

# Official Notice of Election for Military and Overseas Voters

## County of Philadelphia

2017 Municipal Election (November 7, 2017)

This is an official notice of an election to be conducted on November 7, 2017 in Philadelphia County. You may register to vote and request an official absentee ballot by using the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA), available at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). You may apply for an absentee ballot by submitting your FPCA by fax to **(215) 686-3398**, or by email to **phillyelection@phila.gov**.

You may request an absentee ballot from this office at any time prior to a primary or election. However, if time does not permit you to receive and return an official absentee ballot, you are also entitled to vote using the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB). Military electors may also use the FWAB to register to vote and vote simultaneously.

You may use the FWAB to vote for all state and local offices, and ballot initiatives.

To vote, refer to page 3 of the [FWAB](#).

To vote for state and local offices or for ballot initiatives, write the names of candidates or ballot initiatives in the Addendum section of the FWAB. Under the **Office/Ballot Initiative** heading, enter the office the candidate is running for or the title of the Ballot Initiative (referendum). Under the **Candidate Name, Party Affiliation or Initiative Vote** heading, list the name of the candidate you wish to vote for, or if you are voting on a Referendum or Retention question write "yes" or "no."

## **CANDIDATES**

### **Justice of the Supreme Court – Vote for 1**

- Dwayne Woodruff - Democratic
- Sally Mundy - Republican

### **Judge of the Superior Court – Vote for not more than 4**

- Maria McLaughlin - Democratic
- Carolyn H Nichols - Democratic
- Debbie Kunselman - Democratic
- Geoff Moulton - Democratic
- Craig Stedman - Republican
- Emil Giordano - Republican
- Wade A Kagarise - Republican
- Mary Murray - Republican
- Jules Mermelstein - Verde

### **Judge of the Commonwealth Court – Vote for not more than 2**

- Ellen Ceisler - Democratic
- Irene M Clark - Democratic
- Paul Lalley - Republican
- Christine Fizzano Cannon - Republican

### **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas – Vote for not more than 9**

- Stella Tsai - Democratic
- Vikki Kristiansson - Democratic
- Lucretia C Clemons - Democratic
- Deborah Cianfrani - Democratic
- Zac Shaffer - Democratic
- Deborah Canty - Democratic
- Shanese Johnson - Democratic
- Mark B Cohen - Democratic
- Vincent Furlong - Democratic
- Vincent Furlong - Republican

### **Judge of the Municipal Court – Vote for not more than 2**

- Marissa Brumbach - Democratic
- Matt Wolf - Democratic

### **District Attorney – Vote for 1**

- Lawrence S Krasner - Democratic
- Beth Grossman - Republican

### **Controller – Vote for 1**

- Rebecca Rhynhart - Democratic
- Michael Tomlinson - Republican

## ***JUDICIAL RETENTION***

### **Justice of the Supreme Court – (yes/no)**

- Thomas G Saylor
- Debra Todd

### **Judge of the Superior Court – (yes/no)**

- Jacqueline O Shogan

### **Judge of the Court of Common Pleas – (yes/no)**

- Linda A Carpenter
- Ellen Ceisler
- Michael Erdos
- Shelley Robins New
- Rosalyn K Robinson
- M Teresa Sarmina

### **Judge of the Municipal Court – (yes/no)**

- James Maurice Deleon, III
- Joyce O Eubanks
- Thomas F Gehret
- Nazario Jimanez, Jr
- William A Meehan, Jr
- Brad Moss
- David C Shuter
- Karen Yvette Simmons
- Marvin L Williams

# **PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

## **AMENDING THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT EXCLUSION**

### ***Ballot Question***

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to permit the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction, rather than limit the exclusion to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property, which is the existing law?

### ***Plain English Statement of the Office of Attorney General***

The purpose of the ballot question is to amend Article VIII, Section 2(b)(vi) of the Pennsylvania Constitution to permit the General Assembly to pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to increase the amount of assessed value of homestead property that may be excluded when determining the real estate tax owed for homestead property. If the ballot question is approved, the General Assembly could then pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property when calculating the real estate tax owed on homestead property.

The Pennsylvania Constitution currently permits the General Assembly to pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude only a portion of the assessed value of homestead property when determining the amount of real estate tax owed. Under current law, the amount of assessed value that may be excluded from taxation cannot exceed one-half the amount of the median assessed value of all homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction. Local taxing authorities may not increase the millage rate of its real property tax to pay for homestead property exclusions.

The effect of the ballot question would allow the General Assembly to pass a law increasing the amount of assessed value that local taxing authorities may exclude from real estate taxation for homestead property. Currently, local taxing authorities can exclude from taxation only up to one-half the amount of the median assessed value of all homestead property located in the local taxing jurisdiction. But if the ballot question is approved, the General Assembly would have authority to pass a law permitting local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property. Local taxing authorities would continue to be prohibited from increasing the millage rate of its tax on real property to pay for the homestead exclusions.

The ballot question, by itself, does not authorize local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property from real estate taxation. Local taxing authorities could not take such action unless and until the General Assembly passes a law authorizing them to do so. The ballot question authorizes the General Assembly to pass that law.

## Official Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

Vote by writing the name and/or party affiliation of the candidate for whom you wish to vote. Some States allow the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to be used by military and overseas voters in elections other than general elections or offices other than Federal offices. Consult the Voting Assistance Guide to determine your State's policy.

President/Vice President:

U.S. Senator\*:

U.S. Representative/Delegate\*\*/Resident Commissioner\*\*:

\* Legal residents of the District of Columbia may vote for only President/Vice President and Delegate.

\*\* Legal residents of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands may vote only for Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

### Addendum

If you are eligible to use this ballot for offices other than those listed above or for ballot initiatives, please indicate in the spaces provided below, the office for which you wish to vote (for example: Governor, Attorney General, Mayor, State Senator, etc.). You may also indicate the ballot initiative and your vote for the initiative.

Office / Ballot Initiative

Candidate Name, Party Affiliation,  
or Initiative Vote

Vote for  
candidates  
for state  
and local  
offices in  
this section

Enter the  
office the  
candidate is  
running for  
here

Enter the  
name of  
the  
candidate  
you wish  
to vote for  
here