ballot on your Department of State's [website](#). Mail ballots are counted starting on Election Day.

**Emergency Absentee Ballot**

In case of an unexpected illness, disability, or emergency after the absentee ballot deadline, you can request an emergency absentee ballot.

Details of each topic with links to further info

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF PENNSYLVANIA

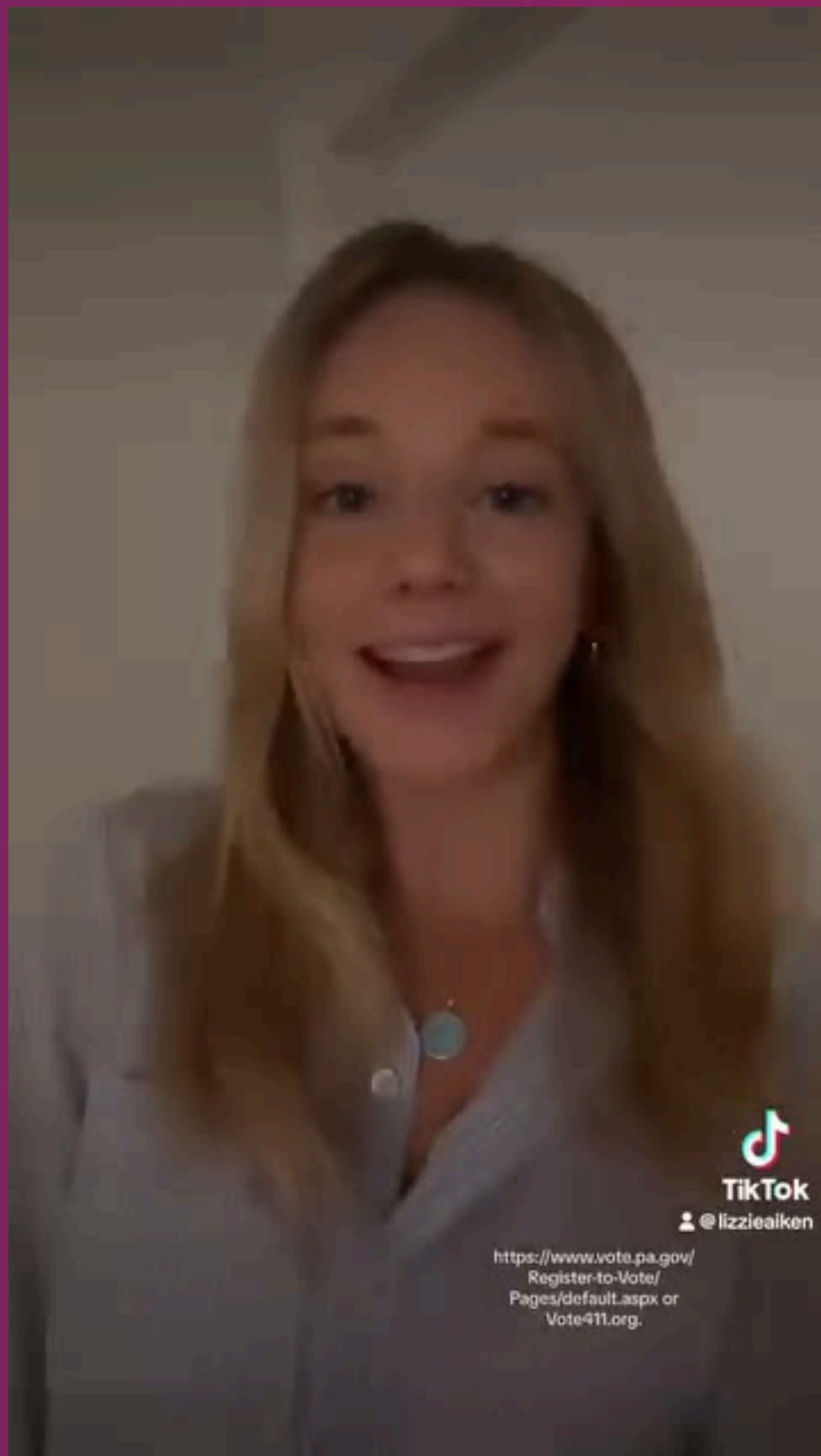


## ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS?

Report an election issue by calling:

- ✓ 1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
- ✓ 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)
- ✓ 1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)
- ✓ 1-844-YALLA-US (Arabic)

# Know Your Rights



**Elizabeth Aiken**  
Hempfield High School



# RALLY

TOGETHER



# Download the RWB App



1. Grab your phone.
2. Search for “Red Wine & Blue” in the app store on your phone or scan the QR codes.
3. Click the button to install the app.



