

14th Ward Independent Democratic Club
2021 ENDORSED CANDIDATES

PA Supreme Court
Maria McLaughlin

PA Commonwealth Court
Amanda Green-Hawkins David Spurgeon

PA Superior Court
Jill Beck

Court of Common Pleas
Bruce Beemer Sabrina Korbel
Jessel Costa Lisa Middleman
Nicola Henry-Taylor Tiffany Sizemore
George Heym Chelsa Wagner
Elliot Howsie

Allegheny County Sheriff
Kevin Kraus

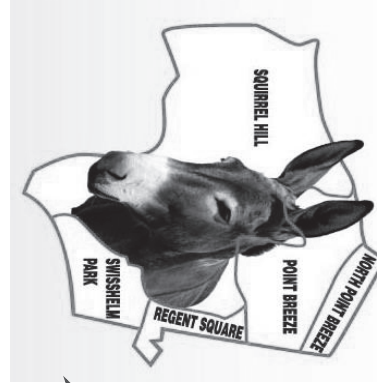
Mayor
Ed Gainey

City Council District 8
Erika Strassburger

School Board, District 1 School Board, District 5
Sylvia Wilson Terry Kennedy

Referenda
Solitary Confinement Referendum: Yes
No-Knock Warrant Ban: Yes
Equal Protection Amendment: Yes
Emergency Declaration Amendment: No
Legislative Resolution Amendment: No

OFFICIAL VOTERS GUIDE—We suggest you
save this for reference when you mark your ballot



JUSTICE IS ON THE BALLOT

14th Ward Independent Democratic Club
706 South Linden Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208-2815
2021 ENDORSED CANDIDATES

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Referenda Questions Endorsements 2021

Shall the Allegheny County Code... be amended [to] set standards governing conditions of confinement in the Allegheny County Jail?

Vote "Yes": it should reduce solitary confinement in the jail and bring transparency. Solitary is you, a blanket, a bed, and a toilet, sometimes for weeks. It's harmful, especially to people with mental health or cognitive issues. The amendment also bans restraint chairs, chemical agents, and leg shackles.

Shall the Pittsburgh Home Rule Charter be amended [to]... bar employees of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police from executing warrants at any residence without knocking and announcing themselves?

Vote "Yes". This will require the Pittsburgh police to wait 15 seconds after announcing before they forcibly enter. This also requires body cameras and uniforms.

Pennsylvania Equal Rights Regardless of Race or Ethnicity Constitutional Amendment.

Vote "Yes" to add this to the state constitution: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because of the race or ethnicity of the individual."

We should have passed it a century ago.

Pennsylvania Emergency Declarations Amendment and Legislative Resolution to Extend or Terminate Emergency Declaration Amendment.

Vote No on both. If passed, these would take control of emergencies away from the governor and give it to the legislature. If these had been in place for the COVID pandemic, it seems likely that lives would have been lost because planning would have been harder and the gerrymandered legislature might not have followed scientific advice.

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Watch the candidates speak. View Common Pleas candidates. Go to pgh14widc.org

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PA Supreme Court

Judge Maria McLaughlin currently sits on our PA Superior Court. She has over 29 years of legal experience. She was a trial judge on the Court of Common Pleas, Family Division. She was also a Chief in the District Attorneys Office. PBA and PhilaBar ratings: HRec.

Commonwealth Court

Amanda Green-Hawkins. As United Steelworkers Assistant General Counsel for over 19 years, Amanda’s extensive experience includes responsibility for cases heard by Commonwealth Court, as well as similar cases before courts in other states. ACBA rating: Rec.

Superior Court

Jill Beck of Squirrel Hill has dedicated her career to representing the underserved, practiced in the Superior Court and every court under its jurisdiction, and drafted hundreds of decisions while working for Christine Donohue. ACBA rating: HRec.

Court of Common Pleas

Judge Elliot Howsie was Allegheny County's first African American Chief Public Defender before being appointed to Court of Common Pleas by Gov. Wolf in 2019. He supports sentencing reform and elimination of cash bail. ACBA rating: HRec.

Nicola Henry-Taylor has 25 years of experience in criminal and family law and has extensive trial experience helping people with mental health issues, addictions and financial crises. As an immigrant, Nicola has championed diversity and inclusion her whole career. ACBA rating: HRec.

Sabrina Korbel has been the Legal Director of the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. She will make courts more accessible by placing them in neighborhood sites. *Look for her as she is last on the ballot.* ACBA rating: HRec.

Justice is on the Ballot: Why Judicial Races are Important

In 2021, we have a chance to influence the PA and Allegheny County judiciary for years to come. We will be electing 1 Supreme Court Justice, 1 Superior Court Judge, 2 Commonwealth Court Judges and **NINE** Allegheny County Common Pleas Court Judges.

Elect judges who appreciate the circumstances of the person before them, and who listen to all parties involved in a case. Weigh each candidate’s legal experience and qualifications. Judges we select are elected to a 10-year term, then they must stand for a retention election for another 10-year term without opposition. Consider the requirements for each court:

Allegheny County Common Pleas Court is a trial court where the role of the judge is to preside over jury and non-jury trials. This court is divided into four divisions - criminal, civil, family and orphans court. *With nine vacancies, we have a chance to influence the Court for the foreseeable future.*

Commonwealth Court is specialty appeals court that has jurisdiction over challenges to state government agencies and lawsuits by and against the Commonwealth of PA. Types of cases include voting, zoning and land use rules, and workers compensation cases. *With two openings, we can impact the conservative majority on this court.*

Superior Court is another appellate court. This court hears appeals from most Common Pleas Court decisions and is required to hear all cases properly brought before the court.

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania is the highest arbiter of cases in the PA judicial system and has administrative authority over the entire court system.

Lisa Middleman, a career public defender specializing in criminal defense work, early in her career, co-sponsored a study on the racial disparities in jury selection to ensure more representative jury panels. ACBA rating: Rec.

Tiffany Sizemore, appointed by Gov. Wolf to the Juvenile Justice Task Force in 2019, has 16 years of litigation experience. She was the Deputy Director of the Juvenile Division of the Public Defender's Office before becoming the Duquesne University Education Law Clinic director. ACBA rating: Rec.

KEY ACBA = Allegheny County Bar Association
PBA = PA Bar Association
PhilaBar = Philadelphia Bar Association
HRec=Highly Recommended Rec=Recommended

Ed Gainey for Mayor

Voters know Ed Gainey as an experienced and effective legislator and community leader, but few realize that he gained valuable knowledge of the Mayor's Office and the City budget process working in the Murphy and Ravenstahl administrations. Specializing in community development, he targeted violence prevention, housing, police hiring and minority contracting. He currently serves on the Board of the URA where he is "laser focused" on affordable housing. His #1 issue for the City is police-community relations. As Mayor he would move quickly to establish shared goals and insist on measurable progress, making sure that priorities are funded. He would partner with the County to achieve new standards for clean air and water.