



ABOUT THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is the highest court in the state. It is comprised of seven elected justices who receive over 3,000 requests for appellate review and issue several hundred rulings each year. The justices hear cases from every corner of Pennsylvania and hold sessions in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia to hear arguments.

The Supreme Court oversees the operations of the entire Pennsylvania court system and works with the legislature and the executive branch on judicial matters. It has several committees and boards responsible for writing and enforcing rules to ensure efficient and fair judicial review.

ISSUES THE PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT ADDRESSES

EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania Constitution includes a provision requiring the legislature to “provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.” A group of teachers, parents, students, and school districts filed a lawsuit in the courts arguing that the legislature wasn’t providing a fair system of funding. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court will likely decide whether the legislature must do more to provide education in Pennsylvania.

ECONOMY

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is critical in deciding on pocketbook issues that affect all of us. Whether the issue is tax subsidies for corporations, or private utility firms using government power to take a homeowner’s property, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court will play a critical role in protecting economic fairness for working families.

ENVIRONMENT

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is responsible for making sure that our environment is protected. The Court must make decisions about environmental issues such as land and water preservation, oil drilling regulations and air quality problems.

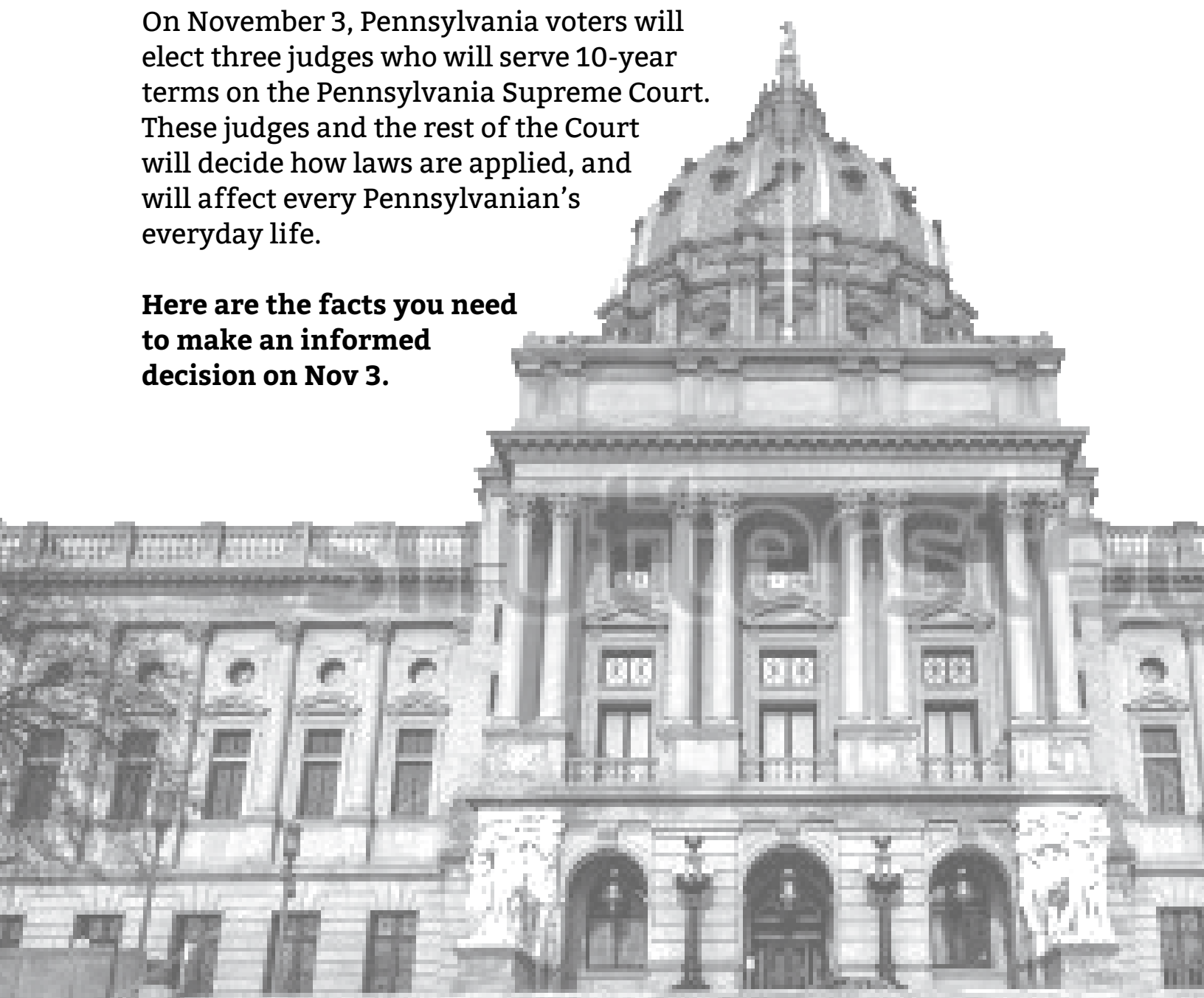
DEMOCRACY

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has a key role to play in determining how voter maps are drawn and ensuring that the districts are fair and competitive. Not only does the Court appoint one person to sit on the committee, but the Court makes the ultimate decision on whether the proposed districts are fair.

