

THE PHA Experience

A Community Newspaper For & About Residents



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Stakes Are High in Pennsylvania, where a U.S. Senate Seat is Up for Grabs

Pennsylvania voters have a lot of stake this year as the election of their U.S. Senator could help determine which party will control the U.S. Senate in 2025.

The seat currently is held by Bob Casey Jr., a Democrat who first took office in 2007. He faces well-financed opposition from Republican David McCormick, along with a number of independent and third-party candidates.

In all, 34 of 100 Senate seats are up for election, including one special election. Of the seats up for election in 2024, Democrats hold 19, Republicans hold 11, and independents hold four. Eight



members of the U.S. Senate have announced they were not running for re-election.

Continues on Page 7

America Votes 2024: Will Affordable Housing Move Forward, or Be Left Behind?

On November 5, 2024, Americans will vote for a president who will set an agenda for the country.

The presidential contenders offer different plans for improving the daily lives of Pennsylvanians.

Although voters consistently rank affordable housing as a major concern, some candidates for elective office have not unveiled plans to address the crisis.

The Philadelphia Housing Authority has pulled together information on candidates' positions and priorities.

Continues on Page 3



Remembering the Sacrifices of the Past As We Vote



On October 10, 1871, Octavius V. Catto, a Black educator, baseball player, and civil rights activist, was murdered by a white supremacist on a Philadelphia street. That tragic day marked the

first time in decades that Black males had been legally allowed to vote, having attained that right following the passage of the 15th Amendment.

In the intervening decades, a lot changed. In 2020, the number of Black Americans eligible to vote for president reached a record 30 million, with more than one-third living in nine of the nation's most competitive states – Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, according to Pew Research.

One wonders what Catto, a Republican, might think of our City, which is led by Mayor Cherelle Parker, an African American woman. What emotions might he have felt if he could have watched as African Americans stood for hours in long lines to cast ballots and elect a president four years ago.

As Philadelphians prepare to head to the polls on Nov. 5, 2024, much is at stake. Pennsylvanians will vote for a president, a U.S. Senator, and state and local representatives, among other crucial offices.

The candidates on the ballot express deep differences on major issues such as affordable housing and housing subsidies; crime, public education and economic opportunity.

As a major battleground state, voters in Pennsylvania again could determine the winner of the presidential election.

The Philadelphia Housing Authority does not endorse candidates for public office. As a non-partisan organization, we seek to educate rather than persuade.



Photo by Samantha Madera

PHA's election guide provides information on the major candidates as well as checklists to help you plan to vote, request an absentee ballot, and even find a ride to the polls. Please share this information with your family and friends.

In the year in which we will mark the 153rd anniversary of Catto's death, let's vote for the candidate with the imagination and creativity to end the housing crisis.

In my years as President and CEO, I have learned the importance of listening to our residents, and have seen how your insights can improve public housing programs and policies.

With so much at stake, I urge you to develop a plan to vote on November 5, 2024.

We are the solution to the problems facing the low-income communities in our city. Not voting isn't an option: our future and that of our children is at stake. We must be part of the change we seek and your right to vote is the first step in that process. Please use it wisely and vote your interests.

We have the power of the vote, and it is our time to stand up for democracy.

Kelvin A. Jeremiah
President & CEO

We Are Here to Help

PHA Headquarters is again open to walk-in traffic during normal business hours.

IMPORTANT PHA CONTACTS

Contact	Phone Number
PHA Customer Service Center	215 684-4000
PHA Office of Public Safety (Administrative Office)	215 684-4840
PHA Office of Public Safety (Emergencies)	215 684-1911
Maintenance (Business Hours)	215 684-8920
Maintenance (After Hours)	215 684-1911
Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program FSS coordinator	215 684-5309
PHA Section 3 Resource Center	215-684-8926

FSS is a program which coordinates housing assistance with other resources to assist families to achieve economic self-sufficiency. Participation generally lasts five (5) years, during which participants identify educational, professional, and personal goals.

PHA Section 3 Resource Center **215-684-8926**

The PHA Section 3 Resource Center helps PHA residents and those receiving housing assistance find their place in today's economy by increasing skill and educational opportunities and connecting them to decent jobs, postsecondary training, entrepreneurship workshops, and homeownership.

To schedule an appointment for career training enrollment opportunities, email the Workforce Center at vaux@pha.phila.gov.

Where can I access the Public Housing Customer Service Portal?

