



League Of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

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INFORMATION ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2017 GENERAL ELECTION IN DELAWARE COUNTY, PA



THE MECHANICS OF VOTING

WHO can vote? If you have been a U.S. Citizen for at least a month, a resident of PA and your election district for 30 days and will be 18 by the next election, you are qualified and can register to vote.

HOW DO YOU REGISTER? If qualified, you may register to vote at the Voter Registration Office, all State and Federal agencies, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, or by mailing a registration form acquired at Municipal Government Buildings, Libraries, and at State Wine & Spirit Stores. Residents can also register online by downloading a registration form at www.pavoterservices.pa.gov The hard copy registration form must be returned to Voter Registration, Government Center Building, 201 W. Front Street, Media, PA 19063.

WHEN?

- Last day to REGISTER before the November election October 10
- Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot October 31
- Last day for Boards of Elections to receive voted civilian absentee ballots . . . November 3
- MUNICIPAL, JUDICIAL, COUNTY AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS November 7

WHERE do you go to vote? To find your polling place, go to the PA state website at www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx

Polling places are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Election Day.

WHAT offices will you be voting for?

The PA constitution specifies that in odd numbered years (e.g. 2017) elections will be held for
Local government elected officials
Judicial officials (non-partisan elections)
School District School Boards (non-partisan elections)
County elected officials

WHO will be running? In Delaware County the candidates on the ballot for magisterial judges, school boards and local governments will vary from place to place, depending on the voter's exact location. A total of 428 distinct ballots are prepared in Delaware County. A list of the county and judicial candidates (except for magisterial judges), which will be the same across Delaware county, will be available on the county Bureau of Elections website (go to www.co.delaware.pa.us, click on *departments*, then *bureau of elections*, then *candidates list*, sometime not too long after mid-September. The candidates running for local government and school board offices will also be available on that website, but in order to determine which ones will be on your particular ballot, you need to know your school district, your magisterial district and your precinct or ward within your municipality. A hard copy list of candidates, organized by precinct and totaling 100+ pages, is available to review in the Bureau of Elections at that time.

Shortly after October 1st you will be able to obtain example ballots for your polling place, at a cost of 25¢ each, at the Bureau of Elections for Delaware County, located on the ground floor of the Government Center, 201 W. Front Street in Media. Their phone number is 610-891-4673. Their fax is 610-892-0641.

- To find out what magisterial district you are in, a list is available at the end of this document, or go to: www.co.delaware.pa.us/courts/districtjudges.html, then click on magisterial district judges list
- To find out what school district you are in, see the list of Districts and the municipalities which they cover, further on in this document. There is a map of these districts at http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/planning/mapping/school_districts.pdf There are 15 school districts located within Delaware county; there are also two in Chester County which serve certain portions of Delaware: West Chester and Unionville-Chadds Ford Districts.
- To find out what municipality and precinct you are in, go first to your voter registration certificate. If you do not have it, go to www.pavoterservices.pa.gov and find the information for your polling place, which will include your precinct number.

INSIDE THE POLLING PLACE

When you approach your polling place, you may be approached by people supporting various parties or candidates. There is no restriction on who can be outside. Inside the polling place, however, the state of Pennsylvania specifies that only the following people may be present:

1. Precinct Election Officials. These include the Judge of Election, the Inspectors (Majority and Minority), appointed clerks and machine operators.
2. Voters in the process of voting but no more than 10 voters at a time. Others waiting to vote must wait outside the area where voting is occurring.
3. Persons lawfully providing assistance to voters.
4. Poll watchers. Poll watchers are registered voters in the county who have been appointed by a party or candidate to observe at the precinct. One poll watcher per party and one poll watcher per

candidate may be inside at any given time. Watchers must remain at least 6 feet away from the area where voting is occurring.

5. Overseers are registered voters of the precinct who may be appointed, upon petition, by all of the judges of the county Court of Common Pleas to supervise the election. Two per precinct may be appointed and they must belong to two different political parties.

6. Constables and Deputy Constables for the purpose of preserving the peace.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO VOTE, for whatever reason, you may request a **provisional ballot**. The Board of Elections will decide whether these provisional ballots are counted, 7 days after the election. Your Provisional Ballot Identification Receipt will provide instructions on how to follow up: a coded numbered label is put on the Provisional Ballot Application Envelope and the other half is given to the voter with an 800 number to check the status of provisional votes.

