

Election Day : Nov 5, 2019

2019 Greater Philadelphia Election Guide

Korean Americans for Civic
Participation (KACP)



Prepared by KACP & NAKASEC

To contact the KACP, please email Mel Lee
at mel@kacp-philly.org or Edward Lee at
edward@kacp-philly.org.

*How to Vote: 4
Ballot Questions: 9
Statewide Elections: 10
Bucks County: 11
Chester County: 14
Delaware County: 17
Montgomery County: 19
Philadelphia County: 25*

Introduction to KACP

Korean Americans for Civic Participation (KACP) is a coalition of Korean American organization in the greater Philadelphia area that seeks to empower the Korean American community through education, leadership development and civic engagement. Together, the Korean Women's Center (KWC- founded 1985), Korean American Association of Greater Philadelphia (KAAGP- founded 1970) and Korean American Community Center (KACC- founded 1993) formed this coalition. KACP originally coalesced around the 2019 Pennsylvania elections with the goal of leveraging each organization's human, financial and in-kind resources towards a collective goal of Korean and Asian American community empowerment in greater Philadelphia.

KACP is the only Korean American organization in the greater Philadelphia area focused solely on civically engaging Korean Americans. As the vast majority of community members are recent immigrants and limited English proficient, they face significant barriers to participating in local, state and national elections and government surveys such as the U.S. Census. Leadership of all three organizations are bilingual in Korean and English languages and are Korean American immigrants themselves. Through both lived experience and work, they intimately understand the challenges their community members face, and have regularly sought to address these challenges—even before the official convening of KACP in 2019. For instance, after the 2016 elections, the three organizations began to receive concerned calls from immigrant community members, which led them to co-organize a Know Your Rights (KYR) workshop in early 2017. Overall, KACP hopes that through its work, Korean and Asian Americans in greater Philadelphia will become more informed and active to ensure their issues are heard and addressed.

Korean Americans in Greater Philadelphia

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, roughly 41,000 Korean Americans live in Pennsylvania. The vast majority (30,879) live in the greater Philadelphia area, which includes Philadelphia, Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Chester Counties. About two-thirds of Korean Americans in greater Philadelphia are foreign born and 69% of Korean Americans in Montgomery County speak Korean as their first language.

Although Korean Americans are a relatively newer immigrant community, there are already two Korean Americans in the city council: Helen Gym and David Oh. Korean American former Senior Deputy Attorney General of PA, Pearl Kim, recently ran to become PA's 5th District Member of Congress.

The interest of community members in pursuing public office is indicative of greater Philadelphia's Korean Americans' investment in civic participation. In addition, overall Asian American civic participation in Pennsylvania is steadily growing. Between 2004 and 2012, the number of Asian Americans who voted in Pennsylvania increased by 35%, more than all other racial groups except for the Latinx vote. During the same period, Asian American voter registration increased by 23%, whereas overall voter registration increased by just 5%.

Building on experience gained over the last four years, KACP plans to decrease barriers that Korean Americans will face in voting in the 2019 & 2020 elections and participating in the U.S. Census. We plan to offer linguistically and culturally competent education and social services (i.e. educational brochures and guides, workshops, and direct language and digital assistance at polls and with Census surveys). Be on the look out for these materials from us!

Election Date: November 5, 2019

How do I vote?

There are two ways to vote!

- Polling Place
- Absentee Ballot

How do I Vote with an Absentee Ballot?

- Request an official absentee ballot by October 29 online:
 - <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineAbsentee>
- **Submit your absentee ballot by November 1** (or November 4 for overseas/military absentee ballots).

Where do I go for Korean-American language assistance?

If you need further assistance or have questions, please reach out to Mel Lee at mel@kacp-philly.org or Edward Lee at edward@kacp-philly.org.

How do I vote at a polling place?

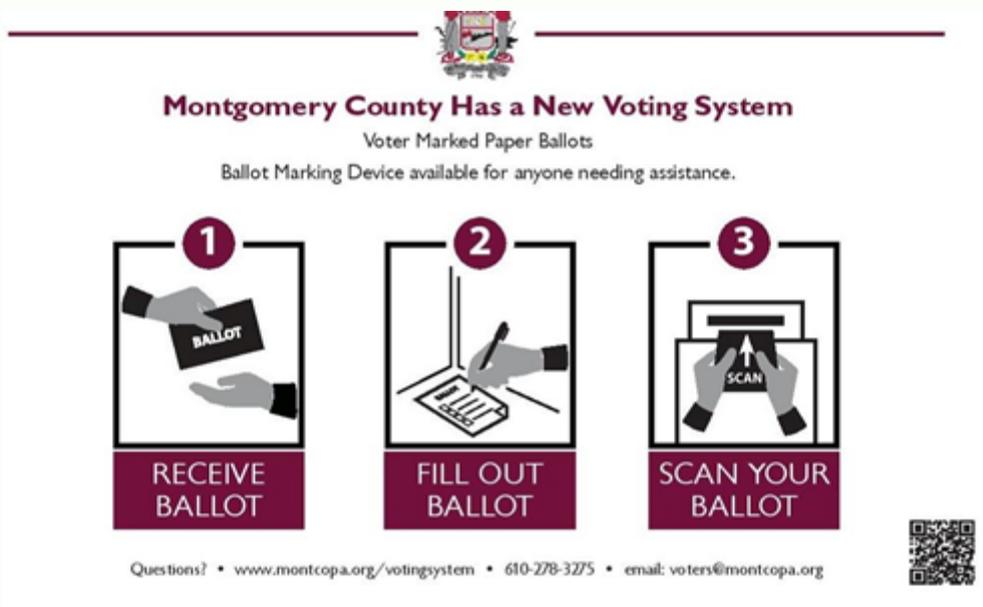
- Find Your Polling Place:
 - <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx>
- Polling places are open from 7 am to 8 pm. Bring a photo or non-photo ID.
- See a demo of the voting system in your county!
 - <https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Voting-System-Demos.aspx>

Is there an accessible voting system?

