

Official Notice of Election for Military and Overseas Voters County of Bucks

2017 Municipal Election, November 7, 2017

This is an official notice of a Municipal Election to be conducted on November 7, 2017 in Bucks County. You may register to vote and request an official absentee ballot by using the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA), available at <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca2013.pdf>. You may apply for an absentee ballot by submitting your FPCA by fax to 215-348-6387, or by email to elections@buckscounty.org.

You may request an absentee ballot from this office at any time prior to a primary or election. However, if time does not permit you to receive and return an official absentee ballot, you are also entitled to vote using the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB), available at <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fwab2013.pdf>. Military electors may also use the FWAB to register to vote and vote simultaneously.

You may use the FWAB to vote for **all** state and local offices, and ballot initiatives.

To vote, refer to page 3 of the FWAB.

To vote for state and local offices or for ballot initiatives, write the names of candidates or ballot initiatives in the Addendum section of the FWAB. Under the **Office/Ballot Initiative** heading, enter the office the candidate is running for or the title of the Ballot Initiative (referendum). Under the **Candidate Name, Party Affiliation or Initiative Vote** heading, list the name of the candidate you wish to vote for, or if you are voting on a Referendum question write "yes" or "no."

OFFICES ON THE MUNICIPAL PRIMARY BALLOT – DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN BALLOT (Candidate List will be Posted Late September)

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT -- Vote for One -- All Precincts within Bucks County

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT -- Vote for not more than Four -- All Precincts within Bucks County

JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT -- Vote for not more than Two -- All Precincts within Bucks County

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS -- Vote for One -- All Precincts within Bucks County

DISTRICT ATTORNEY -- Vote for One -- All Precincts within Bucks County

SHERIFF -- Vote for One -- All Precincts within Bucks County

PROTHONOTARY -- Vote for One -- All Precincts within Bucks County

RECORDER OF DEEDS -- Vote for One -- All Precincts within Bucks County

COUNTY CONTROLLER -- Vote for One -- All Precincts within Bucks County

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE -- Vote for One -- Magisterial Districts:

07-1-04, 07-1-08, 07-1-09, 07-1-10, 07-1-12, 07-2-01, 07-2-05, 07-3-03

SCHOOL DIRECTOR MAYOR BOROUGH COUNCIL COUNCIL SUPERVISOR TAX COLLECTOR

TREASURER AUDITOR JUDGE OF ELECTIONS INSPECTOR OF ELECTIONS

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
AMENDING THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT EXCLUSION**

Ballot Question

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to permit the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction, rather than limit the exclusion to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property, which is the existing law?

Plain English Statement of the Office of Attorney General

The purpose of the ballot question is to amend Article VIII, Section 2(b)(vi) of the Pennsylvania Constitution to permit the General Assembly to pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to increase the amount of assessed value of homestead property that may be excluded when determining the real estate tax owed for homestead property. If the ballot question is approved, the General Assembly could then pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property when calculating the real estate tax owed on homestead property.

The Pennsylvania Constitution currently permits the General Assembly to pass a law authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude only a portion of the assessed value of homestead property when determining the amount of real estate tax owed. Under current law, the amount of assessed value that may be excluded from taxation cannot exceed one-half the amount of the median assessed value of all homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction. Local taxing authorities may not increase the millage rate of its real property tax to pay for homestead property exclusions.

The effect of the ballot question would allow the General Assembly to pass a law increasing the amount of assessed value that local taxing authorities may exclude from real estate taxation for homestead property. Currently, local taxing authorities can exclude from taxation only up to one-half the amount of the median assessed value of all homestead property located in the local taxing jurisdiction. But if the ballot question is approved, the General Assembly would have authority to pass a law permitting local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property. Local taxing authorities would continue to be prohibited from increasing the millage rate of its tax on real property to pay for the homestead exclusions.

The ballot question, by itself, does not authorize local taxing authorities to exclude up to one-hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of each homestead property from real estate taxation. Local taxing authorities could not take such action unless and until the General Assembly passes a law authorizing them to do so. The ballot question authorizes the General Assembly to pass that law.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT RETENTION ELECTION

Shall Thomas G. Saylor be retained for an additional term as Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT RETENTION ELECTION

Shall Debra Todd be retained for an additional term as Justice of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT RETENTION ELECTION

Shall Jacqueline O. Shogan be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS RETENTION ELECTION

Shall Diane E. Gibbons be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 7th Judicial District, Bucks County?

Richland Township Supervisors Referendum

Should two additional Supervisors be elected to serve in this Township?

Plain English Version:

“The ballot question asks the voters of Richland Township whether the Township Board of Supervisors should continue to consist of three (3) elected Supervisors or if it should be expanded to consist of five (5) elected Supervisors?”

