JUDICIAL ELECTIONS
VOTING GUIDE

WHO'S RUNNING?
The last day to register to vote is

**MAY 3RD, 2021**

The last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot is

**MAY 11TH, 2021**

Philadelphia will hold its next primary election

**MAY 18TH, 2021**

The polls will be open to cast your vote from 7 am to 8 pm.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**BALLOT QUESTIONS**

On the ballot, four questions will be posed, as well as three constitutional amendments. The questions can be found and explained at the Pennsylvania Department of State Website (QR code to the right). In Philadelphia primaries, you will only be able to vote for candidates in the party for which you are registered.
ROLES OF EACH COURT

SUPREME COURT
The Supreme Court is the highest appellate court in Pennsylvania that has jurisdiction over every case in the state.

SUPERIOR COURT
The Superior Court is a statewide intermediate appellate court that handles appeals in criminal cases and most civil cases from the Courts of Common Pleas. They also hear appeals involving children and families.

COMMONWEALTH COURT
The Commonwealth Court is primarily responsible for matters involving state and local governments and regulatory agencies. It also acts as a trial court when lawsuits are filed by or against the state.
The Courts of Common Pleas are the general trial courts of Pennsylvania. They are organized into 60 judicial districts.

The Philadelphia Municipal Court handles preliminary arrangements and hearings. They also decide whether serious criminal cases go to the Court of Common Pleas.
BAR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations make their ratings based on the candidates’ record, legal experience, reputation, temperament, community involvement, and dedication to the quality of justice.

According to the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the meaning of the ratings are as follows:

**Highly Recommended:** The candidate possesses the highest combination of legal ability, experience, integrity, and temperament, and would be capable of outstanding performance as a judge or justice of the court for which they are a candidate.

**Recommended:** Based on legal ability, experience, integrity, and temperament, the candidate would be able to perform satisfactorily as a judge or justice of the court for which they are a candidate.

**Not Recommended:** Based on legal ability, experience, integrity or temperament, or any combination thereof, at the present time, the candidate is inadequate to perform satisfactorily as a judge or justice of the court for which they are a candidate.
WHY VOTING IS IMPORTANT

Voting is one of the most important and empowering ways your voice can be heard.

**VOTING**

- allows you to help make decisions for your community and all of those in it.
- gives you the opportunity to stand for issues you care about.
- allows you to decide who you want to represent you on all levels of government and to choose leaders who would best mirror your views and benefit your community.
- The May 18 election is crucial because it determines who will be Pennsylvania’s judges for the next 6-10 years.

**TERM LENGTHS**

For the Supreme Court, Superior Court, Commonwealth Court, and Court of Common Pleas, elected judges serve a 10-year term. For magisterial district courts and municipal courts, judges serve a 6-year term.
SUPREME COURT CANDIDATES

MARIA MCLAUGHLIN
Democrat
Current Judge on the Superior Court, former Philadelphia assistant district attorney, and former Judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Rated “highly recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

@mclaughlin4pasc
@Maria4PASC
@McLaughlin4PASC

PAULA PATRICK
Republican
Current Judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas who was in private practice prior to becoming a Judge. Rated “highly recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

@JudgePaulaAPatrick
@JudgePatrickPA
KEVIN BROBSON
Republican
Current Judge on the Commonwealth Court who was in private practice before becoming a Judge. Rated “highly recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

@KevinBrobsonforPA

PATRICIA A MCCULLOUGH
Republican
Current Judge on the Commonwealth Court who is a former Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.
SUPERIOR COURT CANDIDATES

**JILL BECK**  
**Democrat**  
A private practice attorney that works in family court and a former clerk for Justice Christine Donahue on the Superior Court and state Supreme Court. Rated “recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

@electjillbeck  
@JudgeTimikaLane

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**TIMILKA LANE**  
**Democrat**  
Current Judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas who was a public defender and family law attorney prior to becoming a Judge. Rated “recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

@laneforsuperiorcourt  
@LaneforSuperiorCourt  
@JudgeTimikaLane
BRIAN NEFT
Democrat
Attorney who served as a Deputy Attorney General, criminal prosecutor, and civil attorney. Rated “recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