- Each polling place must have at least 1 accessible voting system. You may submit a "Declaration of Need of Assistance" and bring a helper, as long as they are not Judge of Elections, your Union Rep., or your Employer.
- If your polling place is not accessible and you have a disability/are above 65, you can vote by alternative ballot.
 - https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Documents/Alternative_Ballot_Application.pdf

Casting your vote: Chester & Montgomery County

Fill out the paper ballot and submit it into a scanner!



The graphic features the Montgomery County seal at the top center. Below it, the text reads: "Montgomery County Has a New Voting System", "Voter Marked Paper Ballots", and "Ballot Marking Device available for anyone needing assistance." The process is shown in three numbered steps: 1. RECEIVE BALLOT (hands holding a ballot), 2. FILL OUT BALLOT (hand writing on a ballot), and 3. SCAN YOUR BALLOT (hand placing a ballot into a scanner). At the bottom, contact information is provided: "Questions? • www.montcopa.org/votingsystem • 610-278-3275 • email: voters@montcopa.org" and a QR code.

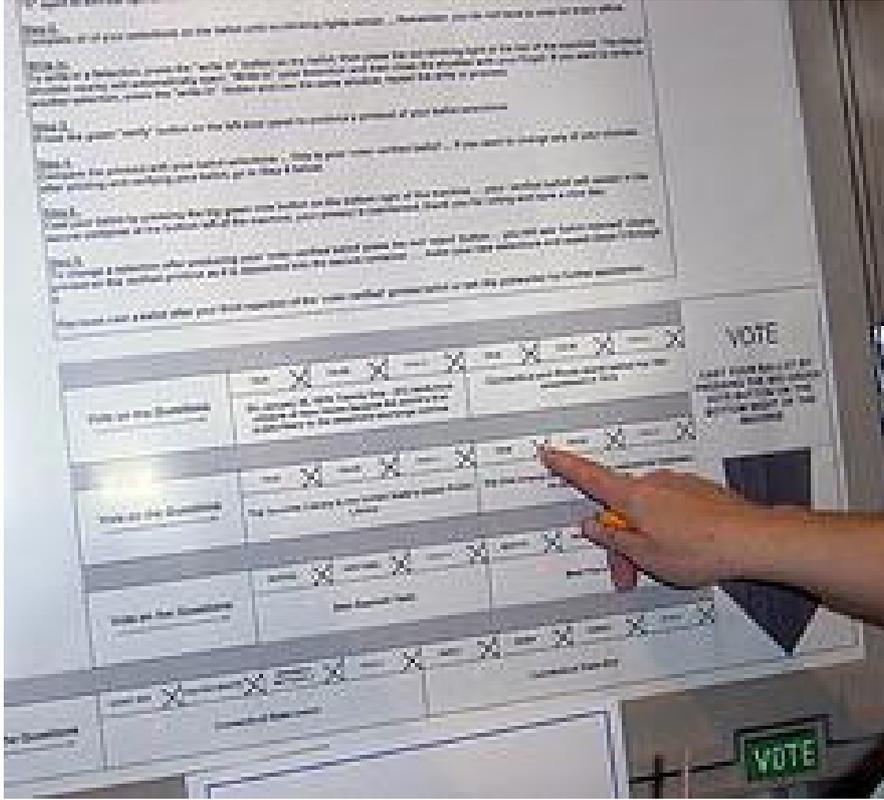
A new voter-marked paper ballot with a verifiable paper trail is replacing the electronic push-button voting machines. You will use a pen to fill out the ballot and then review it before submitting it (yourself!) into a scanner.



You can also use a ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant touchscreen ballot marking device to fill out your ballot, print it out, and scan using the same machines as the ones for paper ballots.

Casting your vote: Bucks & Delaware County

Vote on the touch screen!

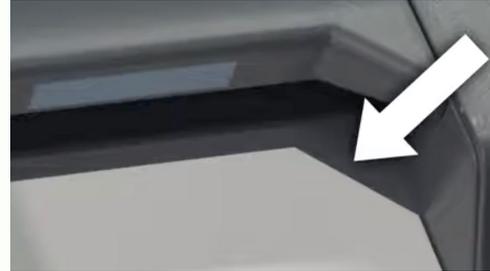


Voters in Delaware and Bucks County will vote directly on the touch screen, via the following steps. (1) Check in, and wait for the blinking red lights in all candidate boxes to turn on. (2) To make a choice, press X in the box to the right of the candidate box. (To cancel the choice, press X again, and choose another candidate.) Once the voter made all choices, the machine will turn off all blinking lights. (3) Cast your vote by pressing the green "VOTE" button at the bottom of the screen.

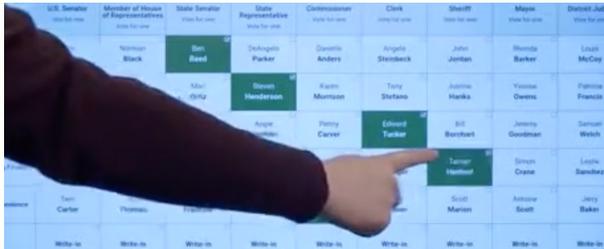
You can check the voting system in your county at [votespa.com](https://www.votespa.com):
<https://www.votespa.com/Voting-in-PA/Pages/Voting-System-Demos.aspx>

Casting your vote: Philadelphia County

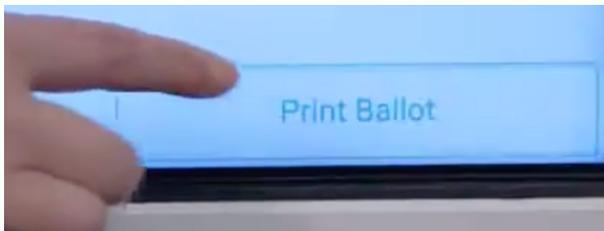
Insert the card into the machine, and vote on the touch screen!



