

Superior and Commonwealth Courts

May 16, 2023 Primary 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 not more than 2 in your party)

REPUBLICAN

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Maria Battista	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	NA
Harry F. Smail, Jr.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

DEMOCRATS

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Jill Beck	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	N/A
Pat Dugan	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E
Timika Lane	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

Commonwealth Court - 10 year term (vote for 1 in your party)

REPUBLICAN

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Megan Martin	Y	10	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Scalia	Reagan	N/A
Josh Prince	Y	10	Y	Y	A	Y	T	Scalia	Reagan	N/A

DEMOCRATS

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Bryan Neft	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	N/A
Matt Wolf	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

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Maria Battista	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	NA
Harry F. Smail, Jr.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

DEMOCRATS

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Jill Beck	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	N/A
Pat Dugan	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E
Timika Lane	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

Commonwealth Court - 10 year term (vote for 1 in your party)

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	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Megan Martin	Y	10	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Scalia	Reagan	N/A
Josh Prince	Y	10	Y	Y	A	Y	T	Scalia	Reagan	N/A

DEMOCRATS

	1	2	3	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8
Bryan Neft	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	N/A
Matt Wolf	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	E

Superior Court Candidates

Maria Battista (R) – former assistant DA, counsel in the PA Departments of Health and State; **Endorsed by** PA GOP; Commonwealth Partners Chamber of Entrepreneurs (did not respond to our questions, so do not have further information) website: <https://www.battistaforjudge.com/>
Harry F. Smail, Jr.(R) - currently a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas in Westmoreland County (8 1/2 years); from his website: has ruled in favor of energy exploration in Westmoreland County and dismissed a constitutional challenge to the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) in a local civil suit.”; found no endorsements (did not respond to our questions, do not have further information) website: <https://votejudgesmail.com/>
Jill Beck (D)- “In the fall of 2019 she became a civil litigator at Blank Rome, a law firm she selected because of its commitment to providing free legal services to those who cannot afford them.” **Endorsed by** AFL-CIO and other trade and labor unions; Vote Pro-Choice; Progressive Women of NEPA; PA Working Families Party; Women for the Future; Liberty City LGBT Democratic Club; Steel City Stonewall Democrats; US Congressmen Chris DeLuzio, Dwight Evans and Matt Cartwright; Speaker of the PA House Joanna McClinton (did not respond to our questions, do not have further info) website: <https://www.jillbeck.com/>
Pat Dugan (D) – currently a Judge on the Municipal Court (15 years); **endorsed by** Congressman Matt Cartwright (did not respond to our questions, no further info)<https://www.judgepatdugan.com/>
Timika Lane (D) - elected to the Court of the Common Pleas in 2013; **endorsed by** labor unions, PA Dems; US Congressman Dwight Evans (PA-3), PA House Speaker State Rep Joanna McClinton; Philadelphia Federation of Teachers; Erie School Board President Tyler Titus (a transgender male) (did not respond to our questions, no further info) website: <https://judgelaneforpa.com/>

Commonwealth Court Candidates

Megan Martin (R) - served as the PA Senate's Secretary- Parliamentarian. **Endorsed by** PA GOP, PA Pro-Life Federation, Fraternal Order of Police (Lodge 41), Commonwealth Partners Chamber of Entrepreneurs. **Which organizations do or have you belonged to?** YWCA of Greater Harrisburg; co-chair of Social Awareness Subcommittee of PBA’s Govt. Lawyers Committee; member Junior League of Harrisburg; United Way Appeals, Policies and Procedures Committee; Girl Scouts Fund Development Committee. **Prominent cases:** Senate Right-to-Know Appeals Officer Appeal of *Bumsted, et.al.*; several cases as a Navy attorney. website: <https://meganmartinforpa.com/>
Josh Prince (R) - the principal of the Civil Rights Defense Firm, P.C. and associate at Prince Law Offices in Berks County, P.C. **Endorsed by** over three dozen pro-rights organizations, elected officials, and individuals from across this Commonwealth, including PA Sheriff Association Action PAC, PA Pro Life Federation PAC, Life PAC, Firearms Owners Against Crime, and Gun Owners of America. **Which organizations do or have you belonged to?** Pottstown Police Athletic League, National Rifle Association (Charleston Heston member), Firearm Owners Against Crime (life member), Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia, National Business Institute, Gun Owners of America. **Prominent cases:** FOAC, et al. v. City of Harrisburg (defending the rights of citizens to challenge laws before laws have been enforced against them); Andrew Dissisnger v. Manheim Township School District (defending parental rights) website: <https://www.princeforjustice.com/>
Bryan Neft (D) – Allegheny County attorney; **Endorsed by** various labor unions; Philadelphia Federation of Teachers; State Reps Anita Kulik, Malcolm Kenyatta, Dan Frankel, Ben Sanchez, Tim Brennan, Emily Kinkead, Mandy Steele, Arvind Venkat; State Senators Wayne Fontana and Jay Costa, pro-homosexual Steel City Stonewall Democrats website: <https://bryanneft.com/> (did not respond to our questions, no further info)
Matt Wolf (D) - Supervising Civil Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court **Endorsed by** Liberty City LGBTQ Democratic Club; various labor unions and Democratic districts in Philly as well as Democratic county committees website: <https://judgemattwolf.com/> (did not respond to our questions, no further info)

Go to our website <https://afaofpa.org> to see the questionnaires for more information.

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