

**\*\*See back for info on 3 Judicial Retention Races\*\***

## Superior and Commonwealth Courts

November 4, 2025 General Election

Sources: Candidate Responses; outside sources

- 1.) Have you read the US Constitution in its entirety? Yes or No
- 2.) On a scale of 1 to 10 where do you place your judicial philosophy? 1 representing "living document" and 10 representing "strict constructionist" philosophy.
- 3.) Do you believe the Federalist Papers play a significant role in helping us interpret the true meaning of the US Constitution? Yes or No
  - a.) Have you read the Federalist Papers? Yes or no
  - b.) Please indicate which: I have read 1.) all (A) or 2.) part (P)
- 4.) Have you read the PA Constitution in its entirety? Yes or No.
- 5.) Which sitting US Supreme Court Judge exemplifies your judicial philosophy? Roberts (R); Alito (A); Thomas (T); Kagan (Kag); Sotomayor (S); Coney Barret (B); Gorsuch (G); Kavanaugh (Kav); Brown Jackson (J)
- 6.) Name at least one past US Supreme Court Justice which you admire because of his or her judicial philosophy.
- 7.) Which former US president within recent decades represents your political philosophy?
- 8.) If you are currently a judge, were you appointed (A) or elected (E)?

**See back for cases they've been involved in, organizational membership and endorsements.** See corresponding numbers below for candidates' responses.

Y= Yes; N= No; ? = No Response; N/A – not applicable

### Superior Court - 10 year term (vote for one)

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Maria Battista (R)	Y	10	Y	Y	P	Y	A	Scalia	?	NA
Brandon Newman (D)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

### Commonwealth Court - 10 year term (vote for one)

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Matthew Wolford (R)	Y	10	Y	Y	A	Y	G	Scalia & Rehnquist	Reagan	N/A
Stella Tsai (D)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

American Family Association of PA P.O. Box 1048 Franklin PA 16323 <https://afaofpa.org>

**\*\*See back for info on 3 Judicial Retention Races\*\***

## Superior and Commonwealth Courts

November 4, 2025 General Election

Sources: Candidate Responses; outside sources

- 1.) Have you read the US Constitution in its entirety? Yes or No
- 2.) On a scale of 1 to 10 where do you place your judicial philosophy? 1 representing "living document" and 10 representing "strict constructionist" philosophy.
- 3.) Do you believe the Federalist Papers play a significant role in helping us interpret the true meaning of the US Constitution? Yes or No
  - a.) Have you read the Federalist Papers? Yes or no
  - b.) Please indicate which: I have read 1.) all (A) or 2.) part (P)
- 4.) Have you read the PA Constitution in its entirety? Yes or No.
- 5.) Which sitting US Supreme Court Judge exemplifies your judicial philosophy? Roberts (R); Alito (A); Thomas (T); Kagan (Kag); Sotomayor (S); Coney Barret (B); Gorsuch (G); Kavanaugh (Kav); Brown Jackson (J)
- 6.) Name at least one past US Supreme Court Justice which you admire because of his or her judicial philosophy.
- 7.) Which former US president within recent decades represents your political philosophy?
- 8.) If you are currently a judge, were you appointed (A) or elected (E)?

**See back for cases they've been involved in, organizational membership and endorsements.** See corresponding numbers below for candidates' responses.

Y= Yes; N= No; ? = No Response; N/A – not applicable

### Superior Court - 10 year term (vote for one)

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Maria Battista (R)	Y	10	Y	Y	P	Y	A	Scalia	?	NA
Brandon Newman (D)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

### Commonwealth Court - 10 year term (vote for one)

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Matthew Wolford (R)	Y	10	Y	Y	A	Y	G	Scalia & Rehnquist	Reagan	N/A
Stella Tsai (D)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

American Family Association of PA P.O. Box 1048 Franklin PA 16323 <https://afaofpa.org>

## SUPERIOR COURT CANDIDATES

**Maria Battista (R)** – former assistant DA, counsel in the PA Departments of Health and State; **Endorsements:** National Hispanic Assembly of Pennsylvania  
**website:** <https://www.battistaforjudge.com/>

**Brandon Newman (D)** – Judge on Washington County Court of Common Pleas;  
**Endorsements:** PA Democrat Party; United Mine Workers; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; International Union of Operating Engineers; PA State Education Association, State Reps Matt Bradford, Ryan Bizarro, Peter Schweyer  
**Website:** <https://www.judgeneuman.com>