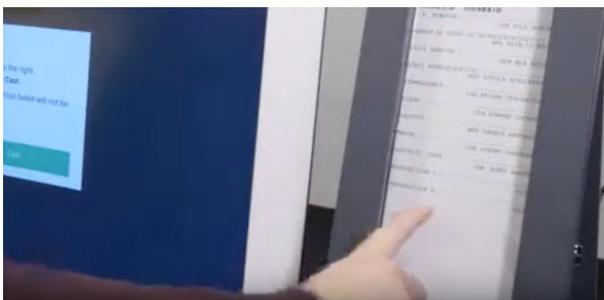
(1) Insert the card you received after checking-in through the card slot.



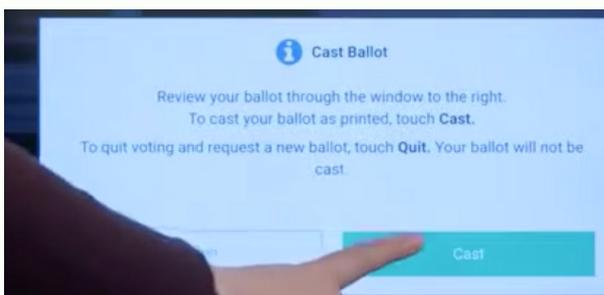
(2) When the ballot is displayed on the screen, mark your vote by touching anywhere inside the box of your choice.



(3) Review and verify your choices, and touch the 'Print Ballot' button.



(4) Your printed vote summary card will appear in the clear preview window. Review it once again.



(5) Touch the 'Cast' button to cast your vote. Your printed vote summary card will be deposited into the secured card container.

Voting information for people who have been convicted of a felony

Credits to Votes PA

Can I register and vote?

You can register and vote if you:

- Are a pretrial detainee, confined in a penal institution awaiting trial on charges of a felony or a misdemeanor.
- Were ever convicted of a misdemeanor.
- Got released or will get released by the date of the next election from a correctional facility or halfway house. This must be upon completion of the term of incarceration for conviction of a misdemeanor or a felony.
- Are on probation or released on parole. This includes parolees who are living in a halfway house.
- Are under house arrest (home confinement). If this is you, you can vote no matter your conviction status or the status of the conditions of confinement.

This law used to say that people convicted of a felony could not register to vote for 5 years after release from prison. This is no longer true.

Who cannot register and vote?

You are not eligible to register and vote if you:

- Are not a U.S. citizen.
- Have not lived in Pennsylvania at least 30 days before the next election (since October 7).
- Are currently confined in a penal institution for conviction of a felony and will not get released from confinement until after the next election. This is even if you are also incarcerated for one or more misdemeanor offenses.
- Are in a halfway house or other alternative correctional facility on pre-release status for conviction of a felony and who will not get released until after the date of the next election.
- Were convicted of violating any provision of the Pennsylvania Election Code within the last four years.

Ballot Questions

For All Counties: Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks, Philadelphia

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to grant certain rights to crime victims, including to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity; considering their safety in bail proceedings; timely notice and opportunity to take part in public proceedings; reasonable protection from the accused; right to refuse discovery requests made by the accused; restitution and return of property; proceedings free from delay; and to be informed of these rights, so they can enforce them? (Yes or No)

For Philadelphia Only

1. Proposed Charter Change Question: Bill No. 190290

Shall the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to revise City procurement procedures by **increasing the sealed bidding threshold; by providing for procurement from local businesses; and by providing for Procurement Department regulations?** (Yes or No)

- A "yes" vote would raise the threshold for competitive bidding from \$25,000 to \$75,000 and allow the Procurement Department to establish procedures that prefer contracts with local businesses.
- Sealed bidding is a confidential bidding process, in place of directly negotiating with suppliers, that requests the same basic information (including price offer) from all bidders. Currently, sealed bidding can be used for expenditures under \$25,000. An expenditure over \$25,000 requires competitive bidding.

2. Proposed City Bond Question: Bill No. 190431

Should the City of Philadelphia borrow ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$185,000.000) to be spent for and toward capital purposes as follows; Transit; Streets and Sanitation; Municipal Buildings; Parks, Recreation and Museums; and Economic and Community Development? (Yes or No)

Statewide Offices

The only statewide offices on ballots across Pennsylvania in 2019 are two seats on the Superior Court.

Candidates are Amanda Green-Hawkins (D), Megan McCarthy King (R), Daniel McCaffery (D) and Christylee Peck (R). The candidate ratings from the Pennsylvania Bar Association can be found at:

- <https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Lawyers/Committees-Commissions/Judicial-Evaluation/Resources/JEC-Ratings/2019/Superior-Court>

In addition, the terms of sitting Superior Court judges Anne E. Lazarus and Judith Ference Olsen, and Commonwealth Court judges P. Kevin Brobson and Patricia McCullough expire at the end of 2019. They are running in retention elections (yes or no) to remain in office for another 10-year term. The candidate ratings are available from the Pennsylvania Bar Association

- <https://www.pabar.org/site/News-and-Publications/News/News-Releases/2019/Sept/JEC-Retention-Ratings>

and from Pennsylvania for Modern Courts

- <https://www.pabar.org/site/News-and-Publications/News/News-Releases/2019/Sept/JEC-Retention-Ratings>).