ABSENTEE VOTING

State law provides that you may vote by absentee ballot if you are absent from your municipality on Election Day. The steps to take are

- **Apply for the absentee ballot.** The last day to apply for an absentee ballot is the last Tuesday prior to Election Day. Absentee Ballot Applications for registered voters of Delaware County are available upon request (written or oral) at the Bureau of Elections. Applications may also be downloaded by clicking on *Absentee Ballot Applications* at the county website: <http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/elections/electionabsenteevoting.html>
- **Fill out and return the absentee ballot** after it has been received. It should be received by the Bureau of Elections by 5 PM on the Friday before the election. Pennsylvania State law prohibits anyone other than the voter from hand delivering their voted absentee ballot to the Delaware County Bureau of Elections, except for those with disabilities.
- **Or, preferably**, go directly to the Bureau of Elections, make application, receive and fill out your absentee ballot and return it to the Bureau on the spot.

In addition, there are allowances for emergency absentee voting and for permanently disabled voters. Check the Delaware County website (see above) for details.

VOTING MACHINES

All polling places in Delaware County use the Danaher ELECTronic 1242 voting machine. To see a video of how to use the voting machine, go to <http://www.votespa.com/en-us/voting-and-elections/be-prepared/Pages/Voter-System-Demos.aspx>



Web sites to consult for further information:

www.votespa.com The State of Pennsylvania gives good answers to voting questions such as
Absentee Ballot application and status
Voter Registration status
Finding your polling place
Provisional Ballot status
Election Calendar
Election Night Returns
Reporting Election Complaints

www.co.delaware.pa.us Delaware County. Click on *departments*, then *Voter Registration* or *Election Bureau* for information on Delaware County.

<http://election.co.delaware.pa.us> gives the May 16th primary results for each Delaware county municipality

www.vote411.org The League of Women Voters provides candidate information for many election districts.



www.lwv.org

www.vote411.org

THE POLITICAL OFFICES BEING FILLED ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017

JUDICIAL CONTESTS



The **Supreme Court** is Pennsylvania's highest appeal court, with seven members. One will be elected on November 7. Regular justices are paid \$206,054 annually and the chief justice is paid \$212,051.

The **Superior Court** and the **Commonwealth Court** are Pennsylvania's two intermediate appeals courts; their judges receive \$194,422 annually and their president judges receive \$200,416. Four will be elected for the Superior Court and two for the Commonwealth Court on November 7.

The **Court of Common Pleas** is Pennsylvania's general trial court and is organized into 60 districts, of which Delaware County is district 32 and has 20 judges and 4 Senior judges. The annual salary of the regular judges is \$178,868 and that of the president is \$180,427. It covers 12 departments and operates with a budget of approximately \$58 million dollars. One judge will be elected in Delaware County on November 7.

The **Magisterial District Court** is the first level of judicial authority in Pennsylvania and is the court where most people experience the judicial system for the first time. There are now thirty Magisterial District Courts located in Delaware County. An elected Magisterial District Judge presides over each of the individual Magisterial District Courts, except for one, which is vacant. Thirteen of those districts have elections on November 7 but in only three of them is there a contest between opposing candidates. The annual salary is \$89,438. Magisterial judges do not have to be lawyers.

A list of the Delaware County communities within each Magisterial District can be found at the end of this document. Based upon the primary results, the three magisterial districts in which there appear to be contests in the November 7th election are:

- 32-2-43, covering Newtown Township and Radnor Township, Wards 1,2,3 & 6
- 32-2-46. covering Rose Valley Borough and Upper Providence Township.
- 32-2—42, covering Glenolden Borough and Norwood Borough

Magisterial district judges serve for six year terms and all others serve for ten year terms. The mandatory retirement age is 75. Because Pennsylvania allows it, there is "cross filing" for non-partisan Magisterial and Court of Common Pleas judges in primary elections. Since the same candidate may often file in both party primaries, should that person win, his/her name will appear as both Republican and Democratic candidate in the general election on November 7.

COUNTY CONTESTS



County Council (2 members are up for election). County Council consists of a five member body elected to staggered four year terms of office. The powers and duties of the Delaware County Council are determined by its Home Rule Charter.

Sheriff, a four year term. The Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the County and has full powers to enforce the law and make arrests. Under the direction of the Sheriff, the office is staffed with forty-one full-time uniformed Deputy Sheriffs, two administrative personnel, and 12 clerical workers. Under the direction of the Sheriff, Deputies keep the peace in the County and assist other law enforcement agencies in the County.

Controller, a four year term. The Controller is responsible for overseeing and controlling the expenditure of County Funds. The Controller shall appoint at least one deputy controller trained or experienced in the art of accounting and such other staff, including a solicitor, as may be required to assist him in the discharge of his duties, subject to budgetary approval of County Council.

Register of Wills, a four year term. The Register of Wills office is comprised of 3 departments: The Register of Wills, Marriage License and Orphans' Court.

