



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE WILKES-BARRE AREA AND PENNSYLVANIA

Citizen Education Fund NONPARTISAN VOTERS' GUIDE

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

Polls open 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.

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(Information obtained from Vote411.com and from candidates.)

2021 CAMPAIGN
'A STEP AHEAD OF THE VOTE'

FOR ELECTION INFORMATION

Contact your county Board of Elections or visit www.VotesPA.com. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Information Center also provides election information. Call 717-234-1576 with any questions or go to www.Vote411.org.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The material in this Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund. This material may not be altered or reprinted without the permission of the League. Each candidate's reply has been printed as submitted. Candidates were invited to participate in the Vote411 online voters' guide sponsored by the LWVPA-CEF and Patriot-News/PennLive via email. All reasonable efforts were made to encourage candidates to participate.

The candidates listed are those whose names appear on the ballot as of May 1, 2021. They are listed according to their party and then alphabetically.

Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement or non-endorsement of any candidate, party, or initiative by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund.

PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE LEAGUE

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan: it neither supports nor opposes any political parties or candidates. Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement of any candidate by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund.

PENNSYLVANIA JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

JOB DESCRIPTION

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
Base Salary: \$215,037

Vote for ONE.

DEMOCRAT

MARIA MCLAUGHLIN (DEM)
Superior Court Judge

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

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

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.

REPUBLICAN

KEVIN BROBSON (REP)
President Judge,
Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

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

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.

PENNSYLVANIA JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

JOB DESCRIPTION

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  
**Base Salary:** \$202,898

Vote for ONE.

### DEMOCRAT

**TIMIKA LANE (DEM)**  
Judge - Court of Common Pleas

#### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**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>

**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.

### REPUBLICAN

**MEGAN SULLIVAN (REP)**  
Attorney

#### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**County:** Chester  
**Mailing Address:** PO Box 3425 West Chester, PA 19380  
**Education:** Temple University Beasley

#### ON-LINE VOTERS GUIDE

The Vote411 Online Voters Guide is available at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org). Links to this guide as well as links to Vote411 and other useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania homepage: [www.palwv.org](http://www.palwv.org).

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>

**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

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

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  
**Base Salary:** \$202,898

Vote for not more than TWO.

### DEMOCRAT

**DAVID LEE SPURGEON (DEM)**  
Judge - Court of Common Pleas  
**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**  
**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>

[judgespurgeon4commonwealth.com](http://www.judgespurgeon4commonwealth.com)  
**Facebook:** <http://judgespurgeon4commonwealthcourt>  
**Twitter:** <http://@davidspurgeon4j>

**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 (DEM)**  
Judge

#### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

**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>

**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

### IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW VOTERS

If you are a new voter or if you are voting at a polling place for the first time, then you must bring your voter ID card or a photo ID such as a driver's license, student ID or some other form of Federal or State government-issued ID. Some forms of non-photo ID are also acceptable, such as a firearm permit, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check. If you do not have any acceptable ID then you must be allowed to vote by provisional ballot.

**If you are not a new voter and are not voting at your polling place for the first time, you are NOT required to bring or provide identification.**

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.

**REPUBLICAN**

**DREW CROMPTON (REP)**  
Judge

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**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>

**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 (REP)**  
Attorney

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**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/>

**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.

**JUDGE FOR THE COURT OF LUZERNE COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

**DEMOCRAT**

**ALEXANDRA KOKURA KRAVITZ**

**Party:** Democrat, Cross-filed Judicial Candidate  
**Dupont**  
**Age:** 39  
**Education:** Lehigh University, Widener Law School

**Occupation:** Magisterial District Judge  
**Qualifications for this office:**

As District Judge for eight years, I have presided over 40,000 cases, including criminal, civil and domestic violence cases. I also conduct a truancy program to help families and improve school attendance. I also serve on the statewide Minor Rules Committee.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

I am the only Judge running for Judge. My entire legal career is in the judiciary. I have a proven judicial record presiding over 40,000 cases over 8 years. I make fair and impartial decisions that affect our residents, our families, our businesses and the safety of our community. I am born and raised in Luzerne County. I hope to bring my extensive judicial experience and knowledge of law to serve everyone in Luzerne County.