You may access the Customer Service Portal by going to the PHA Home Page (www.pha.phila.gov) and clicking the banner for the Public Housing Customer Service Portal.

Who Will Be the Next President?

Continued from front page:



(Democratic ticket)

Vice President Kamala Harris

Key Goal: Eliminate Housing shortages and build 3 million new homes

Running Mate: Tim Walz

On January 20, 2021, Kamala Harris was sworn in as Vice President – the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to serve in this position.

Vice President Harris and her running mate, Governor Walz, recognize that there are many marginalized communities that have faced, historically and currently, systemic barriers in accessing economic opportunities, including quality affordable housing, which is especially true for minority communities. They understand all too well that every family, whatever their background, their race, their geographic location or zip code should have access to quality affordable housing of their choice. To address these disparities, The Harris-Walz campaign announced its blueprint to provide first time homebuyers with \$25,000 toward a down payment; give families up to \$400 a month to help



with a mortgage; and to build 3 million units of affordable housing to lower costs for homebuyers and renters. Housing advocates say the Harris-Walz proposal, while ambitious, is practical and places housing affordable as a critical part of the federal agenda.

It also includes strategies for making the housing market fairer and more equitable.

Building upon the Biden-Harris administration's proposed \$20 billion innovation fund, the campaign also proposes a \$40 billion fund that would support local innovations in housing supply solutions, catalyze innovative methods of construction financing, and empower developers and homebuilders to design and build affordable homes.

The campaign plan cites the Biden-Harris administration's ongoing actions to support the lowest-income renters, including its efforts to expand rental assistance for veterans and other low-income renters, increase housing supply for people experiencing homelessness, enforce fair housing laws, and hold corporate landlords accountable.



(Republican Ticket)

Former President Donald Trump

Key Goal: Rebuild American Cities

Running Mate: J.D. Vance

Donald Trump's housing platform promises to reduce mortgage rates by slashing inflation; promoting homeownership through tax incentives and support for first-time buyers, and cutting unnecessary regulations that raise housing costs.

During a speech to the Economic Club, former President Trump promised to reduce regulations and open swaths of federal land for large-scale housing construction. "Regulation costs 30% of a new home, and we will open up portions of federal land for large-scale housing construction," he said. "These zones will be ultra-low tax and ultra-low regulations—one of the great small business job creation programs."

The Republican Party's 2024 platform lists housing affordability under a section devoted to "bringing back the American dream." To help new home buyers, Republicans plan to reduce mortgage rates by slashing inflation.



Ben Carson, HUD Secretary under Trump, said that Trump's strategy also lowers housing costs for individuals by addressing government overregulation.

"We got rid of over 2,000 regulations and subregulations," Carson said. "Those are the kinds of things that really help. You probably heard about the multifamily luxury dwelling that was made for the homeless in Los Angeles recently, \$600,000 per unit. The reason that it's so expensive is not because the technology doesn't exist to create affordable housing, but because the number of regulations that you stack on takes something that maybe costs \$150,000 and drives it up to those kinds of ranges. What we need to do is reevaluate some of the regulations. We have things that are duplicated and just not necessary. And if we do that, I think we can come up with a solution."

According to the website Politico, Trump also has said he is against placing low-income housing in the suburbs.

It is important to note that, as President, Trump proposed drastic cuts to federally funded housing programs including Choice neighborhood and low-income public housing.

Protecting the Right to Vote in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's upcoming general election will determine which political party controls key state offices such as Auditor General, Attorney General and Treasurer. These offices will make decisions affecting the rights and the quality of life for millions of Pennsylvanians, including policies on unclaimed funds, voting rights, election integrity, fraud, and fiscal transparency.

PA Attorney General:
The Pennsylvania Office of 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.



Dave Sunday

Republican Dave Sunday was elected York County District Attorney where he leads a team that prosecutes approximately 9,000 criminal cases annually. He says his work experiences have given him the background necessary for this job. He has experience both as a litigator and a prosecutor, including work fighting illegal drugs.

Public safety and the opioid epidemic are two of Sunday's top priorities. As Attorney General, he plans to target supplies of Fentanyl coming into the country, and reduce gang violence. He wants to promote mental health and protect seniors from scams and fraud. He's also said he doesn't believe the state constitution protects the right to abortion access, arguing the decision belongs to the legislature.

During a March debate, Sunday said one of the number one causes of crime is the failure to arrest, charge, and prosecute people for illegal possessions of firearms. "Because until that's done, we are never going to see a change," he said.