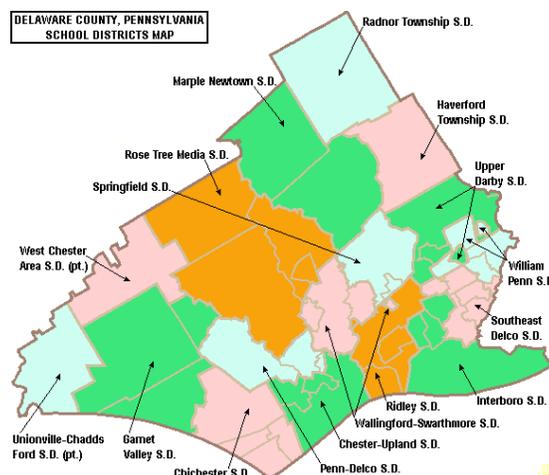
SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Boards of school directors are the controlling and governing agencies for local school districts. School districts are administered by nine-member school boards elected for four-year overlapping terms. Some districts will have opted for at-large elections while others have preferred to elect directors by region or to do a combination of at-large and regional elections. The 17 school districts that serve Delaware County residents are listed below, along with the municipalities that they cover.

1. **Chester Upland School District** – Chester City, Chester Township., Upland Borough
2. **Chichester School District** – Upper Chichester Township, Lower Chichester Township., Marcus Hook Borough, Trainer Borough
3. **Garnet Valley School District** – Bethel Township, Chester Heights Borough , Concord Township.
4. **Haverford Township School District** – Haverford Township.
5. **InterBorough School District** – Glenolden Borough , Norwood Borough , Prospect Park Borough, Tinicum Township.
6. **Marple-Newtown School District** – Marple Township, Newtown Township.
7. **Penn Delco School District** – Aston Township, Brookhaven Borough , Parkside Borough
8. **Radnor Township School District** – Radnor Township.
9. **Ridley School District** – Ridley Township, Ridley Park Borough , Eddystone Borough
10. **Rose Tree-Media School District** – Edgmont Township, Media Borough, Middletown Township, Upper Providence Township.
11. **Southeast Delco School District** – Collingdale Borough , Darby Township, Folcroft Borough, Sharon Hill Borough
12. **Springfield School District** – Springfield Township, Morton Borough
13. **Upper Darby School District** – Upper Darby Township, Millbourne Borough , Clifton Heights Borough
14. **Wallingford-Swarthmore School District** – Nether Providence Township, Rose Valley Borough, Swarthmore Borough, Rutledge Borough
15. **William Penn School District** – Alden Borough, Colwyn Borough, Darby Borough, East Lansdowne Borough, Lansdowne Borough, Yeadon Borough
16. **Unionville-Chadds Ford School District** – Chadds Ford Township. (Delaware County)
17. **West Chester Area School District** – Thornbury Township. (Delaware County)

Pennsylvania permits school board candidates to cross-file in primary elections. Therefore a candidate may file to run in the primary election for both the Democratic and Republican parties. If a candidate cross-files, he/she needs to win in one party's primary election to advance to the general election. A candidate may also appear on both party's ballots in the general election if he/she wins both party's nominations in the primary.



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



Local government officials on the ballot will vary, depending on whether they are cities, Boroughs, first class townships or second class townships, and whether they have opted for home rule. In some cases they can vary aspects of the governing organization by referendum.

The following Delaware County municipalities are under home rule:

- Chester City
- Chester Township.
- Concord Township (in transition to home rule)
- Haverford Township.
- Middletown Township.
- Radnor Township.
- Upper Darby Township.
- Upper Providence Township.

CITIES (there is only one in Delaware County, Chester)

Chester has a mayor-council government system, consisting of a popularly elected city mayor and city council, whose terms are four years. The Chester City Council is made up of four members plus the presiding officer. Council members are elected at large to serve the entire city. Under the Administrative Code of the city, each council member serves as a department head for one of the five municipal departments. Chester is a Third Class City. Under the home rule form of government, the city council has been given all the legislative power to create ordinances, rules and regulations.

The following offices will be filled on November 7th:

- One Council Member for a two-year term and two Council Members for a four- year term.
- Judges of Election- one for each of the city's precincts. Most are not contested. Four-year terms.
- Inspectors of Election-one for each of the city's precincts. Most are not contested. Four-year terms.

