

## WHAT'S ON MY 2021 BALLOT in Chester County?

Scope	Position	Why should I care?
<b>LOCAL*</b> *Some of these positions will be on your ballot, based on your town and school district	<b>School Board Director</b>	Makes decisions about important issues for <i>parents</i> , such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-person vs. online classes during the pandemic</li> <li>• School safety, gun violence and suicide prevention policies and programs</li> <li>• Prioritizing budget spending (Another guidance counselor or another security guard? New band uniforms or upgraded playing field?)</li> <li>• Curriculum, homework and standardized testing policies</li> <li>• Special Education programs and practices</li> <li>• Equity policies: Free lunch, full day kindergarten, after school help?</li> <li>• Negotiations with the Teacher's Union (pay, training, teacher safety)</li> <li>• Which schools your neighborhood attends</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>Twp. Supervisor/ Member of Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes decisions on local police hiring, taxing, permits, zoning and building codes, local parks, open spaces and trails, pipelines, roads and bridges, trash and public works, and public safety</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serves as the civilian oversight of the City or Borough Police Department- works with Police Chief to hire police and establish police guidelines</li> <li>• Can declare a state of emergency</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>Magisterial District Judge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hears minor criminal and civil cases such as landlord/tenant disputes and disorderly conduct, minor property damage and traffic violations</li> <li>• Sets BAIL; Issues EMERGENCY Protection from Abuse orders</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>Judge of Elections (JOE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets up all materials, machines, and supplies for your polling place (precinct)</li> <li>• Answers all questions and handles issues on Election day in accordance with Voter Services decisions (Example: You requested a mail in ballot but change your mind and want to vote in person on Election day at your precinct)</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>Inspector (of Elections)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets up polling places and monitors the Judge of Elections (JOE)</li> <li>• Ensures JOE delivers results to Voter Services (Note: minority party inspector keeps a copy of signed tally sheets for assurances)</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>Auditor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examines accuracy of financial accounts in the municipality</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>Tax Collector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administers and organizes local tax paperwork</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>Constable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides security at your polling place (precinct)</li> </ul>
<b>Chester COUNTY</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	Accounts for money coming INTO the County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collects real estate taxes</li> <li>• Balances the County bank statements</li> <li>• Issues dog, fishing and hunting, not-for-profit, and small games licenses</li> </ul>
<b>Chester COUNTY</b>	<b>Controller</b>	Accounts for money going OUT OF the County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for an honest accounting of our tax dollars, and monitors fraud, waste and abuse in the County government</li> <li>• Entrusted with all County public funds: accounts and transactions, contracts, agreements, lease payments, financial statements</li> </ul>
<b>Chester COUNTY</b>	<b>Clerk of Courts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintains accurate criminal records that are the basis of fair trials for victims and defendants</li> <li>• Can initiate juvenile record expungements and eviction prevention actions</li> </ul>
<b>Chester COUNTY</b>	<b>Coroner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determines cause and manner of death, identities the decedent, and provides notification to the legal next of kin</li> <li>• Provides cremation request forms, death certificates, reports for attorneys and insurance companies</li> </ul>

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Chester COUNTY	<b>Judge of Common Pleas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presides over “trial court level” cases like you see on TV, where witnesses and evidence are presented, and a verdict and sentence are determined</li> <li>• Hears major criminal, civil and family law cases (such as DUI, custody, robbery, injury, property damage, assault, murder)</li> <li>• Issues standing Protection from Abuse orders</li> </ul>
PA STATE	<b>Justice of the Supreme Court</b>	<p>Highest Court in Pennsylvania (panel of 7 Justices who serve 10 year terms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main “check and balance” on the PA legislature</li> <li>• Determine if a law passed by our State legislature is Constitutional</li> <li>• Recent examples: Ruled that Mail In ballots and Drop Boxes were legal, and that extremely gerrymandered voting districts that disenfranchised minority voters was unconstitutional and needed to be redrawn</li> </ul>
PA STATE	<b>Judge of the Superior Court</b>	<p>“Court of last resort” for APPEALS (panel of 15 Judges who serve 10 year terms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hears civil, criminal, and family law <i>appeals</i> to reverse a lower court’s ruling (convictions or sentences)</li> <li>• Examples: Custody, drug possession, DUI, assault, burglary, murder rulings</li> </ul>
PA STATE	<b>Judge of the Commonwealth Court</b>	<p>APPEALS Court for government entities (panel of 9 judges who serve 10 year terms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hears <i>appeals</i> from final orders of certain state agencies and certain designated cases from the Courts of Common Pleas involving public sector legal questions and government regulation</li> </ul>
	<b>Ballot Questions</b>	<p><b>What these mean</b>  For more information: <a href="https://onyourballot.vote411.org/index.do">https://onyourballot.vote411.org/index.do</a></p>
PA STATE	<b>1. Extend or Terminate State of Emergency</b>	<p>Constitutional Amendment: Transfers the power to <u>extend or end</u> a State of Emergency FROM the Governor TO 253 politicians in the PA legislature, potentially slowing and politicizing the response by requiring a new decision via majority vote every 21 days during a disaster or public health crisis.</p>
PA STATE	<b>2. State of Emergency Declaration limits</b>	<p>Constitutional Amendment: Limits the Governor's power to initially declare a State of Emergency to just 21 days (currently 90), potentially jeopardizing federal assistance and emergency funds.</p>
PA STATE	<b>3. Equal Rights Regardless of Race or Ethnicity</b>	<p>Constitutional Amendment: These rights are already protected in the PA Constitution and under the Equal Protection Clause in the U.S. Constitution. Adding the word “individual” would make it easier to file reverse-discrimination claims.</p>
PA STATE	<b>4. Extend loan program eligibility to include paid fire departments</b>	<p>Statewide Referendum: Allows fire and ambulance companies with paid staff to borrow from a building and equipment fund currently available only to Volunteer companies. This would not authorize incurring any additional debt to fund the program.</p>

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Primary Election is Tuesday May 18, 2021

- Last day to Register to vote in the Primary is May 3, 2021
- Last day for a registered voter to *apply for a mail in ballot for the Primary* is May 11, 2021
- **All Registered Voters CAN vote on the Ballot Questions in the Primary!**

### General Election is Tuesday Nov 2, 2021

- Last day to register to vote in the General is Oct 18, 2021
- Last day for a registered voter to *apply for mail in ballot for the General* is Oct 26, 2021