Established in 1895, the Superior Court is one of two statewide intermediate appellate courts, meaning cases heard in lower courts (e.g. Court of Common Pleas) can be heard again in the Superior Court on appeal. It is responsible for:

- Appeals in criminal and most civil cases from the Courts of Common Pleas; and
- Appeals on matters involving children and families.

Candidates must be Pennsylvania residents for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bar at the time of filing nomination petitions for the office. Terms are 10 years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Bucks County



In Bucks County, voters will fill three seats on the **County Commission**, and will elect a **Clerk of Courts**, **Coroner**, **Register of Wills**, **Treasurer** and as well as judgeships on the **Bucks County Court of Common Pleas** and **Magisterial Court**.

There will also be races for municipal offices and school boards.

County Commissioners

The Board of Bucks County Commissioners is composed of three commissioners, only two of whom can represent the majority party. The commissioners are responsible for the adoption and administration of the county's operating budget - \$432.6 million in 2019 - and oversight of almost 2,400 full-time employees. The commissioners are elected to four-year terms, and their salaries were \$95,000 in 2018.

Clerk of Courts

The Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions Oyer and Terminer is the custodian of criminal-court records. The clerk also keeps juvenile delinquency and dependency court records, and assesses, collects and disburses court costs and restitutions. The office, now known as Clerk of Courts, has existed in Pennsylvania since the first organization of English government in colonial America. A change in the Pennsylvania Constitution consolidated all the various courts into the Court of Common Pleas. The clerk of courts is elected to a four-year term, and the salary in 2018 was \$86,000.

Coroner

The chief duty of the Bucks County Coroner is to investigate all sudden, unexplained, or violent deaths in the county. When no physician has attended the deceased, burial is not permitted until the coroner issues a certificate stating the cause of death. If it can't be otherwise determined, an inquest and an autopsy will be ordered. In case of death that might have resulted from a criminal act or neglect, the coroner conducts an inquest and calls witnesses to find criminal negligence or intent. If criminal intent is found, the case is bound over to the Court of Common Pleas. The coroner is also in charge of all county forensic services. The coroner is elected to a four-year term, and the salary in 2018 was \$69, 529.

Register of Wills

The principal duties of the Bucks County Register of Wills include probating wills and accepting for filing all documents necessary to complete the administration of a decedent's estate. If a person dies without a will, the Register, upon petition, will appoint an administrator of the estate. The Register is also the agent for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to collect inheritance tax. The Register holds a quasi-judicial position and, if necessary, conducts hearings to determine who should be appointed as executor or administrator of an estate. And as Clerk of Orphans' Court, the Register's office serves as the filing office and custodian of records for matters involving adoptions, guardianship and estate litigation. The office also issues all marriage licenses for Bucks County. The Register of Wills is elected to a four-year term and the salary in 2018 was \$93,321.

Treasurer

The Bucks County Treasurer is responsible for collecting, investing, disbursing and reconciling all county funds. The office maintains over 64 bank and financial statements, disburses all county checks and processes approximately 75,000 State license applications. And, as mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Treasurer's office issues dog, hunting, fishing, sport firearm registration, temporary boat registrations, bingo and small games of chance licenses. Other duties include collection and disbursement of Act 515/319 rollback taxes and the Bucks County Hotel Lodging Room Rental Tax. The Treasurer also chairs the Board of Investment and is a member of the Retirement Board and Board to Select Depositories. The Treasurer is elected to a four-year term, and the salary in 2018 was \$86,000.

Bucks County Court of Common Pleas

The Courts of Common Pleas are Pennsylvania's courts of general trial jurisdiction. They have existed since the colonial charter of Pennsylvania, and are incorporated in the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776. The Bucks County Court of Common Pleas currently consists of 13 judges and two senior judges. The Court of Common Pleas is supervised by a President Judge who is elected for a five-year term by the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

Candidates for seats on the Court of Common Pleas must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bar at the time of filing nomination petitions for office. Terms are for 10 years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Bucks County Magisterial District Courts

Bucks County has 18 Magisterial District Courts located throughout the county, responsible for adjudicating all traffic citations and parking violations, as well non-traffic citations. The courts also process criminal and private criminal complaints inclusive of arraignments and preliminary hearings, and handle civil and landlord-tenant complaints up to a jurisdictional limit of \$12,000. Judges can also administer oaths and perform marriages.

Candidates for seats on the Magisterial District Courts must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Bar or be certified by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts as having successfully completing a rigorous training and education program administered by the Minor Judiciary Education Board. Terms are for six years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Bucks County Candidate List:

<http://www.buckscounty.org/docs/default-source/boe/2019municipalelectionunofficialcandidatelistwbuttonnumbers.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

IMPORTANT ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

For voter registration, polling location or other procedural issues, call 215-348-6154

Report potential election law violations to the District Attorney at 215-348-6344

Chester County

In **Chester County**, voters will fill the three seats on the **County Commission**, and elect a **District Attorney**, **Prothonotary**, **Recorder of Deeds**, **Register of Wills**, **Sheriff** and judgeships on the **Chester County Court of Common Pleas** and **Magisterial Court**.



County Commissioners

Chester County's three-member Board of Commissioners constitutes the chief governing body of the county. The board, together with its executive staff, manages the county government, and is responsible for policy making, fiscal management and the administration of county affairs. The Commissioners are elected to four-year terms.

District Attorney

The Chester County District Attorney oversees some 100 attorneys, detectives and support personnel who investigate and prosecute criminal cases in the county. The DA is elected to a four-year term.

Prothonotary

The Prothonotary is the civil clerk of Chester County's Court of Common Pleas and is responsible for recording all civil procedures before the court. This official signs and seals all writs and processes numerous other court documents. The office also processes passport applications, and records and files legal papers in such areas as name changes, custody decisions, divorces, drivers-license suspension appeals, tax liens and school audits. The word prothonotary is Latin for "first, chief or highest administrator" and the title dates back to ancient Rome. The Prothonotary oversees a budget of some \$1.4-m. The term of office is four years.