Eugene DePasquale

Democrat Eugene DePasquale has served three terms as a State House lawmaker and two terms as State Auditor. DePasquale says his top two priorities reflect the concerns he heard from Democratic primary voters: protecting elections and abortion rights. "My record is clear when it comes to reproductive freedom - I believe women should have complete control over the decisions they want to make with their bodies."

In addition, he pledged to make certain every vote in Pennsylvania will be counted. "As your Attorney General, I will defend every Pennsylvanian's right to vote, make sure the vote is counted, and fight against any voter suppression. Voting should be efficient, easy, and accessible and any interference is a true violation of our natural rights," DePasquale said.

DePasquale said he's committed to addressing violent crime but that the office's reach should go beyond that and expand into areas like environmental and consumer protection.

STATE AUDITOR

The Pennsylvania 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.



Malcolm Kenyatta

Democrat Malcolm Kenyatta is running for Pennsylvania Auditor General and seeking re-election to represent District 181 in Pennsylvania's House of Representatives. "As Auditor General, I will stand up for our workers by creating the first ever Bureau of Labor and Worker Protections and use the power of the office to take on wage theft, employee misclassification, and union busting. Every worker deserves a decent wage and the right to unionize. I'll also protect pension funds by ensuring they are properly funded and managed," he says.

Kenyatta says he is seeking the office "because it's time for the underdog to be the watchdog for Pennsylvania's working families. To ask the tough questions, to help reimagine and streamline government, and to build the coalitions to fix what's wrong."

Kenyatta was first elected to the Commonwealth's House of Representatives in 2018 and has served three consecutive terms.



Timothy DeFoor

Republican Timothy L. DeFoor was sworn in as Pennsylvania's 50th Auditor General on January 19, 2021. He started his career in public service as a Special Investigator with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of Inspector General, where he investigated government and contractor fraud, waste, and abuse within state government. Tim then went on to become a Special Agent with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Attorney

General, investigating Medicaid fraud and illegal prescription drug diversion."

"We have transformed and improved the way we do school audits including public, charter and cyber schools," he says. "Working with the General Assembly, we have advocated for financial literacy to be taught in our schools from K-12 through our "Be Money Smart" financial literacy initiative. Our office has traveled from Erie to Scranton, to Philadelphia, Westmoreland County and counties in between meeting with educators, community leaders, and the financial services industry to discuss the importance of financial literacy being taught to the next generation. My first four years were about transformation and improvement; the next four years will be ensuring the job gets done."

STATE TREASURER



Stacy Garrity

Republican Stacy Garrity, the Pennsylvania Treasurer, assumed office on January 19, 2021.

As the 78th Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Stacy Garrity returned more than \$4.5 billion in unclaimed property to its rightful owners, worked to make education more affordable.

Stacy, who is retired from the U.S. Army Reserve, served three deployments in defense of the United States and was awarded the Bronze Star twice for exceptional service. She received the Legion of Merit before retiring from the Army Reserve with the rank of colonel

While serving in the Army Reserve, she started work as a cost accountant at Global Tungsten & Powders Corp., a global supplier of refractory powders in Towanda, and worked her way up to become the first of two female vice presidents at the company.

Garrity says she is committed

to making it as easy as possible for people to receive unclaimed property which belongs to them. She oversaw the first systemwide upgrade to Treasury's unclaimed property system in more than 15 years, implemented a fast-track return system for simple claims, introduced the use of direct deposit payments, and added Pennsylvania to the national website MissingMoney.com.



Erin McClelland

A native of Western Pennsylvania and a life-long Democrat, Erin McClelland was born, raised, and currently live in a working class steel mill town on the outskirts of Allegheny County. McClelland spent 15 years as a substance abuse and mental health counselor and served as a program manager and director in treatment systems in multiple Western PA counties. In 2003, she began working at the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addiction (IRETA) as their Process

"I have thoroughly enjoyed starting and operating a small business and working to improve government systems, processes, and policies while advocating for our public-sector workers. My experience has taught me, in any large complex adaptive system, it doesn't matter how good your intentions are if you don't have viable systemic answers to two fundamental questions: What problem are you trying to solve and what is the root cause of this problem? The devil lies completely in the details of the policy solutions you implement. And it's time we elect a responsible, honest-broker to oversee the Commonwealth's Treasury who is committed to rebuilding our state's supply chain with transparency and integrity and managing our taxpayer's coffers with diligence and accountability," she said.