**REPUBLICAN**

**STEFANIE SALAVANTIS**

**Party:** Republican  
**Kingston**  
**Age:** 38

**Education:** Dallas High School, Temple University, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Qualifications for this office:**

Prior to becoming District Attorney, I was an insurance defense attorney and handled hundreds of civil cases and represented private clients in civil and family law. As District Attorney for 9 years, I oversaw nearly 5,000 cases annually.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. Not only do I have experience in civil and family law, I have also been District Attorney for over 9 years, making tough decisions daily on the thousands of cases involved in the criminal justice system while remaining fair to all parties. I worked closely with the 29 ADAs and law enforcement throughout Luzerne County on all criminal cases, but also with the judges to improve the efficiency in our system.

**TARAH TOOHL**

**Party:** Republican, Cross-filed

**Drums**

**Age:** 42

**Education:** Dickinson Law (Penn State), Bachelor's: Northeastern University.

**Occupation:** State Representative/ Attorney

**Qualifications for Office:** I have worked in criminal law at the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office. I have worked on many pro bono and reduced fee cases for families who could not afford a lawyer. I have specialized in divorce, custody, and adoption cases.

**Q. Why do you feel you are a good candidate for this office?**

A. I have written the law, practiced in courtrooms, and advocated for others. I have a proven record of being a hardworking champion for children and will make an excellent Family Court Judge. I have had the honor of representing my constituents as a lawmaker. On the Judiciary Committee, I have successfully improved Pennsylvania laws to keep families safe and protect vulnerable populations. I understand the law and can apply the law fairly and impartially.

**LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**DEMOCRAT**

**JIMMY SABATINO**

**Party:** Democratic

**Drums**

**Age:** 40

**Education:** Bishop Hafey High School, Drexel University

**Occupation:** Sabatino and his siblings, Donald and Jenna, own and operate the three Vesuvio's locations across Luzerne County.

**Qualifications for this office:**

Volunteer: United Way, Commission on Economic Opportunity, and Catholic Social Services; Luzerne County Democratic Party First District Chair since 2019. Action Together NEPA advisory council; Hazleton Rotary Club

**ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS**

If your right to vote is challenged at the polls on Election Day and the problem cannot be resolved at the polling place, the judge of elections at the polling place should telephone the county Board of Elections. The problem could be resolved by phone if your name appears on the county records. If it does not and you want to try to resolve the problem, then you can go in person to the county Board of Elections where a judge from the Court of Common Pleas will be on duty to resolve election problems. Alternatively you can ask for and vote by provisional ballot. If it is later determined that you were eligible to vote your ballot will be counted. You will be given instructions on how to determine if your vote was counted.

**If you have any questions or need to report any problems, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE for assistance in English or Spanish or 1-888-API-VOTE for assistance in Asian languages.**

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. I am from a family of Italian immigrants who taught us the value of taking care of the community. All of our community's families should have the opportunities to succeed like mine has.

My policy priorities are rebuilding County infrastructure, improving outdoor spaces, property tax reform and ways to increase County revenue, and food insecurity. Instead of trying to dismantle the county government, we should make our local government more efficient and beneficial to all County residents.

**SHEILA SAIDMAN**

**Party:** Democrat

**Kingston**

**Age:** 71

**Education:** University of Pittsburgh School of Law

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Qualifications for this office:**

I have strengths in communication, negotiation, and reading and reviewing contracts. I have an appreciation and understanding of the manner by which Luzerne County is governed—the Home Rule Charter. Being an incumbent, I have “no learning curve.” I am prepared beginning Day One.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. As a current member of Luzerne County Council, I have developed leadership skills. Further, I am aware of many significant issues confronting LCC. However, fiscal responsibility continues to be our number one priority. Keeping spending in check while still providing valuable and essential services for the residents of the county always remain our chief concerns. These issues are always a delicate balancing act for council.