# Every Vote Matters!



- Local elections have low voter turnout rates
- The National School Boards Association estimates that voter turnout for local school board elections is generally only **5 to 10 percent**.



# THE MESSENGER MATTERS!

## WHO DO YOU TRUST?



### Which sources do Americans trust for accurate information about elections?

How much do you trust the following to report accurate information about elections? (% of U.S. adult citizens)



YouGov

The Economist/YouGov | December 9 - 12, 2023



# RELATIONAL ORGANIZING FRIEND TO FRIEND ORGANIZING

It is the simple, proven concept that people talking to their friends and family is more effective than strangers talking to strangers.





# RED WINE & BLUE'S

## IMPACT 2023



### INCREASED VOTER TURNOUT

 **10.1%**

Among volunteers' contacts

 **7.3%**

Among volunteers themselves

### CUT THROUGH PARTISAN LINES

**20%**

Share of voter contacts  
Republican & unaffiliated



**READY**

**TO**

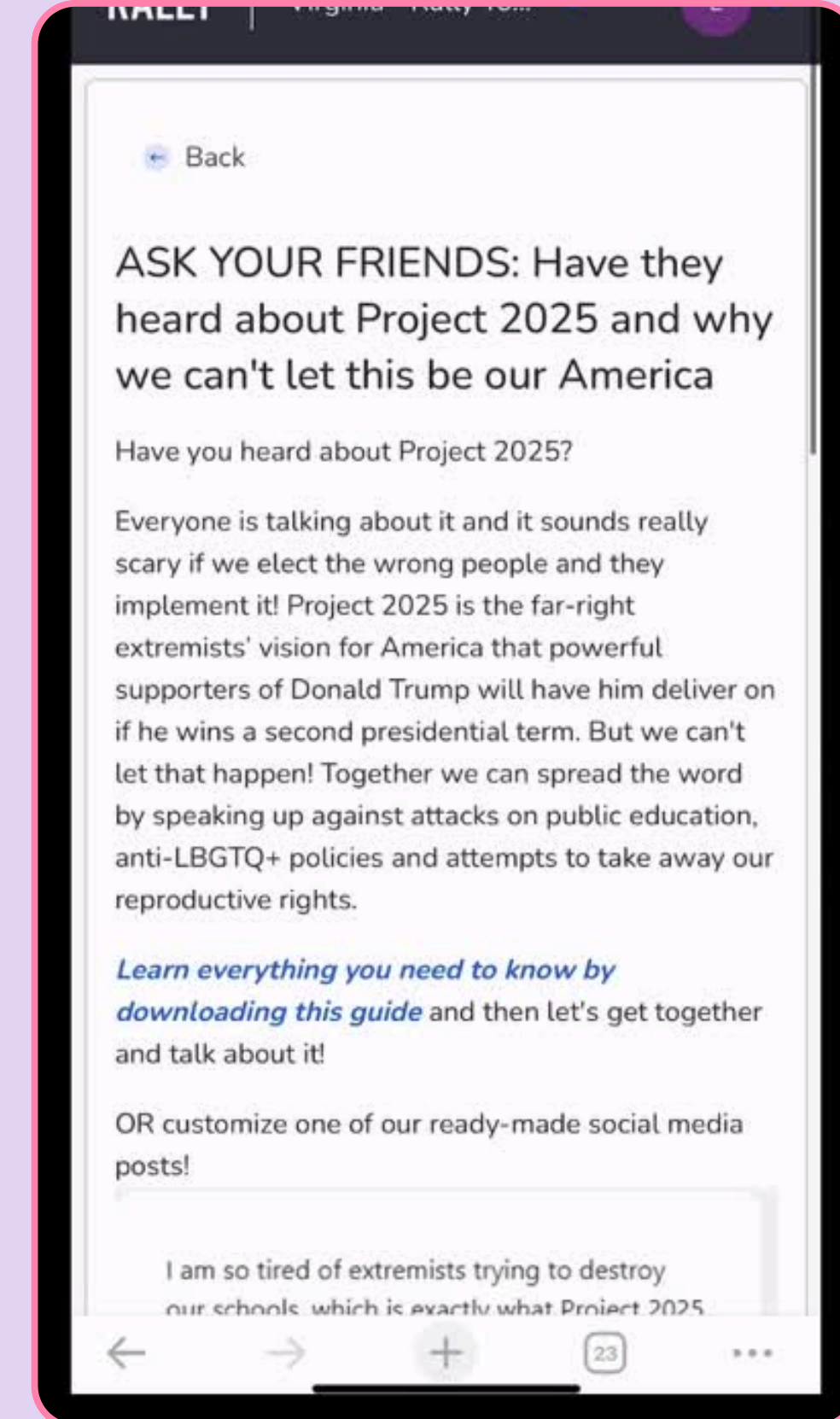
**RALLY**





# TARGETED CONTENT

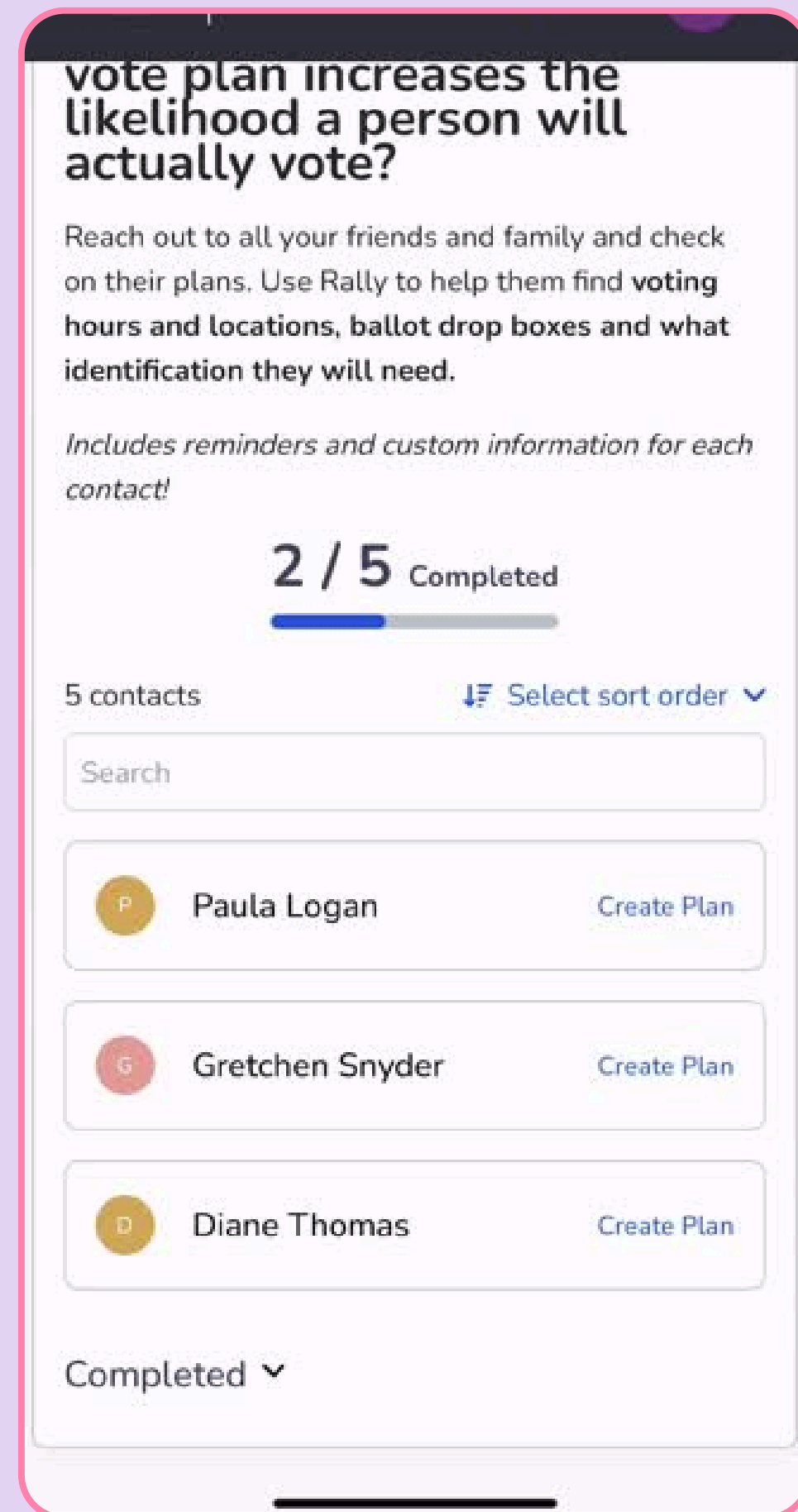
- **Share easy to understand information about elections and issues facing your community. Real talk, not political jargon.**
- **Copy & paste our message (or write your own) to get the word out to your friends**

