



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHESTER COUNTY

LWVCC, P.O. Box 62, Exton, PA 19341

Telephone (610) 644-5960

www.lwvccpa.org

Non-Partisan Voters Guide

**PA State and County Political Candidates and
4 Ballot Questions**

Primary Election 2021

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

**Polls shall remain open continuously between the hours of:
7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.**

***If you plan to vote in person, due to the Coronavirus pandemic please check with Chester County Voter Services to confirm your polling place will be open on May 18th**

Note to Voters: For the Primary Election only Candidates registered to your political party and Candidates who have cross-filed will appear on your party's ballot.

Only Democrats and Republicans can vote for Candidates on their ballot, but ALL registered Voters can vote on the Ballot questions.

Election Day Problems? Call one of these hotlines:

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)
(1-888-839-8682)

1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)
(1-888-274-8683)

1-844-YALLA-US (Arabic)
(1-844-925-5287)

Chester County Voter Services

<https://www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services>

610-344-6410



The League of Women Voters of Chester County is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to serve the local community by promoting informed active citizen participation in government and by acting on selected governmental issues. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

Ballot Questions

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 1 TERMINATION OR EXTENSION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law and increase the power of the General Assembly to unilaterally terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration—and the powers of Commonwealth agencies to address the disaster regardless of its severity pursuant to that declaration—through passing a concurrent resolution by simple majority, thereby removing the existing check and balance of presenting a resolution to the Governor for approval or disapproval?

If you vote **YES**, you agree to give the Legislature, by a simple majority vote, the sole power to take away the Governor's existing authority to make disaster emergency declarations and coordinate with relevant Pennsylvania agencies.

If you vote **NO**, you disagree with giving the Legislature, by a simple majority vote, the sole power to take away the Governor's existing authority to make disaster emergency declarations and coordinate with relevant Pennsylvania agencies.

Background on proposed amendment: This amendment arises from the conflict between the Governor and Legislature over the Governor's Covid-19 emergency declarations, including stay-at-home orders, school and business restrictions, etc. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that under current law, the Governor could veto the Legislature's concurrent resolution to end the Governor's emergency declaration. The Legislature then fell short of the two-thirds legislative vote required to overturn the veto.

Background on legislative procedure: Currently, under Article III, Section 9, all bills and concurrent resolutions by the General Assembly must be presented to the Governor for his approval or veto. If approved by the Governor, the bills or concurrent resolutions, become law. If the Governor exercises a veto, the bills or concurrent resolutions do not become law unless two-thirds of the House and Senate vote to override the Governor's veto. *The proposed amendment with respect to emergency disaster declarations would create a fourth exception to the customary legislative procedure of a two-thirds legislative vote to override a Governor's veto.*

Other: Only four states currently require a legislative vote to extend or terminate a governor's emergency declarations (Alaska, Kansas, Michigan and Minnesota).

Arguments FOR:

- Strengthens legislative power to end or continue an emergency declaration
- Weakens the Governor's powers during an emergency to extend declaration and coordinate with relevant PA agencies
- Disperses authority for creating and ending a disaster emergency declaration
- Removes customary legislative procedure requiring a two-thirds legislative vote to override a Governor's veto for emergency declarations

Arguments AGAINST:

- Reduces executive power of an individual elected by entire state to act in an emergency and coordinate with relevant PA agencies
- Increases impact of partisan and regional influence of legislators during an emergency situation
- Creates logistical and administrative hurdles for overseeing disasters and coordinating relevant agencies
- Maintains check and balance of the two-thirds legislative vote to override a Governor's veto

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 2 DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND MANAGEMENT

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law so that: a disaster emergency declaration will expire automatically after 21 days, regardless of the severity of the emergency, unless the General Assembly takes action to extend the disaster emergency; the Governor may not declare a new disaster emergency to respond to the dangers facing the Commonwealth unless the General Assembly passes a concurrent resolution; the General Assembly enacts new laws for disaster management?

If you vote **Yes**, you agree to change existing law to limit any Governor's disaster emergency declaration - no matter the severity - to 21 days (from 90), unless, and until, the Legislature votes by a simple majority to extend the disaster emergency declaration; and take away the Governor's authority to manage new emergency and disaster situations beyond 21 days.

If you vote **No**, you disagree with changing the existing law that provides any Governor with the power to issue emergency declarations without a 21-day limitation or a simple majority vote by the Legislature; and any Governor retains authority to act in emergency and disaster situations.

Background on proposed amendment: This amendment arises from the conflict between the Governor and Legislature over the Governor's Covid-19 emergency declarations, including stay-at-home orders, school and business restrictions, etc. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that under current law, the Governor could veto the Legislature's concurrent resolution to end the Governor's emergency declaration. The Legislature then fell short of the two-thirds legislative vote required to overturn the veto. Current law sets an emergency declaration at 90 days and gives the Governor authority to act on, and manage, emergencies and disasters. The Legislature does have the ability to end the Governor's emergency declarations by passing a concurrent resolution to end the emergency declaration and if vetoed by the Governor, vote by two-thirds to override the Governor's veto.

Other: Only four states currently require a legislative vote to extend or terminate a governor's emergency declarations (Alaska, Kansas, Michigan and Minnesota).

Arguments FOR:

- Grants the legislature, elected from different districts throughout the Commonwealth, the sole power to manage a disaster
- Limits an emergency declaration to 21 days (from 90) unless legislature extends by a simple majority
- Removes customary legislative procedural requirement of a two-thirds legislative vote to override a Governor's disaster declaration
- Provides sole authority to extend a declaration to lie with the Legislature; presently, this power rests with the Governor

Arguments AGAINST:

- Creates logistical and administrative hurdles of convening a 253-member legislature, every 21 days (and in disaster conditions)
- Reduces the power of the executive, elected by entire state, to act in an emergency
- Increases impact of partisan and regional influence of legislators
- Provides opportunities for possible delays that could worsen a disaster
- Weakens ability to access federal funding and support tied to declaring emergency disasters
- Promotes uncertainty of appropriate disaster response due to shortened timeframe

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 3

PROHIBITION AGAINST DENIAL OR ABRIDGEMENT OF EQUALITY OF RIGHTS BECAUSE OF RACE OR ETHNICITY

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended by adding a new section providing that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of an individual's race or ethnicity?

If you vote **Yes**, you agree that all levels of Pennsylvania government, entities, and institutions be prohibited from discriminating against individuals because of their race or ethnicity.

If you vote **No**, you disagree with changing Pennsylvania law since current state and federal laws, including the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, already provide protections against discrimination by all levels of Pennsylvania government, entities, and institutions.

Background on proposed amendment: This constitutional amendment was introduced in the wake of police brutality cases and protests as an amendment to a different constitutional amendment bill to restrict a Governor's emergency declaration powers (See Ballot Question 1).

Article 1, Section 26, of the PA Constitution currently prohibits discrimination by the Pennsylvania government "against any person in the exercise of any civil right." This proposed amendment focuses on protecting individuals from racial and ethnic discrimination by Pennsylvania governmental entities. The PA Constitution and federal laws, such as the Equal Protection Clause, provide broad protections against discrimination. However, this amendment focuses on prohibiting discrimination against the individual under PA law solely for race and ethnicity. This is a state-specific change separate from federal law (Fourteenth Amendment). If passed, this law could add opportunity to bring "reverse discrimination" cases. Thus, if a Caucasian person felt they were discriminated against by a State-run operation or agency in hiring, admissions, or denied opportunities, they could sue under this new law.

The language of this amendment does not outright ban racial and ethnic considerations by all levels of Pennsylvania government, entities, and institutions. However, it could be construed that the specific prohibition against individual racial and ethnic discrimination could open the door to elimination, or the support of, race and ethnic-conscious considerations by State-run agencies or operations for under-represented groups under Pennsylvania Law. Any interpretation of this law would be decided by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. However, if passed, any resulting consequences, good or bad, would likely be upheld because this is an amendment ballot question voted on by the Pennsylvania voters. In 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Michigan ballot initiative which resulted in a ban on race considerations in state-run schools because the case was not about the merits of race-conscious policies. Rather, as Justice Kennedy stressed in the controlling opinion, it is about "whether, and in what manner, voters in the States may choose to prohibit the consideration of racial preferences in governmental decisions..."

Arguments FOR:

- Promotes states' rights - independent of the US Constitution and federal laws
- Specifies the prohibition against individual racial and ethnic discrimination under PA law
- Could eliminate preferential treatment to under-represented groups by all levels of PA government, entities, and institutions
- Prohibits future legislation that is inconsistent with this law on protecting individuals from racial and ethnic discrimination by all levels of PA government, entities, and institutions

Arguments AGAINST:

- Adds opportunities to bring "reverse discrimination" cases (i.e., a Caucasian can claim race discrimination by all levels of PA government, entities, and institutions)
- Provides potential opportunity for all levels of PA government, entities, and institutions to no longer consider race and ethnicity in hiring, admissions, contracting and access to other opportunities
- Existing law in the PA Constitution already forbids discrimination "against any person in the exercise of any civil right"

STATEWIDE REFERENDUM – ACT 2020-91 MAKING MUNICIPAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMPANIES ELIGIBLE FOR LOANS

Do you favor expanding the use of the indebtedness authorized under the referendum for loans to volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and volunteer rescue squads under 35 PA.C.S. §7378.1 (related to referendum for additional indebtedness) to include loans to municipal fire departments or companies that provide services through paid personnel and emergency medical services companies for the purpose of establishing and modernizing facilities to house apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue vehicles, and for purchasing apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue vehicles, protective and communications equipment and any other accessory equipment necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the fire companies and emergency medical services companies?

If you vote **YES**, you support expanding PA's loan program to paid municipal, as well as volunteer, fire and emergency medical services companies.

If you vote **NO**, you support keeping PA's loan program available to volunteer fire and emergency medical service companies and not to paid municipal fire and emergency medical services companies.