**MARYANN VELEZ**

**Party:** Democrat

**Duryea**

**Age:** 48

**Education:** Bachelor's in Health Science; Bachelor's in Psychology

**Occupation:** Unemployed; United NEPA Alliance: CEO/President/Cofounder (Volunteer Based Organization) (17)

**Qualifications for this office:**

Strong leadership skills, intelligent, compassionate, dedicated, hard working, common sense and a profound focus on creating a strong economy.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. My commitment to the community is unparalleled. I understand the economic struggles many families are currently facing. Understanding the amount of work that needs to be done in our county in order to lift every citizen up, remove the burden of hardship off their shoulders, is what fuels my passion to fight harder every day! I will work with every citizen. We will rebuild together.

**MATTHEW VOUGH**

**Party:** Democrat

**Pittston**

**Age:** 28

**Education:** Marketing Degree from the University of Scranton (2014)

**Occupation:** Business Analyst at Keystone Automotive Operations

**Qualifications for this office:**

During my first term in office, I learned how to help people be better. I am proud of the work I have done, especially the creation of the County Cares Commission

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. My initiatives during my first term in office were fiscal responsibility and community-first. I feel like I have done a great job of executing on those initiatives. The county deficit has continued to decrease without cutting services and I am most proud of starting the County Cares Commission. If I am lucky enough to be re-elected, I will continue my community first approach to improve the lives of all residents.

**JANE WALSH WAITKUS**

**Party:** Democratic

**Mountain Top**

**Education:** Masters Degrees from

University of District of Columbia, and University of Scranton

**Occupation:** Retired

**Qualifications for this office:** Former Member County Council, chair, Real Estate Cmte. Paid off \$75 million dollars in county debt during previous term of office. Municipal Experience-Former President, Laflin Borough Council, chaired Roads Committee.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. Experience in balancing municipal and county budgets. Began the County Council Real Estate Cmte, generated revenue by identifying unneeded properties owned by the county, and advertising these properties for sale to the public. Generated revenue and returned these properties to the tax rolls. Consensus builder, able to discuss issues and different viewpoints with fellow council members, and thus get the job done. Always striving to reduce taxes, especially for seniors.

## REPUBLICAN

**KEVIN LESCAVAGE**

**West Pittston**

**Occupation:** Sales Rep.

**Education:** Penn State 2 years Business

**Qualifications:** 7 years served West Pittston Council; 4 years served WWSA Board; Understanding of Business and Construction.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. I feel I bring experience and most importantly common sense to the table. I'm also willing to research any topic that I do not have an answer for. I believe an open mind will go a long way!

**JOHN LOMBARDO**

**Party:** Republican

**Pittston**

**Age:** 28

**Education:** Graduate of Pittston Area High School, Bachelors Degree: Political Science/Media Studies, Penn State University

**Occupation:** Firefighter/EMT for the City of Pittston

**Qualifications for this office:** Full-time public servant with knowledge of Municipal Services and Intergovernmental Collaboration, Experience in Conflict Resolution Negotiation, Experience with Budget/Finance of Governmental Agencies, Lifelong Advocate for Good Governance in Communities

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. Our residents deserve competent, fair minded leaders who will work together with our county agencies and local municipalities to make a positive impact on those we serve. I will encourage collaboration so we can revitalize our towns, preserve local history and govern in a fiscally responsible way. Luzerne County is a great place to live. Together we can make it a great place to stay!

**CHRIS PERRY**

**Party:** Republican

**Mountain Top**

**Age:** 71

**Education:** Graduate of Bloomsburg University

**Occupation:** Retired Biology teacher and Athletic Director at Hazleton Area High School ( 36 years )

Retired Army National Guard (25 years)

**Qualifications for this office:**

Current member of County Council, council vice chairman, chairman of the Authorities, Boards and Commissions committee, member of both the Real Estate and County Cares Committees

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. Having been elected to County Council in 2016, I have gained a great deal of knowledge of the operation of our county government. I will continue to move the county forward by supporting fiscally responsible budgets (highest bond rating ever), strong economic development policies (North Pointe and Hazleton Creek Properties) and always improving public safety ( 25 million dollar 911 project which will be completed by the end of 2021).