Make A Plan to Vote

VOTER REGISTRATION

To register to vote in Pennsylvania, you must:

- Register at least 15 days before the next election.
- Be a citizen of the United States for at least one month before a primary, special, municipal, or general election.
- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and your election district for at least 30 days before the election.
- Be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the election.

You must register to vote at the address where you actually live—your residential address.

If you recently moved, you can register or update your voter registration online

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>



APPLICATION PROCESS

You can complete your voter registration application in as little as 10 minutes.

Before you begin, have your Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT ID card handy. If you don't have one, you can upload a signature or print and sign the form.

Once you submit your application, your county election office will process it.

Your county election office will then send your voter registration card in the mail. If it does not arrive within 14 days, contact your county election office

<https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/vote/contact-us/contact-your-election-officials.html>



ABSENTEE OR MAIL-IN BALLOTS

If you plan to be away from home on Election Day, you may be able to vote by mail-in ballot.

How to Vote and Return Your Mail-In or Absentee Ballot:

- **Mark Your Ballot:** Follow instructions carefully, filling out both sides of each page. Answer every question and don't forget to include the date.
- **Use Official Envelopes:** Place your completed ballot in the yellow envelope marked "official election ballot" without stray marks.
- **Prepare the Return Envelope:** Seal the yellow envelope inside the pre-addressed outer envelope. Sign and date the declaration on the outer envelope.
- **Return Your Ballot:** Deliver it to your county election board by 8 p.m. on election day. If you plan to vote by absentee or mail-in ballot in the 2024 General Election, your completed application must be received by 5 PM on Oct. 29, 2024. Your voted ballot must be returned by 8 p.m. on 11/05/2024.



- Use the QR code to get the mail-in ballot application, or, to learn more. <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/>

PLAN AHEAD

- The first time you vote, you must bring a photo or non-photo ID.
- Use the online form to look up your polling place location.
- Learn about the voting system in your county and see a demo of how it works.
- Review the candidates and measures on the ballot and plan your votes in advance. You can find a sample ballot on your county election office website.

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

Polling locations can change so before you head for the polls, check online to get your polling place. Polling places are open from 7 am to 8 pm. If you are in line at or before 8 pm, you will be allowed to cast your ballot.

Follow these simple steps to find your location:

Visit the Website: Go to PA Voter Services Polling Place Info. <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx>



Enter Your Details:

- County: Philadelphia
- City: Philadelphia
- Street Name: (Name of your street)
- House Number: (if you live in an apartment, include your apartment number)
- Zip Code:

You will be directed to your correct polling location.

WHAT IF YOU NEED HELP VOTING?

If you need help voting, cannot use the voting system, or cannot go to a polling place because of a disability, learn about accessible voting options.

If your name is not in the voter roster and you believe you registered to vote in your precinct, you may have the right to vote on a provisional ballot. Your vote will count if election officials determine that you are eligible to vote.



Dishing the Tea On Candidates

Candidates seeking elective office in November represent America's rich diversity, coming from all walks and stages of life. We have gathered some fun facts that you may not know about them.

How well do you know the candidates?

MEET THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS

Kamala Harris, **Democratic Party Nominee for President:**

-Harris is an accomplished author, having written several books, including "The Truths We Hold: An American Journey."

-She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated

Tim Walz, **Democratic Party Nominee for Vice President:**

- Before entering politics, Walz was a high school geography teacher and a high school coach.

- He was a member of the National Guard, where he served in the Army National Guard for over 20 years.

Donald J. Trump, **Republican Party Nominee for President:**

- Before he was POTUS, Donald Trump was famous for starring on the TV show, The Apprentice. Do you remember his catch phrase? "You're Fired!"

- Trump owns golf courses worldwide and is a serious golfer himself. He even played at his own courses during his presidency.

J.D. Vance, **Republican Party Nominee for Vice President**

-Served in the U.S. Marine Corps

-His memoir "Hillbilly Elergy" was turned into a Netflix movie

U.S. SENATE

Robert P. Casey Jr., **Democratic Party Nominee**

-Robert P. Casey Jr. is an avid Philadelphia Eagles fan who never misses a chance to cheer for his team during football season.

-He's a big movie buff, particularly fond of classic films from the 1970s. During speeches, he often quotes lines from movies like Rocky.

Dave McCormick, **Republican Party Nominee**

-He's known for his love of gadgets and is often seen tinkering with the latest tech toys, from drones to virtual reality headsets.