Background: This constitutional amendment was referred to the ballot as an exception to the normal procedure for passing constitutional amendments. "When a major emergency threatens or is about to threaten the state" the General Assembly may refer a constitutional amendment to the ballot with a two-thirds vote of each chamber. Specifically, here, the General Assembly determined there is a need for paid municipal fire departments and emergency medical service companies to update their facilities and equipment. Under current PA law, only volunteer fire and EMS companies are authorized to apply for loans from this program. The loan program's fund for volunteer companies was last approved by PA voters at \$50,000,000 in 2002. If approved, this new law would allow paid municipal fire and emergency medical service companies to also obtain loans from the program. The State Fire Commissioner administers these loans under specified codes and regulations. This bill does not expand the amount of money in the funds nor the purposes for which the loans can be used, it only addresses expanding the eligible pool of loan applicants.

Arguments FOR:

- Provides opportunities for paid municipal fire and EMS companies to apply for loans to upgrade and replace equipment and facilities
- Increases potential for budget flexibility for municipalities to shift facility and equipment costs to personnel and other costs
- Promotes paid municipalities to upgrade and/or replace fire and EMS equipment and facilities

Arguments AGAINST:

- Increases applicant pool, and thus, the acceptance rate, for loans to upgrade and replace existing equipment and facilities for volunteer companies while not increasing the overall fixed amount of funds
- Potentially increases already existing budget constraints and recruitment of volunteer fire and EMS companies
- Expands existing oversight and demands on the State Fire Commissioner that administers and grants loans

State Judicial Races

Pennsylvania Justice of the Supreme Court

Description of office: The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania 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. The justice with the longest continuous service on the Supreme Court automatically becomes chief justice. 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: \$215,037

Vote for ONE.

Maria McLaughlin



Party: Dem

[Biographical Info:](#)

County: Philadelphia

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 15943 Philadelphia, PA 19103

Education: Penn State 1988. Delaware Law School at Widener University 1992

Qualifications: Current Judge on our PA Superior Court; Served 6 years as Judge, Court of Common Pleas; Chief and ADA, Phila District Attorneys Office; Rated Highly Recommended for the Supreme Court by the PBA
campaign website: <http://judgemclaughlin.com>

Facebook: <http://@Maria4PASC>

Twitter: <http://@McLaughlin4PASC>

[Questions:](#)

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: Along with being our highest appellate court, The Supreme Court oversees our statewide court system and legal community. As such we have the opportunity to set rules, educate the legal community and create special court programs dealing with human services issues like substance abuse & mental health challenges,

veteran's issues & initiatives focused on autism. All geared toward providing fair treatment and equal access for people with unique circumstances.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: As a lawyer & a judge I have always worked to ensure everyone who comes into a courtroom has an opportunity to be heard and the law applied without bias. This is the cornerstone of our legal system. As a Justice I will not waiver from that driving principle. My work on the bench and in my life will always reflect my dedication to fairness and equality.

Paula Patrick



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

County: Philadelphia

Mailing Address: 481 City Hall PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania 19151

Education: Bennett College Greensboro, NC Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law Houston, TX

Qualifications: 18 years Trial Judge experience; Legal teaching experience; Frequent presenter/lecturer on legal topics; Highly Recommended by the Pa Bar Assoc.

campaign website: <http://Votepaulapattick.com>

Facebook: [http://@Judge Paula Patrick](http://@JudgePaulaPatrick)

Twitter: <http://@JudgePatrickPA>

Questions:

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: On the Bench-A judge should ensure that people have access to our courts and adequate legal representation. A judge should also be patient with pro se litigants during court proceedings. A judge must also ensure that any and all available resources provided within the court system by distributed to all people equally. Off the Bench-A judge should get involved in assisting with community, social, professional and/or religious groups to help assist with programs that provided equal access to justice.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: On The Bench-I think the best thing that a judge can do to ensure a fair and equitable court is to follow the law. Our rule of law and our Constitutions are important because they are the foundation of our democracy. If a nation fails to honor its own laws, then we fail as a society. Off The Bench-A judge should be involved in community service and willing to educate people about their rights and responsibilities under the law when appropriate.

Kevin Brobson



Party: Rep

[Biographical Info:](#)

County: Dauphin

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 11683 Harrisburg, PA 17108

Education: Widener Commonwealth Law School, summa cum laude (2nd in class), Managing Editor Law Review; Lycoming College (B.A., Accounting/Economics), magna cum laude

Qualifications: President Judge of the Pa. Commonwealth Court; over 11 years as statewide appellate court judge (elected 2009, retained 2019); Pa. Judicial Conduct Board, 2015-19 (Chair); 14 years' private practice; former federal judicial clerk; "Highly Recommended" by Pa. Bar Association

campaign website: <http://www.brobsonforpa.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Kevin-Brobson-for-PA-112608997531221>

[Questions:](#)

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: I would work cooperatively with the governor and the legislature to increase funding for legal aid programs. While in private practice, I created a program in Dauphin County to expand pro bono opportunities for lawyers to provide services to nonprofit organizations. I would encourage county bar associations to think creatively about expanding pro bono service to small and minority-owned businesses and nonprofits. I want to ensure our courts have access to interpreters for parties with limited English proficiency. I would build upon the excellent work of Philadelphia Legal Assistance with respect to the representation of low-wage workers and the unemployed by engaging law schools and other legal aid associations throughout the state.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: I believe I have earned a reputation as a fair and impartial arbiter of the law. I treat everyone who enters my courtroom, or has a matter before me, with equal respect and dignity. I strive to appreciate the perspectives and points of view of all parties. It is important to me that every litigant, represented and unrepresented, be given every opportunity, within the rules and the law, to present their case. Moreover, as a former Chair of the Pa. Judicial Conduct Board, I am keenly aware of how important it is to Pennsylvanians that our judges observe the highest ethical standards on and off the bench. I hold myself to this high standard. All Pennsylvanians deserve to have faith in a fair and impartial judiciary.

Patricia A. McCullough



Party: Rep

[Biographical Info:](#)

County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12971 Upper St Clair, Pittsburgh , PA 15241

Education: University of Pittsburgh -BA University of Pittsburgh School of Law- JD

Qualifications: Currently Judge- PA Commonwealth Court over 11 yrs. where I rule on issues that are brought before PA Supreme Court; trial judge, Allegheny County Ct. of Common Pleas; Asst.General Counsel, Univ. of Pgh.;private practice attorney; Director Cath.Char; chair,Allegheny Cty.Bd.Prop.Appeals;Chair ACPRC.

campaign website: <http://Patriciaforjustice.com>

[Questions:](#)

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: As judge and in career, I work with programs that promote restorative and equal justice. The foundational precepts of One Nation under God,"... with liberty and justice for all" must be ensured. I have volunteered: as instructor/faith-based jail program which reduces recidivism to 8-12%; with at-risk youth programs; to help implement residential drug addiction center; to help implement free legal speaker series for those released from incarceration; Chr./App. Ct Proc. Rules Committee/ system more user friendly; cmte.law students to represent pro se parties in UC; educate public to process; cmte./Human trafficking diversion ct. I will fight for openness of all courts for those in need or wronged by the justice system. Art.I,sec.11 Pa,Const.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: I abide by oath to be fair and impartial and uphold rule of law and Constitutions of PA and USA. To ensure impartiality I did not take money donations from attys. or pacs when I ran for judge of Commonwealth Ct. of PA and I am not taking them for Supreme Ct of PA. I did not take controversial 2005 pay raise and for first 10 yr term on Cmwlth.Ct. gave mthly checks to state treasurer due to pay raise totaling over \$10,000.00 dollars of after tax money returned to treasurer. Sentencing practices must be fair and transparent, not disproportionate; vlctims treated with dignity; implement faith-based programs that holistically address underlying issues (e.g. addiction,abuse,anger). I will uphold justice and oppose partisanship or abuse in system

Pennsylvania Judge of the Superior Court

Description of office: The Superior Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, 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. The

president judge is elected to a five-year term by his/her colleagues. A large number of appeals flow to the 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 petitions are denied, and the ruling of the Superior Court stands.

Term: 10 years

Salary: \$202,898

Vote for ONE.

Jill Beck



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO Box 81583 Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Education: I graduated cum laude from The George Washington University with my bachelors degree in criminal justice and a minor in psychology. I then graduated cum laude from Duquesne University School of Law, where I was an editor of the Law Review and a member of the Moot Court Board.

Qualifications: Spent 10 years in the Superior & Supreme Court chambers of Christine Donohue, where I drafted over 500 decisions; represented clients in every area of the law that the Superior Court hears and in that Court itself; highly recommended by the ACBA and recommended by the PBA for the Superior Court.

campaign website: <http://www.JillBeck.com>

Facebook: <http://www.Facebook.com/electjillbeck>

Twitter: <http://www.Twitter.com/electjillbeck>

Questions:

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: On the bench, a Superior Court Judge must provide a full, fair, & thorough review of every case that comes before her. The role requires a careful balancing of error correction through the appropriate lens & deference to the court below, without serving as a rubberstamp for any interest. A judge must also be decisive and efficient - litigants should not be required to wait years for a decision on whether they will be free from incarceration, able to continue in their livelihood, or able to obtain custody of their children. Off the bench, a judge can educate the public about Pennsylvania's judicial system, their rights and responsibilities when coming before the courts, & the courts' reciprocal responsibilities to the public.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: When providing a full & thorough review of every case, the judge must treat all litigants fairly & equally, regardless of the parties' race, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual preference, disability, or wealth. All persons are entitled to a fair consideration of their case, no matter who they are or what they are alleged to have done, & the writing deciding the appeal should reflect this. A judge should not be impatient or impertinent in her written decision, as this is indicative of a failure to treat those involved & the issues raised with the dignity and respect they deserve. All judges should also participate in implicit bias training to learn what it is, the role it plays in decision making, & tools to combat it.

Timika Lane



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

County: Philadelphia

Mailing Address: 647 W Union st Whitehall, PA 18052

Education: West Catholic High School and went on to graduate Howard University in Washington DC & received my Law Degree in 2002 from Rutgers University School of Law in NJ.