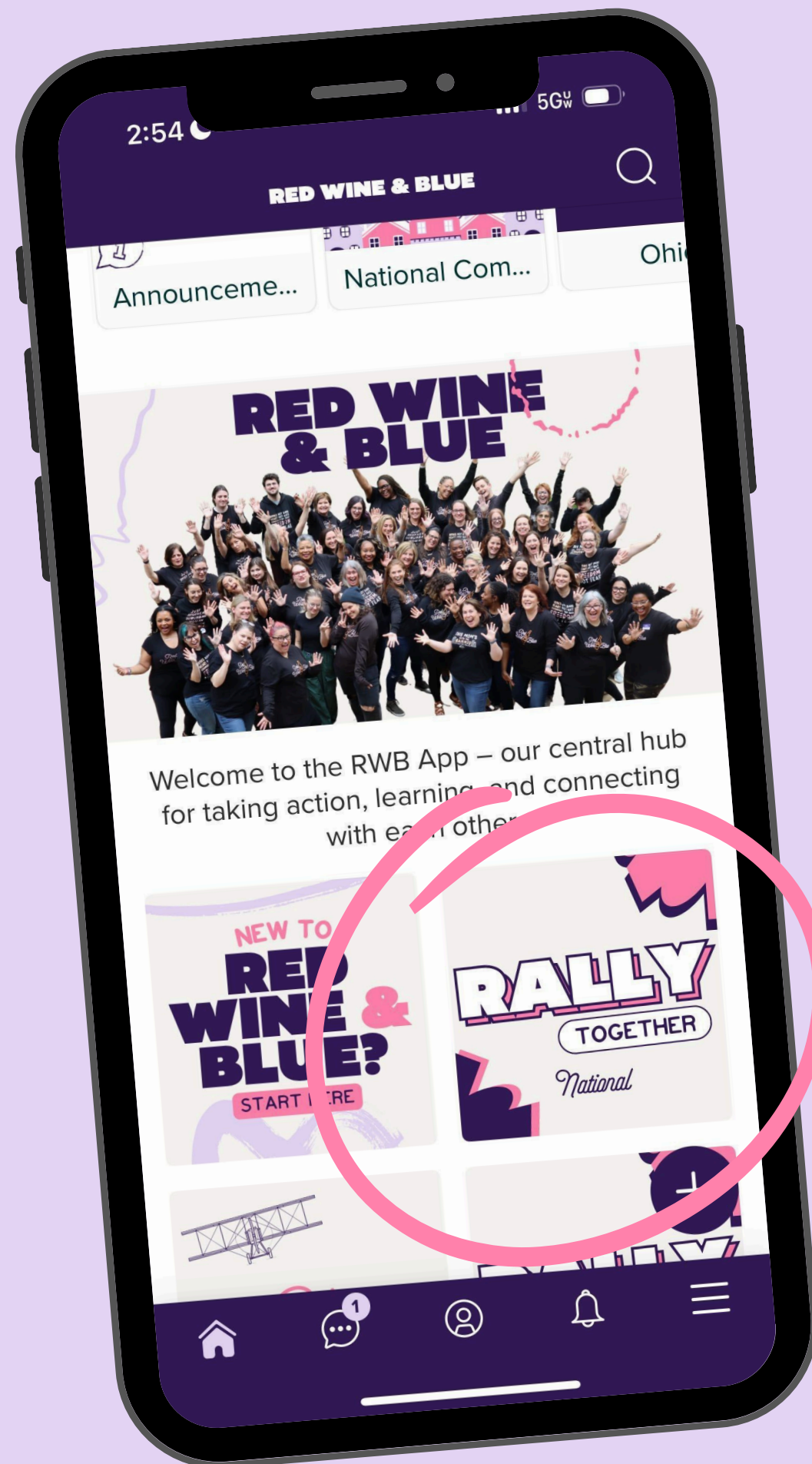


# CUSTOMIZED VOTE PLANS

**Create & share a voting plan with each of your friends with instant information that includes:**

- Their closest ballot drop box
- Early voting locations & dates
- Polling locations for Election Day
- What identification they need to bring





**GET READY  
TO RALLY!**

**FIND THE RALLY  
TOGETHER TILE  
AND TAP**