-Skilled at salsa dancing, he has won several local competitions.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dwight Evans, **Democratic Party Nominee Third Congressional District**

-In his first term, he had one of his bills passed and signed into law, a remarkable accomplishment for a freshman in the minority party. That law is designed to reduce costs for small business owners who apply for a loan through the Small Business Administration.



ATTORNEY GENERAL CANDIDATES

Eugene DePasquale, **Democratic Party Nominee:**

- Eugene DePasquale is an avid runner who has completed multiple marathons. He often uses his training runs to explore new areas of Pennsylvania.

- He adores his pet cat named Shadow.

Dave Sunday, **Republican Party Nominee:**

- Dave Sunday is a US Navy Veteran

- A devoted dog owner, Sunday volunteers at local animal shelters, advocating for pet adoption and fostering rescue dogs in need.

AUDITOR GENERAL CANDIDATES FUN FACTS

Timothy DeFoor, **Republican Party Nominee**

- He is a retired special agent for the office of attorney general

- As the state's current Auditor General, he made history by becoming the first African American elected to a statewide row office.

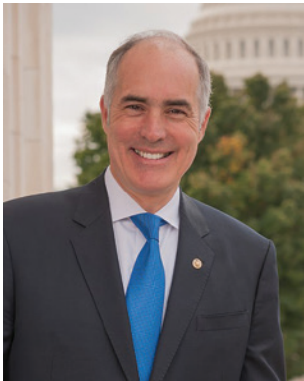
Malcolm Kenyatta, **Democratic Party Nominee**

-Kenyatta was the youngest member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly when he was elected in 2018 at the age of 28.

- He loves his dog, a Frenchie named Cleo, who has her own Instagram page

Will A Housing Advocate Grab the Senate Seat?

Continued from front page:



Bob Casey Jr. (D)

Robert Patrick Casey Jr. is an American lawyer and politician who is the senior United States Senator from Pennsylvania, a seat he has held since 2007. Casey is the son of Bob Casey Sr., a former governor of Pennsylvania

Senator Casey has championed affordable housing, and that includes his strong commitment to housing stability. He has supported the Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant and initiative, which, through PHA, has brought upwards of \$110 million to the City.

“Housing is more than just a roof over your head; it’s the place where safety, well-being, and community start,” Senator Casey said. “As the foundation of a neighborhood, housing determines whether businesses can thrive, the potential of future economic development, and the sense of community that residents feel. I am grateful to Kelvin Jeremiah and the Philadelphia Housing Authority team for their commitment to providing quality housing, revitalizing neighborhoods, and working to build strong communities.”

Pennsylvania’s Congressional delegation, including Casey, have championed housing and sought funding to eliminate homelessness. Their influence helped PHA to get three Choice Neighborhood Grants, which are revitalizing three formerly red-lined communities.



David McCormick (R)

Dave McCormick is an American businessman, politician, a West Point graduate, combat veteran and Bronze star recipient. He served as the CEO of Bridgewater Associates, one of the world’s largest hedge funds, from 2020 to 2022. He served as Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs during the George W. Bush administration.

While launching his campaign in Pittsburgh, McCormick talked about his modest upbringing on a farm in Pennsylvania.

The son of two Pennsylvania teachers (his father, who taught economics at Punxsutawney High School, later served 18 years as chancellor of the State System of Higher Education), he describes himself as a Pennsylvania success story.

He said that after every personal or professional failure, including losing an election, he’s learned from mistakes and moved forward. That’s what leaders do,” he said.

McCormick is promoting a Pro-Family agenda that includes school vouchers, IVF, and some restrictions on late-term abortions.

Among the top priorities: border security, inflation, education, gun rights, election integrity, ending fentanyl addictions, and business innovations.

WHO’S ON YOUR PENNSYLVANIA BALLOT?

