

2025 PENNSYLVANIA JUDICIAL RETENTION ELECTIONS

Did you know that this year three Pennsylvania Supreme Court justices are up for retention? They are Justice Christine Donohue, Justice Kevin Dougherty, and Justice David Wecht.

BUT WAIT – WHAT IS JUDICIAL RETENTION?

In Pennsylvania, Supreme Court justices are elected to an initial 10-year term, and then appear on the ballot for a simple yes or no vote on retention. If they get a majority of yes votes, then they serve another 10-year term. Judicial retention is a non-partisan process and no political affiliations are listed on the ballot.

Judicial retention is unique to Pennsylvania – just imagine if we could vote on our federal Supreme Court? But unfortunately, not enough voters know about the importance of judicial retention. This year, if just one of these justices is not retained, the balance of power will shift on the court. And that will have real consequences for the people of Pennsylvania.

Justice Donohue, Justice Dougherty and Justice Wecht have contributed to several landmark decisions that impact the daily lives of Pennsylvanians including:

- **Sex-Based Discrimination:** One year ago, the state Supreme Court overturned a 39-year old court case that had deprived Pennsylvanians of equal protection from sex-based discrimination. In *Allegheny Reproductive Health Center v. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services*, the court returned the rights guaranteed in the Equal Rights Amendment that Pennsylvania wrote into its state constitution.
- **Voting and Redistricting:** The court ensured fair elections by striking down gerrymandered maps and protected mail-in voting laws.
- **Workplace Protections:** The court protected the rights of workers in emerging industries like the gig economy.
- **Environmental Safety:** The court guided the use of public resources and held polluters accountable.

With three justices up for retention in 2025, the outcome of these elections will have a long-term impact on the lives of Pennsylvanians for years to come.

Let's make sure everyone we know has a voting plan to vote for judicial retention of Justice Christine Donohue, Justice Kevin Dougherty and Justice David Wecht.

