

The St. Thomas Octavius V. Catto GOTV Project

## Voting with Purpose Road to the Pennsylvania Primary on May 16, 2023

This guide focuses on the Primary in Philadelphia. Go to [www.vote.phila.gov](http://www.vote.phila.gov) for information to register to vote and vote in Philadelphia, PA including important dates, who is on the ballot, mail-in ballot, polling place and the ballot questions (under Candidates for Office).

### Important Dates for the 2023 Philadelphia PA Primary

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Last Day to Register before the Primary**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.**

**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (Must be received by 8:00 P.M.)**

### Who is on the Ballot and what is the responsibility of the Office?

#### MAYOR

The mayor is the chief executive officer of Philadelphia who oversees and runs most of city government is responsible for city's day-to-day operations; like having programs to reduce gun violence or trash removal, fixing potholes & streetlights; appoints department heads; proposes a budget to City Council; is primarily responsible for public safety by appointing both the Police and Fire Commissioners. If voters approve the new position of Public Safety Officer, that person will report to the mayor. The School District is run by a superintendent hired by a nine-member School Board appointed by the mayor and voted on by City Council. Enforces city laws, including the Home Rule Charter. The mayor can provide a vision for how the city should grow but District City Council members have much of the power to decide land use. The mayor's current budget is over \$5.5 Billion to operate all the departments and agencies with 25,000 employees. \$3.9 Billion is the capital budget for buildings and infrastructure.

#### Ten DISTRICT CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS and Seven AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

City Council as the legislative body for Philadelphia makes laws; does NOT have the authority for programs to reduce gun violence or trash removal, fixing potholes & streetlights; approves the City's annual budget; has responsibilities relating to the Zoning Code or the zoning map regarding properties located within the city. District Council members have power to make land use decisions. District Council members are elected by the voters in that geographic area. At -large City Council members are elected in a city-wide race and focus more on city – wide issues.

#### REGISTER OF WILLS

This Office handles estate transfers whether the person dies with or without a Will by determining who is responsible for an estate such as the person's personal property [jewelry, vehicle] and real estate. This office also issues marriage licenses.

#### Three CITY COMMISSIONERS

These three City Commissioners work together to oversee voter registration, conduct elections following federal and state laws and certify the results of the elections. No more than two shall be members of the same political party.



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### **SHERIFF**

The Sheriff transports prisoners; serves writs (Court orders to collect things) and warrants (Court orders to collect people); holds Sheriff's sales, which are auctions on properties foreclosed by banks, etc. and tax-delinquent properties to collect money in court cases. The Sheriff also acts as security guards for court buildings.

### **CITY CONTROLLER [Special Election because the person resigned] \***

Independent of the Mayor and City Council, the City Controller conducts independent audits of city departments and the School District, investigates allegations of fraud within city agencies or their contractors, determines if the city's five-year plan is reasonable and certifies the City's capacity to borrow money; and sits on several boards, the Board of Pensions and Retirement [oversees the management of investments and the payment of benefits]; the Philadelphia Gas Commission [approves Philadelphia Gas Works' operating budget].

### **Candidates for Judge**

Judicial candidates are rated by an independent commission of the Philadelphia Bar Association which conducts objective, nonpartisan investigations to rate candidates on their ability, integrity and judgment as Highly Recommended, Recommended, Not Recommended.

Criteria for Recommendations:

- Legal ability sufficient to have earned the respect of lawyers and judges
- Trial or other experience which ensures knowledge of the rules of evidence and courtroom procedures
- A record and reputation for excellent character and integrity
- Financially responsible
- Judicial temperament
- Mental and physical capacity sufficient to discharge fully the duties of judicial office.
- Record of community involvement
- Administrative ability
- Devotion to improvement of the quality of justice
- Demonstrated sound judgment in one's professional life.

*Highly recommended Rating means preeminent in the profession, exceptionally skilled in the law, possesses a reputation for the utmost integrity and significantly will enhance the quality of the judiciary.*

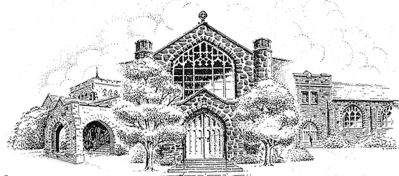
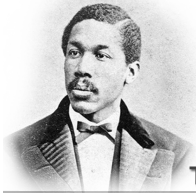
**Supreme Court Justices** are a seven-member statewide Court who decide which cases it will hear that comes before it on appeal as well as supervises and oversees the operation of the entire judicial system in Pennsylvania.

**Superior Court Judges** are a nine-member statewide Court who primarily decide criminal and civil cases on appeal from the Court of Common Pleas.

**Commonwealth Court Judges** are a nine-member statewide Court who primarily decide cases on appeal from the Court of Common Pleas involving state and local governments and agencies.

**Court of Common Pleas** judges are generally criminal and civil trial courts.

**Municipal Court judges** hear preliminary criminal cases and civil cases under a certain amount of money.

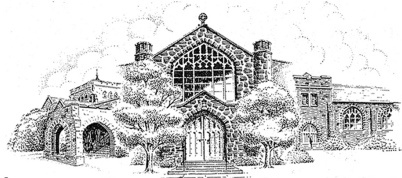
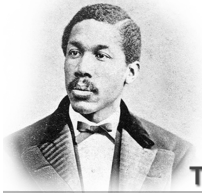


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<b>Supreme Court of Pennsylvania</b> <i>(Vote for one)</i>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Hon. Daniel D. McCaffery	Highly Recommended
<b>Superior Court of Pennsylvania</b> <i>(Vote for two)</i>	
Hon. Timika Lane	Highly Recommended
Hon. Patrick F. Dugan	Recommended
<b>Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania</b> <i>(Vote for one)</i>	
Hon. Matthew Wolf	Recommended
<b>Court of Common Pleas</b> <i>(Vote for ten)</i>	
Chesley A. Lightsey	Highly Recommended
Hon. John R. Padova, Jr.	Highly Recommended
Natasha Taylor-Smith	Highly Recommended
Kay Yu	Highly Recommended
Wade Albert	Recommended
William Braveman	Recommended
Jessica R. Brown	Recommended
Melissa M. Francis	Recommended
Damaris L. Garcia	Recommended
Hon. Kenneth L. Joel	Recommended
Hon. Brian McLaughlin	Recommended
Caroline M. Turner	Recommended
Hon. Tamika Washington	Recommended
Samantha Williams	Recommended
Joseph Green	Not Recommended
Qawi Abdul-Rahman	Not Recommended
<b>Municipal Court</b> <i>(Vote for two)</i>	
Melissa M. Francis	Recommended
Colleen Osborne	Recommended
Barbara Thomson	Recommended
Caroline M. Turner	Recommended
Rania Major	Not Recommended

source: Judicial Commission of the Philadelphia Bar Association for Rating



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For general information about registering to vote and voting in Pennsylvania go to [www.vote.pa.gov](http://www.vote.pa.gov)

For general information about voting in Delaware and New Jersey go to

[www.elections.delaware.gov](http://www.elections.delaware.gov)

DE Deadline to register to vote: April 15, 2023

DE Deadline to request an absentee ballot: May 5, 2023

DE Primary Election Day: May 9, 2023

[www.nj.gov/state/elections](http://www.nj.gov/state/elections)

NJ Deadline to register to vote: May 16, 2023

NJ Deadline to request a mail-in ballot: May 30, 2023

NJ Early Voting Period: June 2, 2023-June 4, 2023

NJ Primary Election Day: June 6, 2023