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

- KAMALA D HARRIS and TIM WALZ (Democratic)
- DONALD J TRUMP and J.D. VANCE (Republican)
- CHASE OLIVER and MIKE TER MAAT (Libertarian)
- JILL STEIN and RUDOLPH WARE (Green Party)

UNITED STATES SENATOR

- ROBERT P. CASEY JR. (Democratic)
- DAVE MCCORMICK (Republican)
- JOHN C. THOMAS (Libertarian)
- LEILA HAZOU (Green Party)
- MARTY SELKER (Constitution Party)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

- EUGENE DEPASQUALE (Democratic)
- DAVE SUNDAY (Republican)
- ROBERT COWBURN (Libertarian)
- RICHARD L. WEISS (Green Party)
- JUSTIN L. MAGILL (Constitution Party)
- ERIC L. SETTLE (Forward Party)

AUDITOR GENERAL

- MALCOLM KENYATTA (Democratic)
- TIM DEFOOR (Republican)
- REECE SMITH (Libertarian)
- ERIC K ANTON (American Solidarity Party)
- BOB GOODRICH (Constitution Party)

STATE TREASURER

- ERIN MCCLELLAND (Democratic)
- STACY GARRITY (Republican)
- NICKOLAS CIESIELSKI (Libertarian)
- TROY BOWMAN (Constitution Party)
- CHRIS FOSTER (Forward Party)



Casey Visiting Choice Neighborhood

Democracy Is Calling *Will You Answer?*

Becoming a poll worker is a valuable way to contribute to the democratic process by helping ensure that elections run smoothly and fairly. Poll workers manage the voting process on Election Day. They open voting machines, check in voters, keep people voting, and close up at the end of the night.

Those interested in filling these positions must attend training and work on Election Day from 6:15 AM until election materials are picked up from the polling place sometime after 8:00 PM. Appointed Poll Workers must be qualified electors of Philadelphia and meet all other qualifications required of election board officers.

Will I Get Paid?

- Judges of Election are paid \$205 for working on Election Day.
- Majority Inspectors, Minority Inspectors, Clerks, and Machine Inspectors are paid

\$200 for working on Election Day.

- Bilingual Interpreters are paid \$180 for working on Election Day.

Workers in all positions also receive \$50 for attending training and \$30 for the poll book refresher if they work on Election Day. Bilingual interpreters are also needed at various locations. .

Voters interested in working on Election Day should complete the online form found [here](#). Scan the QR code to complete an Online form.

Please note that submitting your information to be considered for a Poll Worker Position does not guarantee you a position on Election Day.



Don't Believe the Hype!

Don't be fooled by the people who want to keep you from voting.

Registered voters have been receiving mail that gives them a false date for the presidential election.

Keep these facts close at hand so you are in the know:

KEY FACTS:

- Election Day will be held on November 5, 2024. **DO NOT BELIEVE ANYONE WHO TELLS YOU THE ELECTION DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED.**
- If you are registered to vote, you have a right to vote. To report any election concerns (such as intimidation, interference, illegal voting, or unlawful electioneering), please contact the District Attorney's Election Task Force at 215-686-9641.

PHA has put together a list of websites you can use to verify election information and materials that come your way.

Recommended Fact-Checking Websites:

- **FactCheck.org**
Provides factual analysis of political claims in the United States.
- **PolitiFact.com**
Rates the accuracy of statements by elected officials and others who speak up in American politics.
- **Snopes.com**
Debunks urban legends, rumors, and misinformation on a wide range of topics, including politics.

Voting IDs for First-Time Voters

When voting at a polling place for the first time, you must show proof of identification. Learn more about the types of ID you can show.

Approved forms of photo identification include:

- Pennsylvania driver's license or PennDOT ID card
- ID issued by any Commonwealth agency
- ID issued by the U.S. Government
- U.S. passport
- U.S. Armed Forces ID
- Student ID
- Employee ID

If you do not have a photo ID, you can use a non-photo identification that includes your name and address, including:

- Confirmation issued by the County Voter Registration Office
- Non-photo ID issued by the Commonwealth
- Non-photo ID issued by the U.S. Government
- Firearm permit
- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Current paycheck
- Government check



Convicted Felons and Misdemeanants

Even if you have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor or are in pretrial detention you may be able to vote.

Can I register and vote?

You can register and vote if you:

- Are a **pretrial detainee**, confined in a penal institution awaiting trial on charges of a felony or a misdemeanor.
- Were ever convicted of a misdemeanor.
- **Got released or will get released by the date of the next election** from a correctional facility or halfway house. This must be upon completion of the term of incarceration for conviction of a misdemeanor or a felony.
- Are **on probation or released on parole**. This includes parolees who are living in a halfway house.

- Are **under house arrest (home confinement)**. If this is you, you can vote no matter your conviction status or the status of the conditions of confinement.

Who cannot register and vote?