Recorder of Deeds

The Recorder of Deeds is the official responsible for Chester County's public repository of real-estate records, military discharges, commissions and official documents. The term of office is four years.

Register of Wills

The Register of Wills' principal duties include probating wills and accepting for filing all documents necessary to complete the administration of a decedent's estate. If a person dies without a will, the register, upon petition, will appoint an administrator of the estate. The Register, who's also the agent for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to collect inheritance tax. holds a quasi-judicial position and, if necessary, conducts hearings to determine who should be appointed as executor or administrator of an estate. And as clerk of Orphans' Court, the office files and keeps custody of records for matters involving adoptions, guardianship and estate litigation. The office also issues all marriage licenses for the county. The term of office is four years.

Sheriff

The Sheriff is Chester County's chief law-enforcement officer under the Pennsylvania Constitution. While most police work is done by local and state police, the Sheriff's office is responsible for enforcing court orders, serving criminal and civil writs issued by county courts, transporting prisoners throughout the Commonwealth and performing extraditions from other states for court proceedings, assisting other law-enforcement agencies in processing DUI offenders, issuing firearms licenses, conducting sales of real and personal property, assisting local and regional law-enforcement agencies during emergencies and apprehensions, and ensuring safety in county courts. The term of office is four years.

Chester County Court of Common Pleas

The Court of Common Pleas of Chester County is a general jurisdiction trial court located in West Chester. Its 12 full-time judges and two senior judges hear a wide spectrum of cases, including adult and juvenile criminal prosecutions, lawsuits involving money or property, divorce, custody disputes, child support issues, adoptions and estates.

Candidates for seats on the Court of Common Pleas must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bar at the time of filing nomination petitions for office. Terms are for 10 years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Chester County Magisterial District Courts

Chester County has 17 Magisterial District Court offices located throughout the county, responsible for adjudicating all traffic citations and parking violations, as well non-traffic citations. The courts also process criminal and private criminal complaints inclusive of arraignments and preliminary hearings, and handle civil and landlord-tenant complaints up to a jurisdictional limit of \$12,000. Judges can also administer oaths and perform marriages.

Candidates for seats on the Magisterial District Courts must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Bar or be certified by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts as having successfully completing a rigorous training and education program administered by the Minor Judiciary Education Board. Terms are for six years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Chester County Candidate List :

<https://pachestercounty2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/51252/NOV2019-CANDIDATES?bidId=>

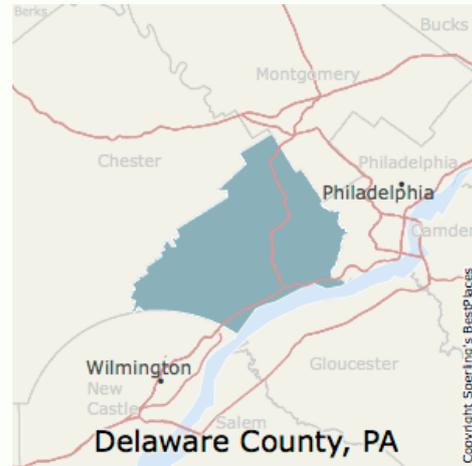
IMPORTANT ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

For voter registration, polling location or other procedural issues, call
610-344-6410

Report potential election law violations to the District Attorney at
610-344-6801

Delaware County

In Delaware County, voters will elect a District Attorney and two of the five seats on County Council, as well as judgeships on the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas and Magisterial Court. And sitting Common Pleas Court judge Linda Cartisano is facing a retention election. There will also be races for municipal offices and school boards.



County Council

Delaware County's Home Rule Charter gives the five-member County Council the authority to pass ordinances, resolutions and proclamations, and to provide budget and personnel to the needs of the residents as they arise. Council is responsible for adopting a budget each calendar year, raising funds through taxes or bonds for capital projects, setting payroll scales and employee size. County Council is also involved in activities pertaining to economic development, public transportation, waste disposal, human services, land use and culture. The Council decides the best means of providing services required by law or are necessary for the well-being of the county, and determines the participation of the county in intergovernmental programs involving federal, state and local government. And the Council distributes federal and state grants for social services. Members of County Council are elected at-large to four-year terms at staggered two-year intervals. Three seats up are for election in 2019.

District Attorney

The Delaware County District Attorney oversees almost 100 attorneys, detectives and support personnel who investigate and prosecute criminal cases in the county. The DA is elected to a four-year term and the salary is \$179,000.

Delaware County Court of Common Pleas

The Delaware County Court of Common Pleas is a general jurisdiction trial court located in Media. It's 17 full-time judges and five senior judges hear a wide spectrum of cases, including adult and juvenile criminal prosecutions, lawsuits involving money or property, divorce, custody disputes, child support issues, adoptions and estates.

Candidates for seats on the Court of Common Pleas must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bar at the time of filing nomination petitions for office. Terms are for 10 years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Delaware County Magisterial District Courts

The Magisterial District Court is the first level of judicial authority in Pennsylvania and is the court where most people experience the judicial system for the first time. There are 30 Magisterial District Courts located in offices throughout Delaware County. An elected Magisterial District Judge presides over each of the individual Magisterial District Courts. Magisterial District Judges handle all traffic cases, other minor criminal cases and civil cases involving amounts up to \$12,000. District Judges also set bail and conduct preliminary hearings in misdemeanor and felony criminal cases to determine if the cases should be dismissed or transferred to the Court of Common Pleas for further proceedings. Magisterial District judges may also administer oaths and affirmations, and take acknowledgements. They also have authority to perform marriages.