Qualifications: Major Trials Judge presiding over 1000's of trials, authoring 100's of opinions. I handle all human trafficking cases & many of the most serious criminal cases & Grand Jury matters. Certified Child Advocate & as former Exec Dir of the Senate Govt Cmte advised on the constitutionality of legislation

campaign website: <http://www.judgelane.com>

Facebook: <http://@LaneforSuperiorCourt>

Twitter: <http://@JudgeTimikaLane>

Questions:

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: As a sitting Judge, I ensure everyone in my courtroom is treated with dignity and respect regardless of race, gender, creed, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. As a member of the Access to Justice Committee, we address this issue by looking at possible barriers and how to remove those barriers to ensure everyone has equal access. As co-chair of the Local Criminal Rules Committee we recommend the qualifications for court appointed attorneys to make sure that indigent people have capable legal representation. We ensure that the local criminal rules are fair and applied equally to all who all who come before our courts.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: The Superior Court is an error correcting court & often the last line of defense for the parties involved in a case. When reviewing an appeal It is vital the appellate judge have strong courtroom experience on both sides of the bench to best determine the if the proceedings in the lower court were fair, all parties were heard and the law has been applied fairly regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or economic status. I will ensure equity and fairness in all cases before me, just as I do for all who appear in my current courtroom.

Off the bench, I believe judges should be visible in the community. We are public servants and it is our duty to make sure the public understands how the court system functions.

Bryan Neft



Party: Dem

[Biographical Info:](#)

County: Allegheny

Mailing Address: PO Box 13104 Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Education: Boston University School of Law J.D., May 1989 Note, Debt-Equity Exchange Programs in Developing Nations. University Of Pennsylvania B.A., May 1986 Major: Political Science Shady Side Academy H.S., June 1982

Qualifications: Bryan has spent more than 30 years litigating and trying cases, and counseling clients throughout Pennsylvania. Bryan also served for nearly 15 years in leadership roles with the Allegheny County Bar Association and Supreme court IOLTA board.

campaign website: <http://bryanneft.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/bryanneft>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/bryanneft>

[Questions:](#)

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: Access to Justice, to me, means ensuring that everyone who needs to utilize the courts has the ability to do so through legal services and other means designed to help them pursue claims or defenses. My leadership and hard work in the Allegheny County Bar Association and Allegheny County Bar Foundation led The Pennsylvania Supreme Court to appoint me to The Pennsylvania IOLTA Board, its charitable arm that oversees state funding of legal services to those who cannot afford them. I was appointed chair of the board in 2014-15. In that role, we stretched every dollar to maximize the number of people who received free legal services because they could not afford them.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: As a leader in the Bar Association I have championed changes to the rules to prohibit judicial officers from engaging in bias and discrimination. The rules must be reviewed continuously to accommodate changing norms and existing loopholes. Rules governing equity and fairness, however, are ineffective if the judiciary is not educated or educated sufficiently on what those rules mean and how they should be implemented. I am a strong proponent of continuing education programs, particularly on bias, implicit bias and discrimination to ensure that courts are fair for all. I have and will continue to serve on the ACBA Gender Bias subcommittee. I, as a judge would be just as accessible to the practitioners and bar associations across the state.

Megan Sullivan



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

County: Chester

Mailing Address: PO Box 3425 West Chester, PA 19380

Education: Temple University Beasley School of Law, Juris Doctorate (cum laude) Saint Joseph's University (B.A.)

Qualifications: 20 years criminal & civil law experience. Deputy Attorney General in PA Attorney General's Office & Supervisory District Attorney, protected victims including the most vulnerable members of our society as a child abuse prosecutor. Asst. General Counsel at West Chester University and civil litigator.

campaign website: <http://www.megsullivanforjudge.com>

Facebook: <http://@megforjudge>

Questions:

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: I believe equal access to justice is essential to maintaining trust in our courts and our justice system's legitimacy. I am committed to providing all individuals in my courtroom with equal access to justice by ensuring their voice is heard, their rights are protected, & that they are never subject to discrimination. I support efforts to enhance equal access to justice through legal aid programs that provide individuals with access to qualified attorneys. Providing interpreters for those individuals for whom English is a second language is also important. It is also important to give Individuals with disabilities full access to the courtroom. Everyone that comes before a judge should fully understand their constitutional rights.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: I have a deep respect for our Constitution and our system of justice. I have spent a large part of my 20-year career as an attorney helping others to navigate both the criminal and civil judicial system. I respect the system but understand why some fear it. Individuals who serve in the role of a judge must recognize that they are the arbiter of the rules and the process. This is a great power that requires objectivity, an innate sense of fairness, and humility. I possess these traits and am committed to delivering to all citizens a justice system that shows respect and fairness, as well as knowledgeable decision-making that takes into account the parties' perspectives and applies the law objectively.

Pennsylvania Judge of the Commonwealth Court

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: \$202,898

Vote for not more than TWO.

David Lee Spurgeon



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

County: Allegheny

Education: McKeesport Area Senior High Duquesne University - B.A. Duquesne University School of Law - Juris Doctor

Qualifications: "Highly Recommended" by the Pennsylvania Bar Association; Endorsed by the PA Dem; Serving as a Judge since 2016; Appointed by the Governor and unanimously confirmed by the PA Senate; Adjunct Law Professor; National Judicial Fellow; Domestic Violence National Expert; former prosecutor family violence

campaign website: <http://www.judgespurgeon4commonwealth.com>

Facebook: <http://@judgespurgeon4commonwealthcourt>

Twitter: <http://@davidspurgeon4J>

Questions:

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: As a judge, I use my position to promote systems change that ensure that all people have more accessibility to the courts. As a Judicial Fellow, I am using those resources to study the statistics over the year of the pandemic to understand whether the use of advanced technology communications increased participation in the court process. Often times, people with limited resources face additional obstacles inherent with our

established court processes. Further, we can ensure that everyone in our community has equal access to the court regardless of how you look, who you love, the language you speak and your socio-economic status. Off the bench, judges should participate in the community as a stakeholder to promote the above matters.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: Judges must continue to be active members of the community. In order to understand how the court is perceived, one must be accessible and engage in intentional dialogue to understand all the people that we serve. Judges must continue to be trained in explicit and implicit bias as it relates to all aspect of the existing court system, and be open to discussing and participating in the changes identified to make the courts more equitable and fair. I recently participated in a national panel to address the racial disparities that exist in the child welfare system. On the bench, we must continue to serve as a servant leader and hold ourselves as well as our colleagues accountable for inequities.

Lori A. Dumas



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

County: Philadelphia

Mailing Address: 1234 Market Street Box 40606 Philadelphia, PA 19107

Education: North Carolina Central School of Law; Duke University; Executive Certificates from Cornell University, (D&I); University of Pennsylvania, Fels Institute of Government

Qualifications: Trial Court Judge since 2002; Jury and Non-jury experience; Presided in Family, Criminal and Civil Divisions; Former Corporate Executive, Non-Profit Leader; Adjunct Professor; National Leader in trauma informed courts; Led the creation of victim centered juvenile human trafficking court in Phila.

campaign website: <http://www.judgedumas2021.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Judgedumas2021/>

Twitter: <http://Twitter.com/JudgeDumas>

Questions:

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: As a judge, I must ensure that every person that comes before the Court has the opportunity to be heard. I must rule according to the law without losing sight of the ultimate goal of dispensing justice. I must remove any obstacle which prevents equal access to justice by any means necessary. As a citizen, I can involve myself with organizations and in activities which seek to educate people about the Court, its processes and procedures and to equip them with the knowledge and power to be able to use the legal system as an advocate for themselves and their interests.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: Judges set the tone in their courtrooms. They must model fairness, civility, patience and impartiality and demand it from those in their presence. In my courtroom, every voice will be heard and my decisions will be

rooted in the law and cloaked in compassion and the urgency to do what is right. I must conduct a daily heart check to ensure that I am not bringing any biases with me that may interfere with my ability to render impartial decisions. I must call out injustice when it occurs...every time. In the community, I can educate others about their rights and the status of the law. I should regularly attend implicit bias trainings and require my staff to do the same, to ensure that fairness is not just a mantra but embedded in my core.

Sierra Street



Party: Dem

[Biographical Info:](#)

County: Philadelphia

Mailing Address: 3241 W. Queen Lane Philadelphia , PA 19129

Education: Howard University B.A., 1995 Temple University Beasley School of Law J.D., 1999

Qualifications: Civil Division Complex Litigation Center Criminal Division Major Jury Trial Program Former Lead Supervising Judge, Philadelphia Indicting Grand Jury Program Former Staff Attorney, Defender Association of Philadelphia Former Chief Counsel, Friends Rehabilitation Program

campaign website: <http://www.judgesierrastreet.com>

Facebook: <http://Judge Street for Commonwealth Court>

[Questions:](#)

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: The greatest obstacle to justice is access to adequate representation for the indigent population and moderate to low income families. In my previous roles as an Assistant Public Defender, Family Court Hearing Officer and Chief Counsel at a nonprofit organization, I witnessed firsthand the lack of access to justice for many individuals and did my best to help fill in the gaps. As a judge, I can now make sure all parties have competent counsel/representation regardless of socio-economic status before proceeding in any matter that comes before me. Defendants should be able to participate in their own defense and pro se litigants should be provided proper guidance as they navigate the legal system.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: Additionally, I can make sure that everyone is treated fairly in court regardless of race, gender, orientation, etc. I am certainly sensitive to and keenly aware of unique issues faced by marginalized populations. As stewards of justice, judges should adhere to and apply the strictest rule of law while also championing inclusion and diversity. This will only strengthen our institutions.

Amanda Green Hawkins



Party: Dem

[Biographical Info:](#)

County: Allegheny County

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4766 Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Education: Duke University, BA Northeastern University Law School, J.D.