You are not eligible to register and vote if you:

- Are **currently confined in a penal institution for conviction of a felony** and will not get released from confinement until after the next election. This is even if you are also incarcerated for one or more misdemeanor offenses.
- Are in a **halfway house or other alternative correctional facility on pre-release status for conviction of a felony** and who will not get released until after the date of the next election.
- of violating any provision of the Pennsylvania Election Code

within the last four years.

Where do I register to vote?

If you are in a penal institution, your residence for voter registration is:

- The last address where you registered to vote before confinement, or
- Your last known address before confinement, or
- A new residence established while confined. For example, if your spouse moves to a new address where you intend to live when you get released.

When registering to vote, you cannot use a penal institution or a halfway house as your residence address where you live. However, you may use these locations as an address to get mail.

How will I register to vote?

You can register to vote online or by mail.

Learn how to register to vote.

How will I vote?

If confined in a penal institution, you will vote by absentee ballot.

If you are not confined, you will vote at your polling place. You may vote by absentee ballot if you meet the requirements to request an absentee ballot.

- Learn about voting by absentee ballot.
- Learn about voting at the polling place.
- Contact your county election office for more information.



What is the law?

On December 26, 2000, the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania ruled that the law in Pennsylvania that governs whether people convicted of a felony could vote was not constitutional.

This law used to say that people convicted of a felony could not register to vote for 5 years after their release from prison. This is no longer true.

If you are a person with a felony conviction, you may be able to register to vote. If filling out an old version of the Voter Registration Mail Application (VRMA) form, strike through the felony conviction line at Section 9(2). Then sign your name.

Read and Print the Convicted Felon Brochure.



A Ride to the Polls May Be Just a Phone Call Away

Everyone has the right to vote but some Philadelphians face far greater challenges getting to the polls.

A national study by Harvard University found that the lack of access to an automobile creates a large disparities in person-voting rates. And it can reduce voter turnout.

A coalition of businesses and community and service organizations have banded together to close the gap.

The Lyft Up Voting Access Program is gearing up to help Americans get registered to vote and to the polls.

The program will:

- Offer discounted rides to the polls on November 5, 2024 across the country.
- Donate free or heavily discounted ride codes to nonprofit partners whose communities traditionally face barriers getting to the polls.
- Help riders, drivers, and team members to register, prepare to vote, and understand voting ID requirements.

“Every American citizen should be able to exercise their right to vote without worrying about the cost or difficulty of getting to the polls,” said David Risher, Lyft CEO. “Everyone — from a driver who’s given a thousand rides to a rider who hasn’t taken her first one

yet — deserves to have their voice heard at the polls. Our Voting Access Program is a great way Lyft can be a force for good.”

This year, Lyft will partner with the following groups to hand out discount codes for rides to the polls: The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), National Council on Aging (NCOA), Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote), Hispanic Federation, and The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Follow PHA on social media to get the latest news on the full range of services available.

PHA Connects You to Activities, Voting Updates, and Free Stuff

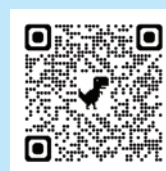
Follow us today to find all the information, opportunities and activities you deserve.



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All 435 seats in the House of Representatives Are Up for Grabs

In the U.S. House of Representatives, congressmen introduce and vote on bills that affect the cost of living, housing costs, and even the availability of rental assistance.

The House of Representatives, with all 435 seats up for election on Nov. 5, 2024, will be key in shaping policies that address the housing crisis, inflation, and even the barriers that can prevent families from moving into the middle class.

There are three congressional districts that represent all or a portion of Philadelphia.

DEMOCRATIC CONTENDERS

Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District

Incumbent Representative Brendan Boyle (D) will face off against Aaron Bashir (R).



Brendan Boyle

Democratic Party Candidate

In 2014, Brendan Boyle (D) campaigned for and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Two years later, he co-founded the Blue Collar Caucus, a testament to his dedication to addressing wage stagnation, job insecurity, trade, offshoring, and reduced career opportunities for those in the manufacturing and building trades. The Urban League and Congressman Brendan Boyle have teamed up to secure a \$360,000 grant to help people stay in their homes or move into new homes. The money will be used

for the Urban League's Housing Counseling program, which supports city residents trying to avoid homelessness and displacement. The program also moves people into homes through a financial education component and tenant rights workshops to prevent evictions and foreclosures.

Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District



Dwight Evans

Democratic Party Candidate

Incumbent Rep. Dwight Evans (D) is running unopposed.

