

VOTE



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VOTE



**It's no secret our elections here in Pennsylvania have become a lightning rod for partisanship and nonsense.**

As an independent-minded voter here, you might have questions about how elections *really* work, and what you'll see on your ballot this year.

We want to help you cut through the noise and cast a vote that's best for you. We don't care about your politics or your views on any particular policy. That's your personal choice. We just want to make sure your vote this Nov. 5 is based on the facts and context you need.

This strictly nonpartisan guide will highlight some key races, demystify the voting process, and give you the information you need to cast a ballot and make sure it counts.



## KEY ELECTIONS



### U.S. SENATE

**Why it matters:** U.S. senators vote on critical legislation that can guide millions of dollars to your local roads and bridges, community redevelopment, clean water, and more; confirm federal judges including Supreme Court justices; and represent their state on the national stage.

**Candidates:** Bob Casey, Democratic incumbent; Leila Hazou, Green; Dave McCormick, Republican; Bernard Selker, Constitution; John C. Thomas, Libertarian.

**Key issues:** Inflation and rising prices for food and other consumer items are central concerns —

Casey blames corporate greed, while McCormick points the finger at federal spending. On abortion, Casey voted in favor of codifying protections into law. McCormick in 2022 said he supported banning abortion except when the mother's life is at risk; he now says he doesn't support a national ban.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Why it matters:** The attorney general represents the interests of the state and the public, and defends Pennsylvania's laws in court. In recent years, the office has defended the results of the 2020 presidential election against numerous attempts to overturn them.

**Candidates:** Robert Cowburn, Libertarian; Eugene DePasquale, Democrat; Justin Magill, Constitution; Eric Settle, Forward; Dave Sunday, Republican; Richard L. Weiss, Green.

**Key issues:** DePasquale says he would prosecute hate crimes against LGBTQ people, oppose efforts to suppress votes, oppose book bans, and protect abortion access. Public safety and the opioid epidemic are Sunday's top priorities. He does not believe the state constitution guarantees a right to abortion access.

#### AUDITOR GENERAL

**Why it matters:** The auditor general monitors how public dollars are spent, to catch fraud and graft if they occur. The office does this by conducting financial audits, and monitoring whether state-funded programs are doing what they're supposed to.

**Candidates:** Eric Anton, American Solidarity; Tim DeFoor, Republican incumbent; Alan Goodrich, Constitution; Malcolm Kenyatta, Democrat; Reece Smith, Libertarian.



Learn more about the candidates.



#### TREASURER

**Why it matters:** State revenue is deposited into the Treasury, and the office is responsible for using it to pay state bills for things like contracts and workers. The treasurer also invests state savings, and sits on the boards of Pennsylvania's two massive public sector pension funds.

**Candidates:** Troy Bowman, Constitution; Nick Ciesielski, Libertarian; Chris Foster, Forward; Stacy Garrity, Republican incumbent; Erin McClelland, Democrat.

#### U.S. HOUSE

**Why it matters:** Pennsylvania has 17 representatives in the U.S. House — nine Democrats and eight Republicans. They vote on critical federal legislation focused on tax cuts, climate change, and more; can impeach federal officials including the president; and conduct the official count of electoral votes.

#### PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

**Why it matters:** Pennsylvania has one of the largest, most expensive full-time legislatures in the country. State lawmakers make critical policy decisions about the minimum wage, tax cuts, public education, and more. This election will determine whether Democrats retain control of the state House or if Republicans take it back. The Republican-controlled state Senate is less competitive.



After the 2020 presidential election and in the years since, Pennsylvania's voting process — in particular, its mail voting law — has come under intense scrutiny and been the subject of several court challenges. As a result, many people are confused by the process.

## ARE VOTING MACHINES SECURE?

Politicians in the past few elections have promoted fabricated claims about how they work or taken advantage of routine problems to cast doubt on their security and accuracy.

In Pennsylvania, all voting systems produce paper ballots that can be audited. This allows election officials to verify the accuracy of the outcome long after voting has concluded.

## WHAT ARE POLL WATCHERS?

Poll watchers are selected by candidates and political parties represented on the ballot. They are permitted to observe the key components of the election process: the preparation of voting equipment, polling place proceedings, and election workers counting ballots.

## ARE MAIL BALLOTS SAFE TO USE?

Pennsylvania election officials have safeguards in place to verify the identity of people who request and cast mail ballots. Many counties also follow guidance from the Department of State to secure ballots and track who handles them.

## WHAT ARE E-POLLBOOKS?

E-pollbooks replace the paper booklets that contain voter registration information that people generally see when they sign in at their polling place. They make Election Day operations much easier for poll workers and speed up key processes. But like most election technology, they are potentially vulnerable to hacking if officials do not have safeguards in place.

We're here to help you separate fact from nonsense. Have more questions? Our Elections 101 series covers everything from recounts to fraud.





Frequently  
Asked  
Questions

### WHEN DO POLLS OPEN?

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. As long as you are in line to vote by 8 p.m., you are entitled to cast a ballot.

### WHERE DO I VOTE?



You can find your polling location on the Pennsylvania Department of State website.

### DO I NEED AN ID TO VOTE?



If this is your **first time voting** or your **first time voting since changing addresses**, you'll need to bring proof of identification. This can include any government-issued ID, such as a driver's license or U.S. passport, a utility bill or bank statement that includes your name and address, or a military or student ID.

### CAN I VOTE BY MAIL?



Any registered voter can request a mail ballot. **The deadline to do so is Oct. 29.** Apply and get more info from the Department of State.

# VOTE

**ELECTION  
DAY**

**Tuesday  
November  
5<sup>th</sup>**

VOTE



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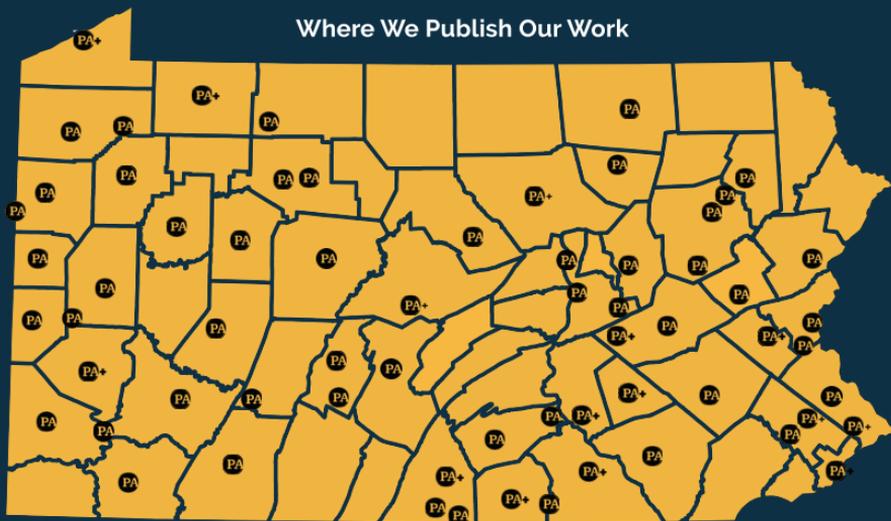
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### Where We Publish Our Work



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Design: Piper R. Lyman