INFORMED VOTER’S GUIDE: PA SUPREME COURT ELECTIONS

On November 3, Pennsylvania voters will elect three judges who will serve 10-year terms on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. These judges and the rest of the Court will decide how laws are applied, and will affect every Pennsylvanian’s everyday life.

Here are the facts you need to make an informed decision on Nov 3.



POLLS ARE OPEN 7 AM TO 8 PM

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**ALL THE
INFORMATION
YOU NEED TO VOTE**

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
POLLS ARE OPEN 7 AM TO 8 PM



Pennsylvania Voice
1211 Chestnut Street Suite 605
Philadelphia, PA 19107

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The organizations responsible for this voter guide are nonpartisan and do not support or oppose any candidate for public office. This voter guide is not intended to endorse or oppose any of the candidates or any political party; all of the candidates should be judged on all publicly available information not limited to the contents of this voter guide.

The election on November 3 will determine which three of these candidates will serve 10-year terms on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Term: 10 years – Salary: \$203,409

PICK THREE



ANNE COVEY (R)

Upper Makefield Township, Bucks County
Web Address: www.coveyforjustice.com
D.O.B.: 11/04/1959

Judge Covey has served as a judge of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania since 2011 and has overseen hundreds of cases.

She received her law degree from Widener University School of Law in 1984. Prior to her election, she was appointed to and served on the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board for over 10 years following a career in labor and employment law.



CHRISTINE DONOHUE (D)

Pittsburgh, Allegheny County
Web Address: donohueforjustice.com
D.O.B.: 12.24.1952

Judge Donohue currently serves on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania where she has decided more than 2,000 appeals by written decision.

She received her law degree from Duquesne University School of Law in 1980. Prior to being elected to the bench, she practiced law for 27 years. She has served on the Judicial Conduct Board, the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court, and the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.



KEVIN DOUGHERTY (D)

Philadelphia, Philadelphia County
Web Address: www.doughertyforpa.com
D.O.B.: 5/19/1962

Judge Dougherty has served as a judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas since 2001 where he currently serves as the Administrative Judge overseeing all aspects of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Pennsylvania's largest civil and criminal trial court system.

He received his law degree from Antioch School of Law in 1987 and has previously served as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia and a Special Master of the Philadelphia Family Court Truancy Program.



MICHAEL GEORGE (R)

Cumberland Township, Adams County
Web Address: www.judgemikegeorge.com
D.O.B.: 2/25/1959

Judge George currently serves as President Judge of the Adams County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania. He was elected in 2001 to the bench and has presided over a range of criminal and civil cases.

He received his law degree from the Dickinson School of Law in 1985. He previously served as a member of the Prison Board, the Civil Rules Committee, and the Criminal Rules Committee and has served as the Chairperson of the County's Criminal Justice Advisory Board since its inception in 2007.



PAUL PANEPINTO (I)

Philadelphia, Philadelphia County
Web Address: www.judgepanepinto.com
D.O.B.: 6/25/ 1949

Judge Panepinto currently serves on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, where he has sat since he was elected to the bench in 1991. He served as a Team Leader in Motions Court and was also Team Leader of Complex Litigation in the Civil Trial Division.

He earned his law degree from Widener University School of Law in 1976. He served as a Judge on the Court of Judicial Discipline from 2003 to 2007 and served on the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in Pennsylvania. Prior to his service on the bench, he was engaged in the private practice of law for 13 years.



JUDITH OLSON (R)

Franklin Park Township, Allegheny County
Web Address: electjudgejudy.com
D.O.B.: 10/19/1957

Judge Olson has served on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania since 2009. Prior to that she was nominated by Governor Rendell and served on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Before serving on the bench, she practiced for over 25 years as a trial lawyer.

She received her law degree from Duquesne University School of Law in 1982. During her legal career, she served as a private mediator and an arbitrator for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.



DAVID WECHT (D)

Indiana Township, Allegheny County
Web Address: www.wecht2015.com
D.O.B.: 5/20/1962

Judge Wecht has served on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania since 2012. Prior to that he spent nine years as a judge in the Allegheny Court of Common Pleas. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Duquesne University School of Law and Adjunct Faculty of the Graduate School of Public & International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

He received his law degree from Yale University in 1987 and is a former member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, and the Public Safety Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.