



## League Of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

### INFORMATION ON THE 2018 ELECTION YEAR IN DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA THE MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> PRIMARY ELECTION THE NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ELECTION



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## 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, there are several ways to register. At [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) you may not only register online but also check, change or update your current registration. You may also register at your Voter Registration Office, all State and Federal agencies, and the 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](http://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?

#### FOR THE PRIMARY

Last day to REGISTER before the May 15<sup>th</sup> election . . . . . April 16th  
Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot . . . . . May 8th  
Last day for Boards of Elections to receive voted absentee ballots. . . May 11th

#### FOR THE GENERAL

Last day to REGISTER before the November election . . . . . October 9th  
Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot . . . . . October 30th  
Last day for Boards of Elections to receive voted absentee ballots. . . . Nov 2nd

**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](http://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx)

Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Days.

**WHAT** offices will you be voting for?

The Pennsylvania constitution specifies that in 2018 elections will be held for the following offices:

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Half the State Senators (Delaware County will select 2 State Senators in 2018: Districts 26 and 8)

All the State Representatives (in Delaware County, 11 State Representatives will be selected.)

One of the two U.S. Senators from Pennsylvania will be elected

All the U.S. Congressional Representatives. Delaware County residents will select their Representative from the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as defined by a recent order of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

A list of the candidates in the primary and in the general election is available from the League of Women Voters ([www.lwvcdc.org](http://www.lwvcdc.org)) and from the county Bureau of Elections website (go to [www.co.delaware.pa.us](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us), click on *departments*, then *bureau of elections*, then *candidates list*).

Within a month before the election 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

### 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 ten (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, either by mailing or hand delivering it to the Delaware County Bureau of Elections, 201 West Front Street, Media, PA 19063. It should be received by the Bureau of Elections by 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election. Pennsylvania State law prohibits anyone other than the voter from hand delivering their voted absentee ballot, 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>

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Websites to consult for further information:

[www.votespa.com](http://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](http://www.co.delaware.pa.us) Delaware County. Click on *departments*, then *Voter Registration or Election Bureau* for information on Delaware County.

[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) The League of Women Voters provides candidate information for many contests.

[www.ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania](http://www.ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania)



## THE OFFICES BEING FILLED IN THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 2018

The state of Pennsylvania allows only voters who have registered as members of the Democratic and Republican parties to vote in primary elections. Those voters will receive a ballot for their party at the polling place which includes all those seats which are specified by PA law, whether or not they are being contested. Write-in candidates will also be allowed.

In the state of Pennsylvania the governor and lieutenant governor run independently of one another in the Primary, but in the General election a single vote can be cast only for the team of governor and lieutenant governor candidates who have won their primary.

# PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONTESTS

Like the federal government, Pennsylvania government has three branches: the executive, the judiciary and the legislative. The Pennsylvania state legislature consists of two bodies: a house of representatives and a senate, housed in the State Capital building in Harrisburg, PA. A piece of legislation must be approved by both houses and signed by the governor before it becomes law. Five executive officers, all members of the state legislature and all judicial officials are elected by the citizenry. In 2018 each Pennsylvania voter will select two executive officers, and one state representative and half of them will elect one state senator.

## THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Two of Pennsylvania's five elected state executives are up for re-election in 2018: the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. The other three elected officials, the Treasurer, the Attorney General and the Auditor General, will be up for re-election in 2020. All five are elected for four-year terms

## THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Every one of the 203 state representatives stands for election in even-numbered years from single-member districts. Each representative represented approximately 60,000 Pennsylvanians in 2012. The house of representatives is presided over by a Speaker from the majority party. The salary of a representative is \$86,478.50, plus a "per diem" of \$179. The rules under which the 2018 House operates may be found at <http://www.house.state.pa.us/rules/2018HouRules.pdf>



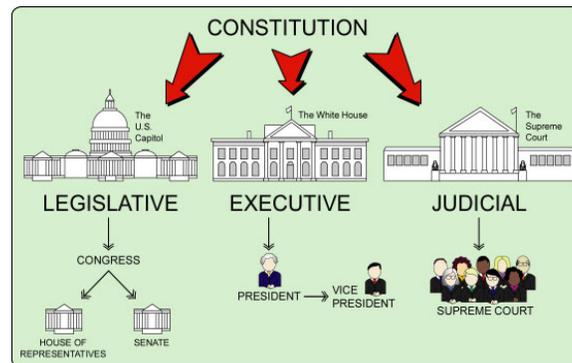
## THE STATE SENATE

The 50 members of the Pennsylvania state senate are elected from single-member districts for four year terms. Half of them are elected in each even-numbered year. The 2018 salary of a state senator is also \$86,478.50, plus a "per diem" of \$179. The senate is presided over by the lieutenant governor who has no vote except in the event of an otherwise tie vote.



## FEDERAL CONTESTS

The elected members of the federal government are all the members of the legislative branch (Congress), and the president and vice president, who run as a team.



## UNITED STATES SENATOR

Each state in the United States elects two members at large to the U.S. Senate, making it a body of 100 members. Senators from a given state are elected in different even-numbered years and serve for a term of six years. Their annual salary is \$174,000. The presiding officer of the Senate is the [Vice President of the United States](#), and, in his absence, the [President Pro Tempore](#), who is customarily the senior member of the party holding a majority of seats. Thirty three seats will be up for election in 2018, when Pennsylvania will elect only one senator.

## UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Each state is assigned a number of representatives based upon the most recent population census, making a total of 435 voting members. Congressional Representatives are elected from single-member congressional districts — as drawn according to state law- representing approximately 700,000 people. Delaware County has been recently assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in a new map prepared by

the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The average annual salary of each Representative is \$174,000. The Speaker of the House and the Majority and Minority Leaders earn more: \$223,500 for the Speaker and \$193,400 for their party leaders.



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS URGES YOU TO EXERCISE YOUR CITIZEN RIGHT TO VOTE. THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF EVERYONE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS THE BASIS OF OUR DEMOCRACY. NO ONE'S VOTE COUNTS MORE THAN YOURS DOES - - IT IS BOTH YOUR PRIVILEGE AND YOUR DUTY. DON'T FORGET.....**