Qualifications: 20 years of legal experience. I was elected and served two terms on Allegheny County Council.

campaign website: <http://www.amandagreenhawkins.com>

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

[Questions:](#)

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: I am running for Commonwealth Court because I know the importance of checks and balances, and judicial integrity. I have the compassion and the experience to join the court providing a dedicated work ethic and clear comprehension of judicial process. "There should never be an attitude of 'less important' cases, each case deserves a complete meritorious review." I am one of 2000 nationally recognized labor attorneys. My career is not based on being a "rainmaker" for profits, but to guarantee worker's safety and dignity. When individuals enter a courtroom they should feel confident the judges reflect their values and believe they have been heard. As a civil and Human Rights manager, this is what I do every day.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: You must immerse yourself in service to your community. In 2020, I was selected by Mayor Peduto to serve on the Pittsburgh Community Task Force for Police Reform. I served on the Board of the Women's Law Project, and Pittsburgh United. When elected to Allegheny County Council, I was Chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Housing, I also served on the Budget and Finance Committee, and Committee on Government Reform. I understand the value of volunteer time. My experiences have prepared me to be fair and impartial. Everyday at work I fight for human rights and civil rights. Judges have an obligation to their community to be a humble and thoughtful judge. Equal justice for all requires an understanding of all citizens.

Drew Crompton



Party: Rep

[Biographical Info:](#)

County: Cumberland

Mailing Address: PO Box 24 Harrisburg , Pa 17108

Education: Phil-mont Christian Academy Dickinson College Widener School of Law

Qualifications: Currently a sitting Judge on the Commonwealth Court. I have authored over 100 opinions. They are balanced, well-reasoned and thoughtful. I am recommended by the Pa. Bar. I also serve on the Supreme Court Appellate Rules Committee. I have extensive Constitutional, statutory and regulatory experience.

campaign website: <http://JudgeCrompton.com>

[Questions:](#)

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: As a sitting Judge I have done all in my power to treat every person that comes before me with respect and fairness. Judges must ensure those with modest means have equal access to justice. We are all created equal but as judges we must insist that all are treated equally or justice is being unfairly denied. Filing fees and other court costs must be waived for those who cannot afford them. Also, quality lawyers must be available to low income individuals free of cost for civil and criminal matters. Further as judges we must ensure that no one perceives that race or wealth or political connections are weighed when a decision is rendered. High ethical standards are vital to instill confidence in the Judiciary.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: Litigants must be convinced that the Judge's personal philosophy does not impede justice. I have also defended the powers of each branch of government since citizens want to be assured that the legislative, executive and judicial branches are not overstepping their constitutional boundaries. Further I try to be a judge that has common sense and treats every person with common decency. Judges must also remain connected to their communities and not be overly isolated. People have more confidence in the Judiciary when they know Judges care about our the same things in our Commonwealth as they do. Judges must have a heightened sense of their words and actions in the courtroom. Both must be beyond reproach.

Stacy Marie Wallace



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

County: McKean

Mailing Address: 5 Vista Circle Bradford, PA 16701

Education: B.A. Communications, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford ('01) J.D., Duquesne University School of Law ('04)

Qualifications: More than 16 years experience & Owner of Stacy Wallace Law, LLC Specially Appointed Family Law Master & SORNA Counsel Adjunct Professor, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford Clerkships at McKean County Court & PA Superior Court Certified Mediator-Conflict Resolution McKean County Bar Assoc., President

campaign website: <http://stacyforpa.com>

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

Questions:

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?*

A: Throughout my career, my purpose has been to always seek justice. I was first inspired to enter the legal field by a pamphlet for Northwestern Legal Services, a legal aid organization of which I now serve on the board of directors. I've worked tirelessly to ensure that our state's most vulnerable individuals, including at-risk children and those with disabilities, have equal access to justice, and have done much of this work pro bono. If elected, I will continue to advocate for and engage with underserved communities. On the bench, I will be a steadfast defender of equal justice under the law in all matters and safeguard the rights of all citizens regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or financial status.

Q: *What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?*

A: The makeup of the Commonwealth Court should be a true reflection of Pennsylvania and the broad perspectives and values of our residents. I will use my grassroots upbringing from McKean County, diverse experience, and values to guide informed and thoughtful opinions that produce more equitable outcomes. Off the bench, I will continue to engage our citizens, restore their trust in our courts, and raise awareness of our judiciary's role and its moral and ethical foundations. Equitable courts start with having judges who value equality, fairness and a desire to serve others. As just one example of how I've done that in my personal life, I co-founded "Blessing Boxes of Bradford" which serves as small sidewalk food banks throughout McKean County.

Chester County Court of Common Pleas Judge

Description of office: The Chester County Court of Common Pleas is a mid-level general jurisdiction trial court located in West Chester, Pa. This court, which was established in 1722, reviews all major criminal and civil cases, appeals from the minor courts including traffic matters and matters involving children and families. The Court of Common Pleas consists of 11 full time judges, who serve 10-year terms, and 2 senior judges. The President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas is elected to a 5-year term by his or her colleagues. The Court supervises Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, Domestic Relations, Bail Agency, Court Reporters and the Law Library. The Court oversees and provides administrative services to the 17 magisterial district court offices that comprise the Magisterial District Court system in Chester County. Salary: \$186,665

Vote for not more than TWO.

Carlos Alberto Barraza



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: P.O. Box 651, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Campaign Phone: (781) 514-5053

Web Site: <http://www.carlos4judge.com>

Email: carlos@carlos4judge.com

Education: University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI September 1999- May 2002

Juris Doctorate Recipient: Samson Scholarship Award, Abe Sigman Memorial Award, Outstanding Achievement in Constitutional Law II University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

September 1994 – May 1998 Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics/Actuarial Science Graduated Cum Laude Dean's List: 5 Semesters

Qualifications: Senior Deputy District Attorney with the Chester County District Attorney's office. 18-year prosecutor who has prosecuted thousands of cases including 20 homicides and 8 murder cases. Been the lead prosecutor in over 80 jury trials, 15 bench trials, hundreds of summary trials and over a thousand prosecutions. Former supervisor in charge of training of over 50 new prosecutors. Recipient of the 2015 Prosecutor of the

Year award. Instructor for the FBI's Moot Court for Digital Forensics Examiners. Native of Mexico, naturalized citizen and fluent in Spanish.

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/carlos4judge www.Facebook.com/carlosparajuez

Twitter: @Carlos4judge **Instagram:** @Carlos4judge

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: Alternative sentencing including diversionary programs are essential in the criminal justice system to help prevent recidivism. Focusing on treatment and alternatives in sentencing are methods to address root causes of criminal behavior and activity. There are many issues including mental health and substance abuse that are directly tied into criminal offenses that alternative sentencing has an opportunity to address by providing resources to those who need the help. Further, it also allows a way to be creative to help people with things like job training, education goals and partnerships with the community for apprenticeship and training with the goal of improving through education and opportunity. Each case is unique based on the specific facts. Courts must have a variety of options available to address the issues an accused may face. The availability of options is vital in efforts to make sure the right result is reached for the victims, the accused and society in general.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: The role of plea bargaining is multi-faceted in our criminal justice system. Plea bargaining allows for judicial economy and the allocation of courtroom resources for other matters including jury trials, bench trials and contested pre-trial motions. For the defense, it allows for certainty and a resolution of undisputed cases in a timely manner which allows an accused to begin to get help they need or to move on without criminal proceedings looming over them. For the prosecution, it allows also for the allocation of resources on more serious or disputed matters to ensure that other cases be addressed in a timely manner. Further, it allows an opportunity for closure for victims, for victim's voice to be heard through the bargaining process and for finality.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: To ensure that there is enough information to make these decisions requires a Court with experience on what are the appropriate questions, what information is needed and where to obtain the best information. Agencies such as the Pre-Trial services or Adult Probation can provide relevant information including someone's ties to the community, history of appearance, family support, financial situation, criminal history, substance, or mental health history and work history. The Court should also rely on information relayed by the parties to help provide a complete and accurate picture of an individual to make proper determinations. Criminal cases involve issues of freedom and public safety, so actual courtroom experience is the most invaluable and important factor in making determinations such as these. Experience making difficult decisions quickly and decisively, provides insight on what questions need to be asked, what information should be sought and what pitfalls must be avoided.

Louis A. Mincarelli



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Address: 521 East Lancaster Ave. Downingtown PA 19335

Campaign Phone: (570) 751-3798

Web Site: <http://www.Loumincarelli.com>

Email: info@Loumincarelli.com

Education: BA: English Literature Ursinus College 1999 JD: Temple University School of Law 2003

Qualifications: Former Victim Advocate; Former Prosecutor; Private Practice for over 10 years.

Facebook: @Lou Mincarelli for Judge

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?* **A:** There is definitely a need for programs to deal with substance addiction and mental health issues. As a prosecutor, my first assignment was to run the Philadelphia Community Court Program which was designed to help combat the growing substance addiction and mental health issues plaguing our society. We experienced much success in getting desperately needed treatment for those who are most vulnerable while still protecting our community. The program enjoyed a great success rate as the recidivism rate was lower among those who entered the program for these non-violent crimes than those who did not.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: Plea bargaining is one tool that is at the disposal of the prosecutors to alleviate the need for victims to have to come to court to testify about their traumatic experiences— often continuing the cycle of victimization. As a prosecutor, I often took this into consideration when negotiating with defense attorneys in determining the fair and just outcome to a case. Now, as a defense attorney with over a decade of experience representing people from all walks of life, the option of a plea bargain is something that can potentially benefit my clients as it alleviates the uncertainty of taking a case to trial. All situations are different and the path chosen must be made by the accused in a knowing,, informed and voluntary manner.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: Bail is never supposed to be punitive. It is designed to assure the accused appears for court and to protect the community. All cases should be individually reviewed taking into account the seriousness of the accusations; the record or lack of criminal record of the accused; and their ties to the community. When applying court costs and/or restitution at the end of a case, the victim needs to be consulted to make sure that there is sufficient funds set aside to reimburse them for any losses or damages.

PJ Redmond



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Address: Box 2212; West Chester, PA 19380

Campaign Phone: (610) 209-6192

Web Site: <http://www.VotePJRedmond.com>

Email: PJRedmondforJudge@gmail.com

Education: Villanova University (BA English 1980), Villanova University Law School (J.D. 1985)

Qualifications: More than thirty years in Courtrooms all over Eastern Pennsylvania representing individual people and businesses in both sides of disputes, and over a broad range of cases, always with a large concentration on criminal defense (now exclusively so -- at the Public Defender's Office.)