**BRIAN THORNTON**

**Party:** Republican

**West Pittston**

**Age:** 61

**Education:** Lehigh University Graduate - Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering

**Occupation:** Financial Advisor (28 Years)

**Qualifications for this office:**

11 Years West Pittston Borough Councilman - 6 of Those, Council President; 8 Years Infrastructure Project Manager; 28 Years Financial Advisor; Landbank Authority Board Member (Blighted Properties); Interviewer/Hirer of Municipal Employees; Collective Bargaining Negotiator; Westside COG Founding Member

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. Overall, the county charter is well crafted. However, some sections are ambiguous and possibly conflict with Pennsylvania State Law potentially exposing our county and our taxpayers to costly litigation. Amending the charter may be beneficial to all.

I would like to examine and compare our county budget with budgets of neighboring counties with similar demographics, possibly revealing unnecessary or inefficient spending. Automatic budget increases each year need to be examined and possibly recalculated.

**MICHAEL G VACENDA**

**Party:** Republican

**Laflin**

**Education:** Advanced Real Estate Studies, Certified Residential Specialist; Graduate of Residential Institute of Realtors.

**Occupation:** Certified Residential Appraiser

**Qualifications for this office:** Thirty (30)

+ years Appraising Land and Real Estate, not limited to Purchase/Sale, Tax appeal.

Elected Republican County Committee, representing Laflin Borough-Ward 1; Army Veteran.

Notary public, reappointed 30+ years.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. To make myself available to Citizens of Luzerne County that question real estate tax. Becoming a council member who would take a special interest in the betterment of the life of children to work with other interest groups to benefit citizens. Encourage county residences to provide theirs believes to county council suggest citizens to be involved in government.

**GREGORY S. WOLOVICH, JR.**

**Party:** Republican

**Hanover Twp.**

**Age:** 29

**Education:** King's College '14 B.S. in Accounting

**Occupation:** Assistant Manager, Wilkes-Barre Wegmans

**Qualifications for this office:**

Knowledge in the field of Accounting from my education at King's College as well as business management experience, decision making and effective communication skills from my career at Wegmans all tie directly into the qualifications needed to lead the county.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. I have a passion for our home county that goes unmatched. I have met many community officials, leaders as well as many of you, discussing the importance of backing our first responders and being fiscally responsible with our tax dollars. Maintaining an affordable cost of living and providing for the safety and well being of our residents will be my top priority as your representative. I am a candidate of the people, for the people.

## WRITE-IN VOTING

Information for write-in voting will be available at the polling place.

**LUZERNE COUNTY CONTROLLER**

**DEMOCRAT**

**MICHELLE BEDNAR**

**Party:** Democratic  
**Wapwallopen, PA**  
**Age:** 55

**Education:** Luzerne County Community College, AS.  
Corporate Trust Operations Certificate  
**Occupation:** Current Luzerne County Controller  
25+ years' experience in finance/accounting /investment securities  
5 years, Elected Tax Collector  
**Qualifications for this office:** Our office has performed many audits, without outsourcing and under budget. As a servant leader, I employ diplomacy, innovation, and an eagerness to learn.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. Having successfully served as Controller for nearly 8 years, I understand the critical nature of this position. Under my direction, the office has completed multiple, diverse audits without outsourcing, thus saving taxpayers money. I am intricately aware of the operations of Luzerne County and this experience is invaluable in this position. My unquestioned independence allows our office to perform

audits in a professional manner, with no hidden agendas.

**REPUBLICAN**

**WALTER L GRIFFITH JR.**

**Party:** Republican  
**Trucksville**  
**Age:** 66

**Education:** Wyoming Valley West graduate; Associate Degree training at LCCC in Automotive Repair.  
**Occupation:** Retired, Rutter Auto Service, 30 Years; currently employed at Motorworld Mile One Automotive  
**Qualifications for this office:** Currently a member of Luzerne County Council, Bussiness owner, 30 years; Elected in 2010 Luzerne County Controller so I am very familiar with the operation of this office.