Candidates for seats on the Magisterial District Courts must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Bar or be certified by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts as having successfully completing a rigorous training and education program administered by the Minor Judiciary Education Board. Terms are for six years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

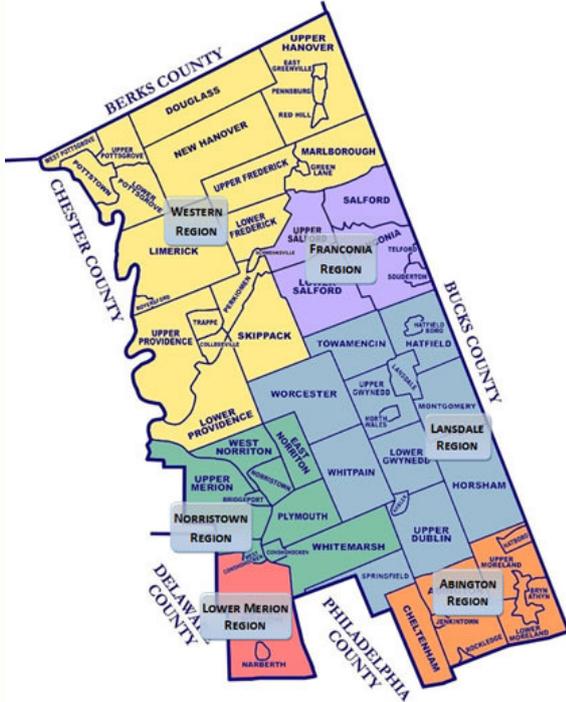
Delaware County Candidate List :

<http://www.delcopa.gov/electionsbureau/CandidateList.html#L1>

IMPORTANT ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

For questions regarding voter registration or polling location 610-891-4659
For questions or concerns about the ballot or candidate legal matter 610-891-4673. Report potential election law violations to the Delaware Co. District Attorney 610-891-4161

Montgomery County

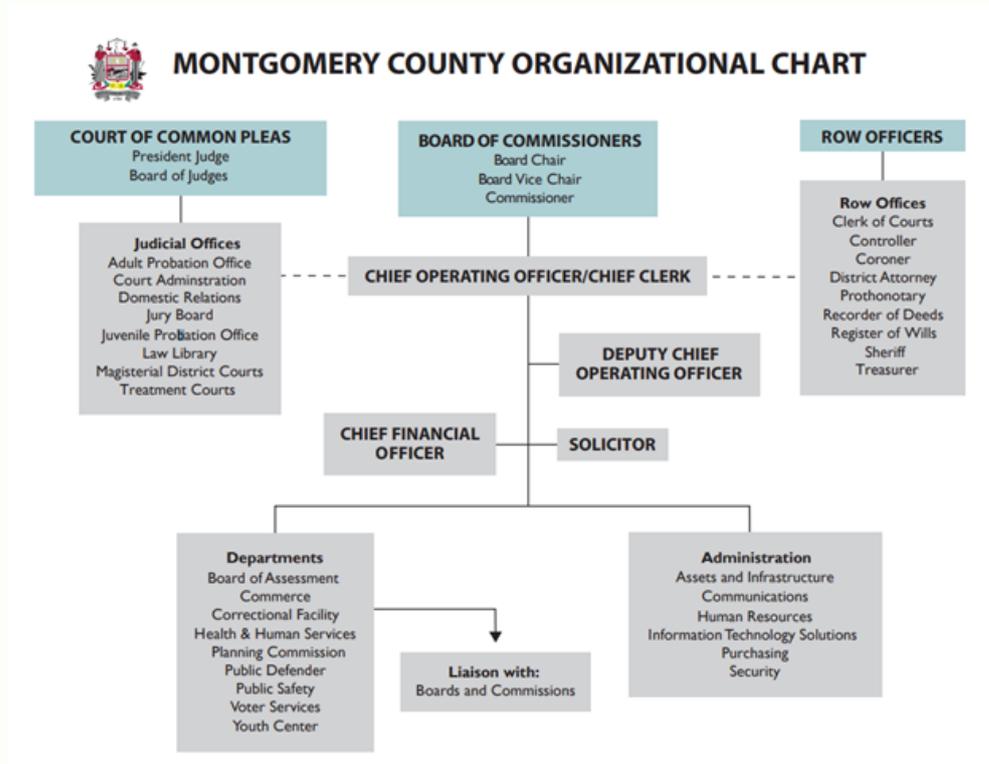


Montgomery County, located in Southeastern Pennsylvania, is the third most populous county in Pennsylvania with more than 823,000 residents. In Montgomery County, voters will elect the members of the **County Commission**, a **Clerk of Courts**, **Controller**, **Coroner**, **District Attorney**, **Prothonotary**, **Recorder of Deeds**, **Register of Wills**, **Sheriff** and **Treasurer**, as well as judgeships on the **Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas** and **Magisterial Court**. There will also be races for municipal offices and school boards.

County Commissioner

A three-member Board of Commissioners oversees a budget of \$400 million and directs more than 2,400 employees. The Commission manages human services for more than 100,000 residents, the county court and criminal justice system, Voter Services, over 130 county bridges, 75 miles of roads and other infrastructure, seven county parks and nearly 100 miles of trails.

This election is important because the commissioner is one of the highest positions at the county level. Together, the Board of Commissioners, Court of Common Pleas, and Row Officers manage the county. (See county organizational chart below.)



County Commissioner Responsibilities

Appointments

- Name all department heads.
- Name most members of boards, authorities, and committees.
- Appoint and establish salaries for all county employees

Property Management

- Manage county property.
- Jurisdiction over county-maintained roads and bridges.
- Supervise Court House and other county operated facilities (i.e. Youth Center – where 10- to 18-year-old juvenile residents await court hearings).