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/PJ Redmond for Judge](https://www.facebook.com/PJ-Redmond-for-Judge)

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/PJ Redmond for Judge](https://www.instagram.com/PJ-Redmond-for-Judge)

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: Pennsylvania's law has always provided for a sentence of Probation, and other alternatives to imposition of jail time as a sentence. As you might expect, a sentencing Judge may consider a sentence other than jail time when imposing sentences on people with no prior criminal history, or for whom other aspects of the case may suggest it appropriate. Probation is a broad term; it includes periodic personal supervision by the Court over a specified time; it is usually imposed with other conditions attached. Probation might be used, for example, (after a chance for input by victims) to tailor a sentence to defendant's offending behavior (drug monitoring and treatment; mental health evaluation and treatment; continued employment; community service, and could include Electronic Monitoring or any other reasonable component addressed at requiring a change in the person's criminal behavior) Probation actually is imposed as a 'withheld' jail sentence, so failure to change behavior or new convictions or failure to comply with conditions is a violation of the sentence and exposes the person to resentencing – including jail. Some crimes, or some patterns of repetitive criminal behavior might not be appropriate for probation, and might require a sentence of jail.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: Plea Bargains or Plea Agreements are a tool useful for the Prosecution and for the Defendant in the case. In reality, the criminal system could not resolve the number of cases before it if they all required trials. The law favors resolutions acceptable to both sides of a dispute and that's what happens in an agreed-to sentence by plea bargain. The Judge is not involved in the process.

Such an agreement ('bargain' in the sense of negotiation process, not a good price) involves the Defendant admitting crimes (which a jury would determine if there were a trial) , and the Prosecution committing in return to a specific sentence to be suggested to the Court. The Sentencing Judge is never required to accept proposed Plea Bargains, though. The Court might reject such a proposal on a finding that it falls short of an appropriate sentence, or other reasons. The Plea Bargain process is usually an advantage to both sides, because it eliminates the uncertainty a trial always involves, and time required for a trial, freeing public and individual resources that would otherwise be consumed by a trial. Because the result is a product of a back and forth between two opposing sides of a conflict, who know strengths and weaknesses from their perspectives, it generally produces a reasonable result. Competent lawyers are not going to reach an agreement that is too one-sided, or one that would be rejected by the Judge. Most importantly, the Judge ought NOT be involved in any negotiations about, the process of, or even whether, the parties want to develop a proposed agreement to present to the Court. The Judge must remain impartial and available to provide a trial if the parties require it, without having been involved in any pressure or discussions.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: The Constitution provides that a person accused is entitled to bail (except for murder). Pennsylvania Criminal Rules provides several tools for the Court to acquire information to set the bail or to order payments

as part of a sentence of a convicted person. In the case of Bail (pre-trial, where the defendant is presumed innocent) factors the Judge may consider are set out specifically in Criminal Rule 523. They include the Prior Criminal History, the length of time residing in the area, ties to the community, the kind of case and potential penalties if convicted, whether the defendant has previously failed to appear as required in Court, whether the defendant is employed, the defendant's family situation, whether the defendant is addicted to drugs or alcohol, mental condition, or past use of false identification. The goal is for the bail amount to ensure that the accused person will appear in Court when the time arrives. This information is gathered by the Court from the accused person or the lawyer and the court sets bail at the "Preliminary Arraignment." Typically, and here in Chester County, the Court has an internal office (e.g. the Bail Agency, now called Pre-trial Services) which confirms information supplied to the Judge, and may offer that information and anything else relevant to the decision of setting bail.

After a conviction, the Rules also provide for how the Judge acquires information about what kind of financial conditions to impose on a defendant as part of the sentence. The information is supplied by the lawyers in the case as sentencing date approaches, and/or by another of the Court's internal offices – (here the Office of Adult Probation), who can produce a 'Pre-Sentence Report', which involves a survey of the defendant's life, job history, family history, legal history, medical history etc. The Court does not order one in every case; it is required in serious cases. The goal is to give the sentencing Judge information from an objective source, (to supplement what the parties might present) There are always cost of prosecution resulting from a conviction, payment of which is imposed on the defendant as part of the sentence.

There are sometimes restitution costs too. The prosecution is required to invite the victims to submit a claim for any financial losses suffered. The sentence also requires that the defendant must repay restitution to the victims for financial costs or losses caused by the defendant's conduct. In some cases, the Court is required to conduct a hearing where it hears evidence on the restitution claim in order to decide the restitution to be paid to the victims. Like any condition of a sentence, failure to make payments ordered is a violation of the sentence and may result in resentencing. -

Alita A. Rovito



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Address: PO Box 3493, West Chester PA 19381

Campaign Phone: (484) 402-7650

Web Site: <http://www.RovitoforJudge.com>

Email: Alita@RovitoforJudge.com

Education: 1987 - DICKINSON SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D., Carlisle, PA 1984 - PENNSYLVANIA

STATE UNIVERSITY, B.A. Philosophy, Schreyer Honors College, with distinction, State College, PA

Qualifications: Rovito Law, LLC Sole Shareholder 18 South New Street, West Chester, PA 19380 1/2009-present Private Practice of Family Law, Arbitration and Mediation County of Chester 201 West Market Street Masters' Unit, Fifth Floor West Chester, PA 19380 Family Court Master/Hearing Officer 4/1994-1/2009 Chester County District Attorney's Office 17 N. Church Street, Courthouse Annex West Chester, PA 19380 Assistant District Attorney and Managing Attorney of the Child Abuse Unit 2/1988-4/1994 Cottman Transmissions, Inc Commerce Drive Fort Washington, PA 19034 In-house corporate counsel 9/1987-1988

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rovitoforjudge>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/rovitoforjudge>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rovitoforjudge/>

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: The Code of Judicial Conduct prevents any candidate for a judicial office or sitting judge to offer a professional opinion. The opinion that I present to you for consideration is my personal opinion. Chester County offers a variety of alternative treatment programs such as Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Veterans Court. There are intermediate punishment/home confinement alternatives that allow someone to be home and work but with restrictions on their ability to be otherwise outside of the home. I believe a judge has an obligation to look at the whole person and see what they may need to do in order for the person to remain in community. It is my personal opinion that alternative sentencing allows all the facts of a person's life to be considered when crafting a sentence that is appropriate for the crime, the victim, the defendant and community.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: Plea bargains are agreements between the prosecutor (with the agreement and consent of the victim) and the defendant. The role of plea bargaining is to aid in the administration of justice by reducing the number of trials that need to be conducted while still addressing the wrong that may have occurred. It cuts down on court time and resources and may also help the victim(s) move forward without the stress of going to trial. A plea bargain also provides the defendant an opportunity to plead guilty to a lesser offense, which may increase their opportunities for employment, education, and advancement. The judge has a duty to review the terms of the agreement and has the ability to accept or reject the agreement ensuring that not only the needs of the defendant but of the victim and the community at large, are met with an eye towards restoring justice to all.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: A Judge has no ability to "ensure" that there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail. Chester County has a Bail Agency which is tasked with doing the research necessary about an individual charged with a crime in order to make an appropriate recommendation on bail to the Magisterial District Judge. Bail is set by the Magisterial District Judge without input from judges on the Court of Common Pleas. Except for the most serious offenses and offenders, I believe that bail should be cashless or nominal. As for court costs, they are uniform throughout the county and an individual defendant's circumstances can and should be presented to the Judge at the time of sentencing. If the Judge does not believe there is enough information, more information can be requested of the prosecutor, the defense attorney or the adult probation and parole department. Costs need to be reasonable, and there needs to be some way to reduce them while in prison or some incentive for compliance with the conditions of their release (parole) or probation (supervision without prison) through the reduction of costs and/or community service. The purpose of restitution is to make a victim whole from a loss that occurred during the commission of a crime. Again, all relevant information, including the ability to pay, should be provided to the sentencing judge at the time of sentencing.

Anthony T. Verwey



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: P.O. Box 109, Downingtown, PA 19335

Campaign Phone: (484) 252-9297

Web Site: <http://www.VoteVerwey.com>

Email: info@voteverwey.com

Education: Juris Doctor, 1989 Widener University School of Law Wilmington, DE Bachelor of Science, Administration of Justice, 1986 The Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

Qualifications: I have been practicing law for over 31 years in diverse areas of law ranging from civil litigation, to attorney discipline, eminent domain, real estate taxation and government. I have also successfully argued cases before all three of Pennsylvania's appellate courts, including a number of cases before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. I have been independently rated as "qualified" for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas by the members of the Chester County Bar Association. I have also been named "Best of the Bar" by the Philadelphia Business Journal and a "Top Lawyer" by Main Line Today. I will bring a wealth of life experience to the bench as well. I was raised in poverty by my mother, a waitress, and my grandmother, a housekeeper. I understand struggle, hard work, and commitment. After high school, I enlisted in the military and after serving my country, I worked my way through college and law school. These experiences provide me with the temperament necessary to serve as a judge and an understanding of the importance of treating others with dignity and respect. I also have a record of community and public service. I started by serving my country and then continued serving my community in student government in college and law school. During law school I also worked in the Delaware Civil Clinic providing legal representation to those who could not otherwise afford it. As a practicing attorney, I served with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel for 10 years investigating and prosecuting attorneys for misconduct. I spent 12 years raising money for Legal Aid and have served on board's working to improve our community. I now seek to put my experience and commitment to service to work for the citizens of Chester County as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Vote-Verwey-For-Judge-106036231402246>

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: Programs such as Drug Court, Veteran's Court and Mental Health Court all provide valuable alternatives to incarceration. Each recognizes that addiction and mental health issues are not personal failings or choices, but illness that may be treated. These courts provide a path for treatment, while allowing an individual to remain a part of their community.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: Plea bargaining provides an opportunity for the prosecution and defense to negotiate the resolution of a criminal matter without trial, resulting in a defendant taking a plea, most often to a reduced charge or charges.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: The court does not independently gather facts with regard to a defendant as that would not be consistent with the impartial role it plays in these matters. It is incumbent upon the parties to gather and present sufficient information to the court to allow it to make its rulings.