**Q. Why do you feel that you are a good candidate for the above office?**

A. I have demonstrated over the past 10 years that I will, and have been a "Voice for the People", and the office of County Controller is vital to the oversight of the financial and managerial duties of our government, for the people of Luzerne County. I have been active on Luzerne County Council, as well as the drafting of our Home Rule Charter and will not require any training to perform the role of County Controller.

**LUZERNE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**REPUBLICAN**

**SAMUEL M SANGUEDOLCE**

**Party:** Republican  
**Plains Township**  
**Age:** 45

**Education:** University of Scranton Bachelor of Science in Economics  
Penn State Dickinson School of Law - Juris Doctorate  
**Occupation:** Luzerne County District Attorney  
**Qualifications for this office:** A Luzerne County prosecutor for nearly 20 years, I served 10 years as First Assistant DA to Stefanie Salavantis. Since March of 2021, I have served the County as the District Attorney.

**Q. Why do you think you are a good candidate for this position?**

A. I humbly submit that having served 20 years both on the front lines of all manner of trials and in the administration, has served me well in my candidacy for District Attorney. At a time when law enforcement is under attack, it is necessary to have someone with the right training, knowledge and experience to administer the office, inform the public and be the voice of the victims of crime. It is my hope that the people of Luzerne County agree.

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE WILKES-BARRE AREA**

P.O. Box 1480 | Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-1480 | 570-675-3429 | lwvwba.org

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The League of Women Voters of the Wilkes-Barre Area is a nonpartisan organization which has as its purpose the promotion of political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. Membership is open to any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League. While the League of Women Voters has made every effort to ensure that the information provided to us by the candidate is typed properly in this guide and it will not be liable for damages arising out of error, deletion or omission.

Editor: Molly Tuzinski-Wright | Design & Layout: Rachele Smith, Blasi Printing Corp.

Prepared by: The League of Women Voters of The Wilkes-Barre Area and The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

Special Thanks to the Citizens' Voice for publishing the Voters' Guide. The Voter's Guide is a member supported publication.

**ON-LINE VOTERS GUIDE**

The Vote411 Online Voters Guide is available at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org). Links to this guide as well as links to Vote411 and other useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania homepage: [www.palwv.org](http://www.palwv.org).

**JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS TO VOTE AND MAKE INFORMED VOTING CHOICES.**

*Consider joining the League of Women Voter's of the Wilkes-Barre Area*

**WHO WE ARE**

As an all-volunteer organization, we work diligently to promote citizen participation in our democracy by educating our community about voting and the democratic process. We encourage citizens to have a voice in their government by simply going to the polls to vote for the candidates who reflect THEIR views on how government should operate.

**Voting truly is a simple act that can have profound effects on our county and how it operates.**

Our nonpartisan status allows us to work effectively on voter education. The community knows that candidate meetings and our Voter's Guide will present information without bias. We are respected in our community because citizens know that we are fair in our presentations.

We never support political candidates or parties, nor do we do things that would appear to support one over another.

Our Wilkes-Barre League focuses on voter education. Our members include men and women.

**WHAT'S IN A NAME? OUR HISTORY!**

The Wilkes-Barre League of Women Voters was established in 1944. The League of Women Voters of the United States was founded in 1920 -- six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.

**This amendment gave women the right to full voting rights after a 72-year hard-fought struggle.**

The amendment was ratified on August 26, 1920. On November 2 of that year more than eight million women across the United States voted in elections for the first time. The League of Women Voters was created to help newly enfranchised women learn how to register to vote, how to vote, how to learn about their candidates, and how to learn about the workings of their governments.

The League of Women Voters is nonexclusionary -- all are welcome to join and participate in our programs.

Our name honors our rich history and those women who paved the way for all of us by working tirelessly to gain the right for disenfranchised women to vote so many years ago.

**WHAT WE DO:**

- Voter Registration Drives
- Candidate Forums - before Primary and General Elections
- Annual Breakfasts with Legislators
- Annual Publication of a Government Directory
- Publication of a Voter's Guide before each Primary and General Election
- Annual Meeting Dinner
- Annual Holiday Dinner

**LEARN MORE: LWVWBA.ORG**

**CONTACT US: P. O. BOX 1480 , WILKES-BARRE, PA 18703-1480 570.675.3429**