## COMMONWEALTH COURT CANDIDATES

**Matthew Wolford (R)** – former attorney for the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection  
**Endorsed by:** PA GOP, Senator Dan Laughlin (Erie County); **Which organizations do you belong to?** Penn State Alumni Association; Temple University Alumni Association; Presque Isle Partnership; Erie Yacht Club; Erie Club; Hagen History Center; **Prominent Cases:** Minard Run Oil Co. v. U.S. Forest Service – oil and gas rights on federal land; Appeal of New Century Pipeline – local zoning issue restricting oil and gas development  
**Website:** <https://mattwolfordforjudge.com/>

**Stella Tsai (D)** - Judge on Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas  
**Endorsed by** PA Democrat Party, *Philadelphia Gay News*, Liberty City LGBTQ+ Democratic Club; **Website:** <https://stellaforjudge.com/>

**Go to [afaofpa.org](http://afaofpa.org) for complete responses from candidates.**

### **Three Supreme Court Judges Up for a 10-year Retention Vote Vote ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ on giving them another 10 year term**

**Kevin Dougherty (D)** - supports abortion, “same-sex marriage” and giving special rights to homosexuals. Appointed the first openly gay judges in Family court in addition to appointing the first open lesbian to be the chief of court operations. In 2020 ruled that mail-in ballots did not need to possess a signature or date and could be returned 3 days after election day. Endorsed by Liberty City LGBT Democratic Club.

**Christine Donohue (D)** – advocates for homosexual/transgender parents in custody cases; supports abortion (stating there is a “fundamental right to reproductive autonomy”), and LGBT rights. She supports diversity training of judges when it comes to the homosexual/transgender issue and supports “same-sex marriage”. Supports giving special rights to homosexuals and transgenders. In 2020 ruled that mail-in ballots did not need to possess a signature or date and could be returned 3 days after election day.  
**David Wecht (D)** – supports “same-sex marriage” and abortion stating it is a “fundamental right”.. In 2020 ruled that mail-in ballots did not need to possess a signature or date and could be returned 3 days after election day.

## SUPERIOR COURT CANDIDATES

**Maria Battista (R)** – former assistant DA, counsel in the PA Departments of Health and State; **Endorsements:** National Hispanic Assembly of Pennsylvania  
**website:** <https://www.battistaforjudge.com/>

**Brandon Newman (D)** – Judge on Washington County Court of Common Pleas;  
**Endorsements:** PA Democrat Party; United Mine Workers; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; International Union of Operating Engineers; PA State Education Association, State Reps Matt Bradford, Ryan Bizarro, Peter Schweyer  
**Website:** <https://www.judgeneuman.com>

## COMMONWEALTH COURT CANDIDATES

**Matthew Wolford (R)** – former attorney for the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection  
**Endorsed by:** PA GOP, Senator Dan Laughlin (Erie County); **Which organizations do you belong to?** Penn State Alumni Association; Temple University Alumni Association; Presque Isle Partnership; Erie Yacht Club; Erie Club; Hagen History Center; **Prominent Cases:** Minard Run Oil Co. v. U.S. Forest Service – oil and gas rights on federal land; Appeal of New Century Pipeline – local zoning issue restricting oil and gas development  
**Website:** <https://mattwolfordforjudge.com/>

**Stella Tsai (D)** - Judge on Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas  
**Endorsed by** PA Democrat Party, *Philadelphia Gay News*, Liberty City LGBTQ+ Democratic Club; **Website:** <https://stellaforjudge.com/>

**Go to [afaofpa.org](http://afaofpa.org) for complete responses from candidates.**

### **Three Supreme Court Judges Up for a 10-year Retention Vote Vote ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ on giving them another 10 year term**

**Kevin Dougherty (D)** - supports abortion, “same-sex marriage” and giving special rights to homosexuals. Appointed the first openly gay judges in Family court in addition to appointing the first open lesbian to be the chief of court operations. In 2020 ruled that mail-in ballots did not need to possess a signature or date and could be returned 3 days after election day. Endorsed by Liberty City LGBT Democratic Club.

**Christine Donohue (D)** – advocates for homosexual/transgender parents in custody cases; supports abortion (stating there is a “fundamental right to reproductive autonomy”), and LGBT rights. She supports diversity training of judges when it comes to the homosexual/transgender issue and supports “same-sex marriage”. Supports giving special rights to homosexuals and transgenders. In 2020 ruled that mail-in ballots did not need to possess a signature or date and could be returned 3 days after election day.  
**David Wecht (D)** – supports “same-sex marriage” and abortion stating it is a “fundamental right”.. In 2020 ruled that mail-in ballots did not need to possess a signature or date and could be returned 3 days after election day.