Chester County Treasurer

Description of office: Responsible for collecting taxes and maintaining financial records for the county. Organizes the regular collection of property taxes from county residents and special taxes from businesses. Responsible for issuing business permits, licenses and publishing unclaimed property lists. Term of office: 4 years

Vote for ONE.

Patricia A. Maisano



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: PO Box 707 Mendenhall PA 19357

Campaign Phone: (302) 379-3330

Web Site: <http://reelectmaisanofortreasurer@maisano.us>

Email: patricia@maisano.us

Education: Our Ladies of Angels College Wilmington College Sheffield College **Qualifications:** Current Treasurer for 4 years Legal and social control of the assets of hundreds of vulnerable persons Successful business owner and franchise developer for 25 years

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/patricia.maisano.50/>

Questions:

Q: *What education, training or experience have you had that makes you fit for the position as the Treasurer?*

A: My successful business background in the private sector. My work with handling money has been overseen by the courts with in numerous states with clear court approval.

Q: *What do you see as the primary challenges to the role of Treasurer?*

A: Bringing the office into the 21st century in every aspect of our process assuring security to all personal information. My second and simultaneous challenge is enhancing the assess of the Treasurer's office to the non- English speaking community and the disabled.

Jennifer Nicolas

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What education, training or experience have you had that makes you fit for the position as the Treasurer?*

A: - no response –

Q: *What do you see as the primary challenges to the role of Treasurer?*

A: - no response –

Chester County Controller

Description of office: The chief financial officer and chief auditor. Exercises general supervision and control over the County's financial affairs. Authorized to examine the accounts and official acts of all officers or other persons who collect, receive, or disperse the County's money. Term of office: 4 years

Vote for ONE.

Regina Mauro

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What education, training or experience have you had that makes you fit for the position as the Controller?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What do you see as the primary challenges to keeping the County's financial affairs in order?*

A: - no response –

Margaret Reif



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: 81 Devon Dr Downingtown PA 19335

Campaign Phone: 610-721-3418

Web Site: [http:// MargaretReif.com](http://MargaretReif.com)

Email: mreif134@gmail.com

Education: BS Economics/Finance

Qualifications: Current incumbent

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Margaret Reif for Chester County Controller](https://www.facebook.com/MargaretReifforChesterCountyController)

Questions:

Q: *What education, training or experience have you had that makes you fit for the position as the Controller?*

A: Background in Economics and Finance, small business owner, certified Public Pension Professional, and three+ years of experience as the Chester County Controller.

Q: *What do you see as the primary challenges to keeping the County's financial affairs in order?*

A: In Chester County, we should be very proud of our Triple AAA bond rating, we have very talented accountants in both my office and in Finance. Overall, we are doing very well. Having said that, though, I have learned...in my three years in office...that there are a lot of opportunities to improve upon what we are already doing. At the moment, we are working to implement multiple County-wide automation initiatives that will help to streamline services, provide more efficiency and save taxpayer dollars! I hope to earn one more term in office to see those projects through.

Chester County Clerk of Courts

Description of office: Performs administrative duties in the criminal and civil justice systems and assists other officers of the court as well as judges and lawyers. Maintains court records, administers oaths to witnesses and jurors, and authenticates copies of the court's orders and judgments with the court's seal. Term of office: 4 years

Vote for ONE.

Carmela Z. Ciliberti

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What education, training or experience have you had that makes you fit for the position as the Clerk of Courts?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What do you see as the primary challenges to managing the duties of the Clerk of Courts office?*

A: - no response –

Yolanda Van de Krol



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: 1 Maude Circle Paoli, PA 19301

Web Site: <http://www.VandekrolforClerkofCourts.com>

Education: B.A Hamilton College M.A. University of Delaware

Qualifications: Incumbent successfully doing the job for the past 3.5 years

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VandeKrolforClerkofCourts>

Instagram: VandekrolforClerkofCourts

Questions:

Q: *What education, training or experience have you had that makes you fit for the position as the Clerk of Courts?*

A: My experience is being the incumbent and having done the job effectively for the past 3.5 years. To be successful, the Clerk of Courts needs to treat this position as a full-time job. I show up, I listen to the team members who often have decades of experience, and I build relationships internally to collaborate in making positive change. The office cannot provide legal advice. While I have made great strides, there is still more to do.

Q: *What do you see as the primary challenges to managing the duties of the Clerk of Courts office?*

A: The Clerk of Courts provides so many functions and they often change based on new legislation and rules, so the primary challenge is staying on top of all these various services provided to ensure accuracy and efficiency. I began having every one of the 28 team members review every process on a regular basis and write down exactly how each process is done. I also modernized the office to make these functions easier for everyone, internal and external. I instituted e-filing to increase access to justice, to save taxpayer dollars and to allow lawyers to see documents online and work from anywhere at any time rather than handing in and requesting paper documents only during office hours. I am glad to have initiated these basic but critical procedures to solve the primary challenge of the office and to streamline management going forward.

Chester County Coroner

Description of office: Investigates all sudden, violent, traumatic or unexpected deaths. Determines cause of death by conducting inquests; performing autopsies; conducting pathological and toxicological analyses.

Assures the individual's proper identify and provides notification to the legal next of kin. Term of office: 4 years

Vote for ONE.

Sophia Garcia-Jackson



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: P.O. Box 904 Exton PA 19341

Campaign Phone: (484) 985-0356

Web Site: <http://sophiaforcoroner.com/>

Email: sgarciajackson@gmail.com

Education: bachelor's degree: Major: Anthropology, Minor: Nutrition, Certificate: Forensic Identification master's degree: Forensic Medicine

Qualifications: 2 years with Chester County Coroner's Office -1 year as First Deputy Coroner -1 year Chief Deputy Coroner 8 years total in Death Investigations Certification by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators Certification by the Pennsylvania's Coroners Education Board

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sophiaforcoroner>

Questions:

Q: *What education, training or experience have you had that makes you fit for the position as the Coroner?*

A: Education: 1. bachelor's degree: Major: Anthropology, Minor: Nutrition, Certificate: Forensic Identification 2. master's degree: Forensic Medicine Internships: 1. Internship with Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office 2. Internship with Human Identification Lab

Relevant Work Experience: 1. 2 years with Chester County Coroner's Office a. 1 year as First Deputy Coroner b. 1 year as Chief Deputy Coroner 2. 8 years total in Death

Investigations a. 6 years with Southern Regional Medical Examiner's Office- South New Jersey Certifications: 1. Certification by the American Board of Medicolegal Death

Investigators 2. Certification by the Pennsylvania's Coroners Education Board Relevant Chester County Coroner Office Experience: 1. Sign death certificates with cause and manner of death 2. Serving on various

tasks forces: Child Fatality Review Board, Drug Overdose Task Force, Elder Abuse Task Force, Mass Fatalities Planning in conjunction with Chester County Department of Emergency Services. 3. Managing the Coroner Office Budget 4. Managing all aspects of the Office: Administration, Death Investigation, Transportation 5. On-call supervisor 24/7 6. Investigator and Transporter trainer 7.

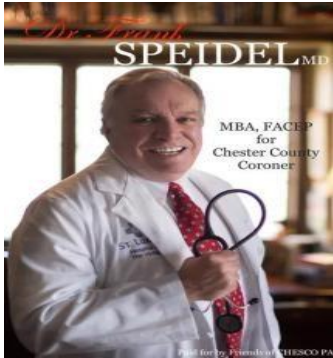
Respond to scenes and investigate deaths

Q: *What priorities will you address in the Coroner's office?*

A: 1. Working towards Chester County building a modern Forensic Facility to provide a better service to Chester County residents 2. Growing the office and adding positions such as an on staff Forensic Pathologist

to help save the county money having a staffed pathologist instead of paying per exam 3. Strengthen the relationship with Law Enforcement to ensure proper investigations are conducted 4. Increase community awareness and transparency by providing more community outreach to include: Public Information Sessions, Education based presentations to High School and College Students, information sessions to long-term care facilities and hospitals

Frank Speidel



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Address: 215 William Penn Blvd. West Chester, PA, 19382

Campaign Phone: (484) 463-7027

Email: fxspeidel@gmail.com

Education: BA, Kalamazoo College Physics MBA, Wharton, Finance, Information Systems Design MD, Temple University School of Medicine Residency, Medical College Of Pennsylvania, Emergency Medicine

Qualifications: Decades of clinical practice in emergency medicine. Four decades of Board Certification by ABEM

Facebook: Frank Speidel For Chester County Coroner

Questions:

Q: *What education, training or experience have you had that makes you fit for the position as the Coroner?*

A: Years of clinical practice of emergency medicine has provided me awareness of the pathophysiology of disease, the complexity and nuance of disease and trauma. The specialty and practice of emergency medicine encompasses toxicology, environmental injuries, trauma, medicine and behavioral illnesses in both adults and children. In addition, during my service on active duty with the United States Navy as a Flight Surgeon, I have received education and training in nuclear, biologic and chemical warfare as well as formal training in aviation mishap investigations. Throughout my career I have provided leadership to my organizations at ever increasing levels of responsibility, from Department Head, Chief of Emergency Services, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Quality Officer, Privacy Officer, Compliance Officer and hospital CEO. My service to community and country has included EMS Medical Director for both Chester County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am a Gulf War Veteran and served proudly as Senior Medical Officer for the carrier USS Dwight D Eisenhower and Battle Force Red Sea. I have demonstrated I can perform, manage and succeed in critical, high stress, complex environments.

Q: *What priorities will you address in the Coroner's office?*

A: To determine the identity, the cause and manner of death, of those who die within the jurisdiction of the Office of the Coroner of Chester County. To perform the reverent duty of notification of the next of kin. To do this compassion and integrity, free from political influence, with awareness of the duty to be the voice of those who cannot speak.