Financial Management

- Manage financial administration.
- Prepare and execute annual budget.
- Tax property.

Candidates

- Democratic Val Arkoosh
- Democratic Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr.
- Republican Fred Conner
- Republican Joe Gale

There are 3 members on the Board of Commissioners, elected at large for four year terms. The Board of Commissioners choose one of their members to be chairperson.

Currently, the Board of Commissioners are Dr. Valerie Arkoosh (Chair), Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., and Joseph C. Gale.

In the election, you vote for two County Commissioners out of a ballot of four. The three candidates who win the most votes take office.

Clerk of Courts

The Clerk of Courts is the clerk of Montgomery County's criminal court and retains custody of all original cases. The office maintains an index and docket in which a record is kept of all documents filed in each case. Court costs and restitution are assessed and collected for each case. These court-related costs are distributed in accordance with the law to the appropriate municipal, county and state offices, and restitution victims. The office is also responsible for the collection of bail money and its return to the surety upon completion of court action. The office maintains miscellaneous records and dockets relating to the division of election districts, the appointment of election officials, constables, and private detectives. The Clerk of Courts is elected to a four-year term, and the salary in 2018 was \$79,160.

Controller

The Controller has general supervision over Montgomery County's fiscal affairs and of the accounts of all functions collecting, receiving or disbursing county funds. The Controller also conducts audits, oversees county payroll, maintains retirement-accounting records, serves as a member of the Salary Board, Depository Board, Investment Board, and is the secretary of the Montgomery County Employees' Retirement Board. The Controller is elected to a four-year term, and in 2018, the salary was \$79,160.

Coroner

The Montgomery County Coroner investigates and certifies sudden, unnatural and violent deaths, and all other deaths that are not caused by natural disease or cannot be properly certified by a PA licensed physician on the basis of prior medical attendance. The office applies current scientific methods for evidence analysis and investigations to assist law enforcement, court systems and health and environmental agencies. The Coroner is elected to a four-year term, and in 2018 the salary was \$79,160.

District Attorney

The Montgomery County District Attorney oversees some 50 attorneys, 40 detectives and 50 support personnel who investigate and prosecute some 9500 adult crimes a year. The DA is elected to a four-year term and in 2018, the salary was \$175,572.

Prothonotary

The Prothonotary is the elected civil clerk of Montgomery County's Court of Common Pleas and is responsible for recording all civil procedures before the court. This official signs and seals all court writs and processes, and numerous other documents. The Prothonotary office also processes passport applications, and records and files legal papers of a widely diversified character such as name changes, custody decisions, divorces, drivers-license suspension appeals, tax liens and school audits. The word "prothonotary" is Latin for "first, chief or highest administrator" and the title dates back to ancient Rome. The Prothonotary is elected to a four-year term, and in 2018 the salary was \$79,160.

Recorder of Deeds

The Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds is responsible for maintaining the integrity of all land records and documents recorded at the office, and collecting and distributing county and state fees and real-estate transfer taxes for the state as well as the county's townships, boroughs and school districts. In addition, the Recorder of Deeds is also responsible for administering oaths and recording the commissions of notaries public. The office is also the custodian of all county records and indexes relating to land transactions, and is required to archive all documents relating to land transactions. And it is the repository for bonds and commissions of county elected officials; Common Pleas and Magisterial District court judges; military-discharge papers for all eligible service and reserve members; subdivision, state highway and railroad plans; powers of attorney; and other miscellaneous documents. The office staff of recorders, indexers and scanners processes over 100,000 documents a year. The Recorder of Deeds is elected to a four-year term, and in 2018 the salary was \$79,160.

Register of Wills

The Register of Wills has jurisdiction over the probate of wills and the granting of letters of administration in Montgomery County. The office is also the agent for the state in the collection of inheritance taxes, averaging more than \$80-million annually. Accounts of administrators and executors are received by the Register of Wills, as are petitions of adoption. Certified copies of wills and short certificates for the transfer of certain securities are issued as required by law. As clerk of the Orphans' Court, the office also issues marriage licenses and has charge of the Orphans' Court dockets. And the Register of Wills keeps the records of all persons born in Montgomery County between 1893 and 1915. Birth records of persons born after 1915 are kept on file with the PA Department of Health. The register of wills is elected to a four-year term, and in 2018, the salary was \$81, 960.

Sheriff

The Sheriff is Montgomery County's chief law-enforcement officer under the Pennsylvania Constitution. While most police work is done by local and state police, the Sheriff's office is responsible for enforcing court orders, serving criminal and civil writs issued by county courts, transporting prisoners throughout the Commonwealth; performing extraditions from other states for court proceedings; assisting other law-enforcement agencies in processing DUI offenders; issuing firearms licenses; conducting sales of real and personal property; assisting local and regional law-enforcement agencies during emergencies and apprehensions; and ensuring safety in the Montgomery County Justice Complex. The sheriff is elected to a four-year term, and in 2018 the salary was \$79,160.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is the custodian of all Montgomery County funds. Payments of county taxes and fees, state and federal grants, and other monies due the county are received and deposited by this office. The Treasurer is also responsible for investing county funds and the payment of all funds on proper authorization for obligations incurred by the county. As an agent for the Commonwealth, the office sells licenses for hunting, fishing, dogs, bingo and small games of chance. It also collects the 4% hotel-room occupancy tax for the county's Convention and Visitors Bureau. And the Treasurer is chairman of the County Investment Board, treasurer of the Employees' Retirement System and a member of the County Depository Board. The Treasurer is elected to a four-year term, and in 2018 the salary was \$79,160.

Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas

The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas is a general jurisdiction trial court located in Norristown. It's 23 full-time judges and five senior judges hear a wide spectrum of cases, including adult and juvenile criminal prosecutions, lawsuits involving money or property, divorce, custody disputes, child support issues, adoptions and estates.