MEGAN SULLIVAN
Republican
Attorney who served as a Deputy Attorney General, criminal prosecutor, and civil attorney. Rated “recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.
COMMONWEALTH COURT CANDIDATES

DAVID LEE SPURGEON

Democrat
Current Judge on the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas and former assistant district attorney. Rated “highly recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

@judgedavidspurgeon
4commonwealthcourt

LORI A DUMAS

Democrat

@friendsofjudgedumas
@JudgeDumas
@JudgeDumas
SIERRA STREET
Democrat
Current Judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas who is a former public defender and Philadelphia Family Court hearing officer. Rated “recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

@judgesierrastreet
@sierra.thomasstreet

DREW CROMPTON
Republican
Incumbent Judge on the Commonwealth Court and former Chief of Staff and Counsel to President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati. Rated “recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

STACY WALLACE
Republican
Attorney and president of the McKean County Bar Association. Rated “not recommended” by the Pennsylvania Bar Association.
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CANDIDATES

WENDI BARISH
Democrat
Senior Deputy General Counsel for the Philadelphia Housing Authority. Rated “recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

TERRI M. BOOKER
Democrat
Attorney and former assistant solicitor in the Register of Wills' office. Rated “not recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.
RICK CATALDI
Democrat
Attorney and shareholder in Zarwin Baum’s Personal Injury group. Rated “not recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

CHRIS HALL
Democrat
White Collar and government litigation criminal defense attorney. Rated “highly recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

@chrishallforjudge
@ChrisHallforJudge
@ChrisHallJudge
MICHELLE HANGLEY
Democrat
Attorney who practices environmental, election, and civil rights law. Rated “highly recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

MAURICE HOUSTON
Democrat
NICK KAMAU
Democrat
Civil litigation attorney and former prosecutor and public defender. Rated “highly recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

@nicholaskamau_esq
@KamauforJudge
@KamauForJudge

CRAIG LEVIN
Democrat
Senior Partner at Friedman & Levin Associates and former 8th Ward Committeeperson and Judge of Elections. Rated “recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

@levinforjudge
@Levinforjudge
@craiglevinesq
CATERINA R. MCCABE
Democrat
Current Judge in the Juvenile Branch of Family Court. Prior to becoming a Judge, she practiced law for 30 years. Rated “recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

MARK MOORE
Democrat
Current Judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and former assistant district attorney and civil defense counsel for Allstate. Rated “highly recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

PATRICK J. MORA
Democrat (No photo or social media available)
JOHN R. PADOVA
Democrat

@padovaforjudge
@PadovaforJudge
@padovaforjudge

DANIEL SULMAN
Democrat

@judgedansulman
@judgedansulman
@judgedansulman
CAROLINE TURNER
Democrat
Trial attorney and former public defender. Rated “recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

@carolineturner4judge
@CarolineTurner4Judge
@turner4judge

TAMIKI WASHINGTON
Democrat
Private practice attorney and former assistant city solicitor. Rated “recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

@tamikawashington4judge
@FriendsofTamikaWashington forJudge
@Tamika4Judge

BETTY WAHL
Democrat
Current Juvenile Court hearing officer and former public defender. Rated “recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

@BetsyWahlForJudge
PHILADELPHIA MUNICIPLE COURT CANDIDATES

MICHAEL LAMBERT
Democrat
Private practice attorney and former public defender. Rated “not recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

@michaelclambert
@MichaelCLambert
ForJudge

BARBARA THOMPSON
Democrat
President of Thomson Consulting and former committeeperson. Rated “not recommended” by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

@jbt4judge
@jbtjudgephilly
@jbthomson4judge
GEORGE TWARDY
Democrat
Current Judge on the Court of Common Pleas and former private practice attorney. Rated "recommended" by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

GREGORY YORGEY-GIRDY
Democrat
Attorney and former Democratic Committeeperson for the 48th Ward. Rated "recommended" by the Philadelphia Bar Association.
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