BOROUGHS (there are 27 in Delaware County)

The governing body of the Borough is a council which is elected, as are the tax collector, assessor and auditors. The mayor is elected for a four-year term; councilmen are elected for four-year overlapping terms. A Borough not divided into wards has three, five or seven councilmen; in Boroughs divided into wards, one, two or three are elected from each ward. The powers of council are broad and

extensive, covering virtually the whole range of municipal functions. PA Boroughs have what is known as a “weak Mayor” form of government. The following officials are elected for four-year terms unless otherwise specified:

- Tax Collector
- Constable- 6-year terms
- Auditor- 6-year terms
- Mayor
- Council Members
- Judges of Election
- Inspectors of Election

TOWNSHIPS (21 in Delaware County): 12 first class and 9 second class). All terms are 4-years unless otherwise specified

First Class townships (12)

At least 5 Commissioners are elected either

- At Large, or
- From Wards, if less than 5 wards and the rest at large, or
- From Wards if 5 or more Wards

Auditor (6 year term)

Tax collector

Controller

Treasurer

Judges of Election

Inspectors of Election

Second Class Townships (9)

3-member boards of Supervisors (5, in some cases,) elected at large for 6 year terms

Tax Collector

Auditor (6 year term)

Judges of Election

Inspectors of Election

For a comprehensive review of local government services, go to the *Citizen’s Guide to Pennsylvania Local Government* at <http://www.mrsoshouse.com/pa/citizenguide.pdf>



49 MUNICIPALITIES IN DELAWARE COUNTY

1 city

1. Chester*

27 Boroughs

1. Aldan
2. Brookhaven
3. Chester Heights
4. Clifton Heights
5. Collingdale
6. Colwyn
7. Darby Borough
8. East Lansdowne
9. Eddystone
10. Folcroft
11. Glenolden
12. Lansdowne
13. Marcus Hook
14. Media
15. Millbourne
16. Morton
17. Norwood
18. Parkside
19. Prospect Park
20. Ridley Park
21. Rose Valley
22. Rutledge
23. Sharon Hill
24. Swarthmore
25. Trainer
26. Upland
27. Yeadon

21 townships

1st class

1. Aston
2. Darby Township.
3. Haverford*
4. Lower Chichester
5. Marple
6. Nether Providence
7. Radnor*
8. Ridley
9. Springfield
10. Tinicum
11. Upper Chichester
12. Upper Darby*

2nd Class

1. Bethel
2. Chadds Ford
3. Chester*
4. Concord**
5. Edgemont
6. Middletown*
7. Newtown
8. Thornbury
9. Upper Providence*

*home rule governments

**transitioning to home rule

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT*

- 32-1-35 Upper Darby, 1(4-7, 9) 3(1,3,5,11) 4(2,3,5-11)5(3,8)
- 32-1-25 Haverford 1,2,7
- 32-1-24 Haverford 9, Marple 1,3,4
- 32-1-20 Chester 1,2
- 32-1-30 Nether Providence 1,5, Ridley Township 2,3,5,7,8
- 32-1-36 Lower Chichester, Trainer, Upper Chichester 1,2,5, Marcus Hook
- 32-2-38 Aston, Upper Chichester 3,4
- 32-2-43 Newtown Township, Radnor 1,2,3,6
- 32-1-33 Milbourne, Upper Darby 5 (1,7,10), 6 (1-4, 10, 12), 7 (2-5, 8, 10)
- 32-1-28 Media Borough, Nether Providence 2,3,4,6,7, Swarthmore
- 32-2-53 Haverford 3,4,5,6,8
- 32-1-27 Marple 2,5,6,7, Radnor 4,5,7
- 32-2-44 Prospect Park, Ridley Park Borough, Tinicum
- 32-2-46 Rose Valley, Upper Providence
- 32-1-23 Collingdale
- 32-2-51 Upper Darby 5 (2,4,5,6,9) 6 (5-9,11) 7 (1.6.7.9.11)
- 32-2-54 Springfield 1,5,6,2(1,3)
- 32-2-52 Aldan, Clifton Heights, Upper Darby 2
- 32-1-32 Morton, Springfield 3,4,7,2 (2)
- 32-1-34 Upper Darby 1(1,2,3,8),3 (2,4,6-10),4(1,4)
- 32-2-49 Thornbury, Concord, Chadd's Ford, Bethel
- 32-2-40 Darby Township, Folcroft
- 32-1-22 Chester 8,9,10,11
- 32-2-48 Chester Heights, Edgmont, Middletown
- 32-2-37 Colwyn, Darby Borough, Sharon Hill
- 32-2-42 Glenolden Borough, Norwood
- 32-1-31 Eddystone, Ridley 1,4,6,9, Rutledge
- 32-2-39 Brookhaven, Chester Township, Upland, Parkside
- 32-1-21 Chester 3,4,5,6,7
- 32-2-47 E. Landsdowne, Landsdowne, Yeardon

*Numbers outside parentheses represent wards; numbers inside parentheses are precincts within those wards. Example: 1(1,3,5) means precincts 1,3 and 5 within Ward #1.