Chester County Magisterial District Judge 15-1-01

Description of office: Magisterial district judges (MDJs) do not have to be lawyers but are required to pass a qualifying exam. They handle civil cases up to \$12,000; responsible for whether serious criminal cases go the Court of Common Pleas; handle preliminary arraignments and hearings; minor criminal offenses, traffic citations and non-traffic ordinance violations. They are responsible for setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases. Term of office: 6 years. Salary: \$93,338

Vote for ONE.

Mark A. Bruno

Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: - no response -

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: - no response

Daniel Hollander



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Address: P.O. Box 3329, West Chester, PA. 19381

Campaign Phone: (570) 709-1089

Web Site: <http://www.HollanderforDistrictJudge.com>

Email: Daniel@HollanderforDistrictJudge.com

Education: Bachelor of Arts, The George Washington University Juris Doctor, The Catholic University of America

Qualifications: - Attorney licensed in Pennsylvania and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Federal courts). Formerly licensed in Washington, DC. - Public servant dedicated to continued service to community. - 100% of my legal work is courtroom based. - Currently, senior trial attorney with the Chester County District Attorney's office with extensive courtroom experience handling thousands of cases from pre-trial motions through sentencing. - Trials include: homicide, assault, child abuse, illegal firearms, terroristic threats, felony theft, DUI, wiretap violations, drug violations. - Selected for the highly competitive position as Clerk for the United States Department of Justice Civil Appellate Division where I worked on cases involving detainees at Guantanamo Bay. Represented indigent individuals in landlord/tenant and family law matters at a free legal clinic in Washington, DC. - Law Clerk to Administrative Law Judge

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/HollanderforDistrictJudge

Instagram: www.Instagram.com/HollanderforDistrictJudge

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: Throughout my career, I have been a very strong supporter of diversionary programs. Providing first offenders and non-violent individuals an opportunity to get the treatment they often need is frequently more beneficial than simply incarcerating them. A prosecutor has the unique ability to use his or her discretion to advocate for Defendants to be placed in these programs and my track record of doing so speaks for itself. Since my first day as a new prosecutor to my current status as a senior trial attorney, I have always encouraged the expansion of alternative sentencing programs and diversionary courts. This is why, in a somewhat unusual joining of forces, my campaign treasurer, Susanna Dewese, is the First Assistant Public Defender. Working with me on a daily basis, Susanna recognized my commitment to doing what is right and just, while simultaneously ensuring Defendant's have a real opportunity to learn from their mistakes and move forward with their lives. I have always prosecuted with the thought that it is better to teach and treat rather than simply incarcerate.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: Plea bargaining is an important piece to the criminal justice system. Without the benefit of plea bargaining, the system would screech to a halt. However, plea bargaining is much more than an issue of judicial expediency. Plea bargaining allows Defendants to take responsibility for their behavior, formally admit their wrongdoing, make restitution, and apologize to the victims. Perhaps most important is that plea bargains often spare an emotional and anxious victim from being forced to testify in a public setting. In exchange, the Defendants often receive a reduced sentence compared to what they would have received after a conviction at trial. In that respect, plea bargaining is a mutually beneficial contract. The most important factor which a judge and prosecutor must be aware of is ensuring that a Defendant who enters into a plea agreement is doing so without coercion or because of a lack of understanding. As District Judge, I will carefully consider the reasons behind the Defendant's agreement to the plea to ensure that the Defendant has entered into the contract in a knowing and voluntary way.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: It is imperative that the District Judge receive a full history from the Defendant to properly set bail. This would include the Defendant's current living environment, level of education, employment, family background, prior criminal history, medical and psychological history, and prior failure to appear warrants. Sometimes the purpose of bail is overlooked. Bail should not be set for punitive purposes. This would be inappropriate since all Defendants come to court with a presumption of innocence. Instead, monetary bail is to be used primarily to ensure the appearance of the Defendant when required by the Court. The criminal justice system has far too often treated bail as a method of preconviction punishment for people who are economically disadvantaged

and cannot afford to post. As District Judge, I would treat each case in which bail must be set as unique – there is no cookie cutter amount appropriate for each crime because every Defendant that appears in front of me will have a unique set of circumstances. What I can promise, however, is that bail will never be set in an arbitrary and capricious manner or to jail someone simply because they were arrested. Monetary bail will only be set in cases in which the Defendant is a flight risk or appears to be a danger to the community.

Marc J. Lieberman



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Address: 1356 Skelp Level Rd. Downingtown PA 19335

Campaign Phone: (610) 430-3701

Web Site: <http://www.marclieberman.com>

Email: jf.marcliebermanforjudge@gmail.com

Education: Henderson High School 1985 West Chester University BA in Psychology and Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies 1994 Widener University of Law J.D. 1997

Qualifications: 23 years of legal practice in defending individuals accused of a crime, Real Estate law, Landlord tenant law, Family law.

Facebook: Marc J Lieberman for MDJ

Instagram: Marc J Lieberman for MDJ

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: Alternative sentencing should be used as often as possible. In my experience, most criminal offenders have an underlying issue of drug addiction and/or mental health problems. Alternative sentencing allows the courts to address these issues. When these issues are addressed, it cuts down on recidivism. There are offenses for which jail time is more appropriate, though. When the charges are more serious or the offender is a recidivist, jail time may be a necessity in order to protect the public.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: A plea bargain is an opportunity to allow the prosecutor to review the case, consider the underlying facts, the law, and any mitigating circumstances. A prosecutor must assess the strength of his or her case. There are charges that may be easier to prove than others. A plea bargain also offers a defendant the opportunity to accept responsibility of an offense when he or she may be reluctant to do so. When pleading guilty, the defendant cannot make a claim of a wrongful conviction.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: In Chester County, Pretrial Services usually makes a recommendation as to appropriate bail. This recommendation is based on information that they have about the seriousness of the charges, the defendant's prior record, their living situation, prior compliance with bail conditions, etc. A Judge can also rely on information from other sources like the arresting officer, family member of the accused or the defendant. Court costs are usually fixed, and the court rarely can change them. In considering fines, a Judge should be consistent yet take into consideration the defendant's ability to pay.

Chester County Magisterial District Judge 15-1-02

Description of office: Magisterial district judges (MDJs) do not have to be lawyers but are required to pass a qualifying exam. They handle civil cases up to \$12,000; responsible for whether serious criminal cases go the Court of Common Pleas; handle preliminary arraignments and hearings; minor criminal offenses, traffic citations and non-traffic ordinance violations. They are responsible for setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases. Term of office: 6 years. Salary: \$93,338

Vote for ONE.

Mackenzie W. Smith



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Address: 810 Forest Lane, Malvern PA 19355

Campaign Phone: (610) 547-1102

Web Site: <http://www.mwsformdj.com>

Email: contact@mwsformdj.com

Education: Tulane University, BA 2005 in Italian and Linguistics (magna cum laude)

Middlebury College, MA 2006 in Italian Studies Temple University Beasley School of Law, JD 2009 (cum laude)

Qualifications: I am the only candidate for District Judge 15-1-02 who possesses a law degree. Although Pennsylvania does not require district judges to hold a law degree, I believe that this is an anachronism and that all judges should be lawyers, because deep knowledge of the law, the Constitution, and the rules of evidence and procedure are critical at all levels of the justice system. Additionally, I have practiced in both the criminal justice system (as a prosecutor at the Chester County District Attorney's Office and as a defense attorney, representing those accused of crimes) and the civil justice system (I have represented clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to a newborn baby born into the foster care system, in courts ranging from district

court all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court). This experience makes me the candidate with the broadest, most impartial perspective.

Facebook: Facebook.com/mwsformdj

Twitter: twitter.com/MackenzieForMDJ

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: These diversionary programs play a critical role in the criminal justice system and in the lives of those admitted into the programs. It is absolutely crucial that the people working in the system – police officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, and of course judges – acknowledge and hold sacred the humanity and dignity of those accused of crimes. Oftentimes, individuals who are coming into the criminal justice system lack the support networks that we all need in order to thrive, and diversionary programs are one mechanism (among others) that we can put in place to avoid incarceration and provide some sort of support network. I have personally attended many “graduations” from diversionary programs, and I have seen the positive impact that these programs can have, when administered effectively and with compassion and dignity.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: Plea bargaining is an essential part of the criminal justice system. The vast majority of cases result in some sort of negotiated plea, and if plea bargaining did not exist, there would be an insurmountable backlog of cases. Like virtually all discretionary mechanisms, however, plea bargaining has the potential for abuse. That is why it is critical to have the most qualified people working in the District Attorney’s Office, the Office of the Public Defender, and as judges to ensure that all individuals who have been accused of a crime are treated fairly and within the bounds of the law and the Constitution. I have worked with many of the fine lawyers in the DA’s Office and the Office of the Public Defender, and have appeared before most of the judges currently sitting on our Court of Common Pleas, and I have profound respect for how tirelessly they strive to protect the rights of the accused in Chester County.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: At the trial court level, typically a representative from the Pretrial Services Unit (a.k.a. bail agency) prepares a detailed report to assist the judge with setting bail at the formal arraignment. However, at the district court level, where preliminary bail is set (usually within a short time after arrest), judges must often rely on information received from the police department and the accused individual and/or his or her counsel, if any. It is therefore critical that the district judge take the time necessary to consider all relevant factors – for example, whether the individual has previously failed to appear for court, whether the individual has strong ties to the community, whether the individual is financially able to post bail and to what extent, etc. – before setting bail. While district courts are not courts of record in Pennsylvania, I believe that cash bail should not be imposed without a detailed analysis of all relevant factors by the district judge and the disclosure of such rationale to the accused individual.