Candidates for seats on the Court of Common Pleas must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bar at the time of filing nomination petitions for office. Terms are for 10 years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Montgomery County Magisterial District Courts

Montgomery County has 30 Magisterial District Court offices located throughout the county, responsible for adjudicating all traffic citations and parking violations, as well non-traffic citations. The courts also process criminal and private criminal complaints inclusive of arraignments and preliminary hearings, and handle civil and landlord-tenant complaints up to a jurisdictional limit of \$12,000. Judges can also administer oaths and perform marriages.

Candidates for seats on the Magisterial District Courts must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Bar or be certified by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts as having successfully completing a rigorous training and education program administered by the Minor Judiciary Education Board. Terms are for six years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Montgomery County Candidate List :

<https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/25435/Unofficial-Candidate-List-GE19>

IMPORTANT ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

For voter registration, polling location or other procedural issues
610-278-3275

Report potential election law violations to the District Attorney
610-278-3090

Philadelphia County

In **Philadelphia**, voters will elect a **Mayor**, all 17 seats on **City Council** (10 district and 7 at-large), **Register of Wills**, **Sheriff** the 3 **City Commissioner**, as well as judgeships on the **Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas** and **Municipal Court**. 10 Common Pleas Court judges and 5 Municipal Court judges are running in **retention elections**.



Mayor

According to Philadelphia's Home Rule Charter, "executive and administrative power of the City, as it now exists, shall be exclusively vested in and exercised by a Mayor and such other officers, departments, boards and commissions as are designated and authorized in this charter." The mayor, who appoints those officers, department heads and board and commission members, also presides over a \$4.7 billion budget more than 25,000 City employees. He or she must be at least 25 years old, a citizen of the U.S. and a three-year resident of Philadelphia. The mayor serves a four-year term and can be reelected once. The salary is \$218,000.

City Council

City Council, Philadelphia's 17-member legislative body, enacts bills by majority vote, which are then signed into law by the mayor, who is also empowered to veto them. But Council can override a mayoral veto with a two-thirds vote. Council also holds hearings. Of the 17 Council members, seven are elected "at-large" (by voters from throughout Philadelphia) and 10 from districts. Of the seven at-large members, no more than five can be from the political party with the largest number of registered voters in the city. There are no party restrictions on district members. All members must be at least 25 years old, be U.S. citizens and residents of the City for at least one year. (District members must have lived in their districts for a year.) Terms are four years, and there are no term limits. The Council president's salary is \$164,000. Members' salaries begin at \$130,668.

*To learn more about City Council:
Seventy's How City Council Works Guide.*

City Commissioners

According to the Office of the City Commissioners website, "The Philadelphia City Commissioners are a three-member bipartisan board of elected officials in charge of elections and voter registration for the City of Philadelphia." Also known as the Board of Elections, the Commissioners "set and enforce department policies to administer voter registration and conduct elections in accordance with federal and state voter registration and election laws." No more than two City Commissioners can be from the political party with the largest number of registered voters in the city. The Commissioners must be at least 25 years old, citizens of the U.S. and three-year residents of Philadelphia. They are elected citywide to four-year terms. There are no term limits. Primary voters may vote for two candidates. The Commission chair's salary is \$140,000. Other commissioners earn \$130,668.

Register of Wills

Philadelphia's Register of Wills is responsible for probating wills and granting letters of administration when persons die without leaving a will. The office also maintains records of wills, inventories of estates and similar documents and serves as an agent for the state for filing and payment of inheritance taxes. The office's other important function is to issue marriage licenses.

The register of wills, who is elected citywide to a four-year term, must be at least 25 years old, a citizen of the U.S. and a one-year resident of Philadelphia. There are no term limits. The salary is \$130,668.

Sheriff

Philadelphia Sheriff's Office provides security in First Judicial Court (Philadelphia) courtrooms and manages court-ordered property foreclosures and tax sales. The sheriff, who is elected citywide to a four-year term, must be at least 25 years old, a citizen of the U.S. and a one-year resident of Philadelphia. There are no term limits. There are no term limits. The salary is \$130,668.

Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas

The Courts of Common Pleas are Pennsylvania's courts of general trial jurisdiction. They have existed since the colonial charter of Pennsylvania, and are incorporated in the Pennsylvania Constitution of 1776. The Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas currently consists of judges, assigned in the Trial Court, Family Court and Orphans Court divisions. The Court of Common Pleas is supervised by a President Judge who is elected for a five-year term by the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. Candidates for seats on the Court of Common Pleas must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bar at the time of filing nomination petitions for office. Terms are for 10 years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Philadelphia Municipal Court

The Philadelphia Municipal Court is a court of limited jurisdiction, with law-trained Judges, and is responsible for trying criminal offenses carrying maximum sentences of incarceration of five years or less, civil cases in which the amount is \$10,000 or less for Small Claims; unlimited dollar amounts in Landlord and Tenant cases; and \$15,000 in real-estate and school-tax cases. The Municipal Court has initial jurisdiction in processing every adult criminal arrest in Philadelphia, and conducts preliminary hearings for most adult felony cases. Candidates for seats on the Municipal Court must be residents of their districts for at least one year and members of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Bar at the time of filing nomination petitions for office. Terms are for six years and the mandatory retirement age is 75.

Philadelphia County Candidate List :

<https://www.philadelphiavotes.com/en/voters/candidates-for-office>

IMPORTANT ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

For voter registration, polling location or other procedural issues
215-686-1590

Report potential election law violations to the Philadelphia District
Attorney
215-686-9641

**** The content on pages 10 to 27 of this election guide was excerpted from the Committee of Seventy website.****

Copyright © 2014 Committee of Seventy.