Thomas W. Tartaglio



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Web Site: <http://Https://judgetartaglio.com>

Email: Info@judgetartaglio.com

Education: B.S. Criminal Justice, West Chester University Magisterial Judge Certification, PA Supreme Court M.S. Criminal Justice Admin-Organizational Leadership, Colorado State University

Qualifications: 24 years in the Chester County Justice System 12 years Judicial experience Lived up to my oath to be fair & impartial

Facebook: @judge_tartaglio

Instagram: judge_tartaglio

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: A fantastic way to divert first time offenders or I use restorative justice measures when all parties wish to participate. Many of my bail orders incorporate treatment/counselling rather than incarceration.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: None, I will review any plea present to make sure that the defendant is making a knowingly, voluntary and intelligently decision. A plea can't be prejudicial.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: All my payment plans for traffic cases start after the appeal, stay period. I use a payment determination hearing where the party explains their financial situation. Work history, income, and current obligation are documented. A payment amount is set that the party feels they can be successful paying over a time frame. I use community service, resume preparation, or educational classes as credit. My criminal arraignment is one of the most important duties I have. Criminal history, grading, flight risk, and danger to the community are reviewed. My bail interview can be lengthy to find the best non-monetary conditions to gain the defendant's compliance to court rules and appearance at their next court date.

Chester County Magisterial District Judge 15-1-03

Description of office: Magisterial district judges (MDJs) do not have to be lawyers but are required to pass a qualifying exam. They handle civil cases up to \$12,000; responsible for whether serious criminal cases go the

Court of Common Pleas; handle preliminary arraignments and hearings; minor criminal offenses, traffic citations and non-traffic ordinance violations. They are responsible for setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases. Term of office: 6 years. Salary: \$93,338

Vote for ONE.

Gregory Hines

Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: - no response -

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: - no response –

Chester County Magisterial District Judge 15-1-04

Description of office: Magisterial district judges (MDJs) do not have to be lawyers but are required to pass a qualifying exam. They handle civil cases up to \$12,000; responsible for whether serious criminal cases go the Court of Common Pleas; handle preliminary arraignments and hearings; minor criminal offenses, traffic citations and non-traffic ordinance violations. They are responsible for setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases. Term of office: 6 years. Salary: \$93,338

Vote for ONE.

Marian Vito

Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: - no response -

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: - no response –

Chester County Magisterial District Judge 15-2-07

Description of office: Magisterial district judges (MDJs) do not have to be lawyers but are required to pass a qualifying exam. They handle civil cases up to \$12,000; responsible for whether serious criminal cases go the Court of Common Pleas; handle preliminary arraignments and hearings; minor criminal offenses, traffic citations and non-traffic ordinance violations. They are responsible for setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases. Term of office: 6 years. Salary: \$93,338

Vote for ONE.

Maria Varano McDowell



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Address: 256 Eagleview Blvd. Suite 233 Exton, PA 19341

Campaign Phone: (267) 908-5948

Web Site: <http://mariavmcdowell.com/>

Email: info@mariavmcdowell.com

Education: Pennsylvania State University (B.S. Economics, 1988) Widener University School of Law (J.D. 1992)

Qualifications: •Served as staff attorney for several justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (both Democrat and Republican) for almost 28 years. •Extensive working knowledge of Pennsylvania law, including criminal law, criminal procedure, landlord-tenant law, contract law and municipal law. •Resident of Uwchlan Township for almost 23 years children have attended Downingtown Area schools for the past 18 years. •Served local community through school organizations, local youth sports organizations, my church and other local community organizations.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Public-Figure/Maria-VaranoMcDowell-106062158097745/>

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: The goal of sentencing should be effective deterrence while maintaining the possibility of rehabilitation, family reunification, and reintegration into society. The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing promulgated the Pennsylvania Sentencing Guidelines which the court must consider when sentencing. The court will also take into account the facts of the case, the defendant's prior record, if any, any aggravating or mitigating circumstances in the case, any input from victim or victims, input from the defendant and arguments made by defense counsel and the Commonwealth. To the extent alternative sentencing can achieve these goals within the legal framework in which sentencing occurs, they can be an appropriate alternative to jail sentences.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: The Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure provide the criteria a judge must consider before accepting or rejecting a plea bargain, including whether the plea was made knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently; the defendant's understanding of the nature of the charges against them; the defendant's understanding of the rights they are waiving; the victim's position regarding the plea, and the precedent in similar cases. Coercion and intimidation should never be a determining factor in whether a defendant accepts a plea bargain. Plea deals can be beneficial to all parties and promote justice and public safety if negotiated fairly.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: All defendants should be interviewed by the court before bail is set. Bail, as with all aspects of the law, should be reasonably applied and without discrimination as to race, creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, political affiliation, and socio-economic status. The law strongly disfavors anyone being in jail solely because of an inability to pay fines and costs or restitution. I would apply the law to the facts in each individual's case.

Chester County Magisterial District Judge 15-4-01

Description of office: Magisterial district judges (MDJs) do not have to be lawyers but are required to pass a qualifying exam. They handle civil cases up to \$12,000; responsible for whether serious criminal cases go the Court of Common Pleas; handle preliminary arraignments and hearings; minor criminal offenses, traffic citations and non-traffic ordinance violations. They are responsible for setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases. Term of office: 6 years. Salary: \$93,338

Vote for ONE.

Lauren Holt

Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: - no response -

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: - no response –

Chester County Magisterial District Judge 15-4-02

Description of office: Magisterial district judges (MDJs) do not have to be lawyers but are required to pass a qualifying exam. They handle civil cases up to \$12,000; responsible for whether serious criminal cases go the

Court of Common Pleas; handle preliminary arraignments and hearings; minor criminal offenses, traffic citations and non-traffic ordinance violations. They are responsible for setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases. Term of office: 6 years. Salary: \$93,338

Vote for ONE.

Ann M. Feldman

Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: - no response -

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: - no response –

Jeffrey J. Valocchi



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Address: 32 Downing Ave, Downingtown, PA 19335

Campaign Phone: (484) 614-2461

Web Site: <http://www.reelectjudgevalocchi.com>

Email: reelectjudgevalocchi@gmail.com

Education: University of Notre Dame – BA Saint Louis University and University of Pennsylvania – JD As a sitting judge I participate every year in a one week Continuing Judicial Education Course which has kept me updated on relevant developments affecting the Court.

Qualifications: As an attorney I have over 35 years of legal experience in general areas including civil, criminal, family and municipal- related legal matters. For ten years I participated in Mental Health hearings on the Mental Health Masters Circuit which has provided valuable insight into the many cases that come through the Court. As a Judge I have conducted thousands of hearings in my 12 years on the bench.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ReelectJudgeValocchi

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: Alternative dispositions are almost always preferable to incarceration and fines. If there is any possibility that the defendant and all others involved will benefit from other alternatives, I encourage and facilitate that approach. Examples of alternate resolutions I have utilized in my Court are community service, addiction programs, educational programs geared toward the matter at hand or similar types of programs which will inure to the benefit of the parties involved and the community at large. The Court monitors the defendant's participation in such programs to insure successful completion.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: Plea bargaining at the MDJ level is somewhat different than on the Common Pleas level. Notwithstanding, in those cases where justice and efficiency indicate that a plea bargain is better for all involved, including the taxpayers, the Court will approve and facilitate a plea bargain reducing a charge from a misdemeanor to a summary offense. In such cases the Court will monitor any alternative disposition to ensure successful completion. It is often better to keep the case at the MDJ level rather than permitting the matter to go through the more complex, time-consuming and expensive procedures inherent in the Common Pleas Court.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: One can never have too much information when making decisions in setting bail. In our county a pre-trial agency provides information regarding a defendant's prior record and other significant information they can obtain in the short time they have to provide the Court with a bail recommendation. This information is supplemented with information provided by the defendant at the time of the preliminary arraignment. In my Court I will generally only set cash bail in cases where there is a good reason to believe that the defendant may not otherwise attend subsequent proceedings, is a danger to others or a danger to him/herself. Court costs and restitution are very different from bail. In general, the Court has the discretion to release a defendant from payment of Court costs when the defendant, through no fault of his/herself, is unable to pay. The Court has less flexibility and discretion regarding restitution as this involves injury or damage to a third-party victim which obviously involves different considerations.

Chester County Magisterial District Judge 15-4-04

Description of office: Magisterial district judges (MDJs) do not have to be lawyers but are required to pass a qualifying exam. They handle civil cases up to \$12,000; responsible for whether serious criminal cases go the Court of Common Pleas; handle preliminary arraignments and hearings; minor criminal offenses, traffic citations and non-traffic ordinance violations. They are responsible for setting and accepting bail, except in murder or voluntary manslaughter cases. Term of office: 6 years. Salary: \$93,338

Vote for ONE.

Bobby Brown



Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Address: Friends of Bobby Brown, PO Box 8066, West Grove, PA 19390

Web Site: <http://VoteBobbyBrown.com>

Email: BobbyBrown4MDJ@gmail.com

Qualifications: Bobby Brown has served as a Pennsylvania State Constable for over 14 years.

Facebook: Facebook.com/VoteBobbyBrown

Instagram: Instagram.com/VoteBobbyBrown

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: We advocate education before incarceration. When applicable, we sentence 1st time offenders and juvenile offenders to community services such as: •Working at a community center •Working with the local borough public works crew •Assisting the elderly in a nursing home •Serving meals at the prison We don't see this type of sentencing anymore. We are too quick to set bail and incarcerate. Addendum: The statements provided represent Constable Bobby Brown's personal opinion and should not consider a professional legal opinion or advice.

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: The role of plea bargaining is to reduce the number of trials judges need to oversee. It's an agreement between the prosecutor and the defendant to where the defendant agrees to plead guilty to some or all of the charges usually in exchange for a more lenient sentence. Addendum: The statements provided represent Constable Bobby Brown's personal opinion and should not consider a professional legal opinion or advice.

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: We rely on court records of the defendant's history, bail recommendation from the bail agencies, and personal contact with the defendant during court proceedings. Addendum: The statements provided represent Constable Bobby Brown's personal opinion and should not consider a professional legal opinion or advice.

Matthew Seavey

Party: D/R

Biographical Info:

Questions:

Q: *What is your opinion on programs for alternative sentencing rather than jail time?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What is the role of plea bargaining?*

A: - no response -

Q: *How do you ensure there is enough information on the defendant to set appropriate bail, court costs and/or restitution?*

A: - no response –