Dwight Evans, a Democrat, credits his strong family roots with shaping his political philosophy and beliefs. "After my parents split, I watched day in and day out as my mother did everything that she could to keep us fed, clothes on our backs, and a roof over our heads. She led by example that hard work could lead you to a better life and that you must roll up your sleeves to get things done. She is an inspiration to me and my siblings." Evans told the Committee of Seventy Election Guide that he came from the governing wing of the Democratic Party. "That means getting things done for the constituents I represent, and I have a proven track record. Whether it was working with a Republican State Senator to secure funding for the nation's first state-run CHIP program or the private/public funding program Fresh Food Financing Initiative that builds grocery stores in

food deserts passed with bipartisan support in Harrisburg. I continue to reach across the aisle to find common ground and build from there. My Victims Act legislation has both Democratic and Republican support in the House and Senate. It certainly isn't easy in Washington, but I keep at it every day. Evans also seeks to create more economic opportunities that translate into good-paying and family-sustaining jobs for Philadelphians. While in Congress, he has helped to secure funding for all three of PHA's Choice Neighborhood Initiatives.

Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District



Mary Gay Scanlon

Democratic Party candidate

Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon has dedicated her career to serving the most vulnerable — first as a lawyer and now in Congress. She was first sworn into the U.S. House of Representatives on November 13, 2018, following a special election, and currently represents Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District. Her legislative priorities include voting rights, access to justice, education, supporting economic growth for her region, common sense gun safety, women's rights, and ending hunger. All of these priorities align with Congresswoman Scanlon's main goals as an elected official: protecting and improving the lives of America's children, families, veterans, and seniors. A staunch

believer that everyone is entitled to equal protection under the law, Congresswoman Scanlon previously worked as national pro bono counsel at a major U.S. law firm, where she directed and supervised

THE REPUBLICAN CONTENDERS

The Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District



Aaron Bashir

Republican Party candidate

Aaron Bashir describes himself as a faithful and committed Christian. He said his calling is to serve others. "I have been a visible, passionate and dedicated servant leader in my community, working tirelessly to improve my neighbors' lives." He lists the following issues as his top priorities on the non-partisan Committee of Seventy's website. 1. Securing the borders. 2. Improving the economy and changing the tax and spending policies that he said have resulted in record levels of inflation. 3. Preserving the Constitution and returning the United States to the Judeo-Christian values upon which the Country was founded.

The Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District



Alfeia Goodwin

Alfeia Goodwin describes herself as the proud daughter of Turner DeVaughn and Bernice DeVaughn- Mills, a "Freedom Rider" during the civil rights movement in Philadelphia. She holds a Master's degree and a PhD in Public Policy from Walden University, specializing in Terrorism Mediation and Peace. Her academic credentials are further complemented by a Master of the Arts of Religious Study from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts from Thomas Edison University. Goodwin has served as a member of the Philadelphia Police Department, where, according to her bio, she was assigned to the 39th, 3rd, and 6th Districts and received numerous accolades, including commendations for heroism and merit. She belongs to a family where military and public service are shared values. With over 20 years of service in the U.S. Armed Forces, she has held various roles, including chaplain for the military police, and currently serves in the New Jersey National Guard.

PHA Residents Are Leading the Change

Willie Wells
Resident Leader at Nellie Reynolds Garden and member of the Resident Advisory Board.

Willie Wells is afraid that if he doesn't show up at the polls, he could lose the rights his generation gained during the civil rights movement.

"We must vote, get out, and try to protect our rights," Wells said. "You can't let somebody take everything from you and leave you with nothing. . . Young people don't always know the importance of it because they don't know anything about their rights. They took all the history away in school. They don't know how important it is to continue to vote so things don't go back to the way it was."

Wells said he plans to vote and make sure that his neighbors can exercise their rights. "Sometimes I take some people to their voting place and bring them back home. So, that's part of my duty."

He also is encouraging his neighbors to show up at the polls. "Like I said, all my lifetime, I'm 75 years old. Vote! Whoever hears this statement, please get out there and vote! Do your thing. Show your weight."

Linda Johnson
PHA Resident Leader
Wilson Park Apartments

As an adult, Linda Johnson has voted in every presidential election. "I started voting when I was 21 years old and now I'll be

74, and I'm still voting," she said.

The ongoing campaigns to ban books, rewrite history and play down Black achievements have energized her this year.

"When you don't vote and you say, 'Well my vote doesn't count,' it affects all of us as a whole."

As she goes to the polls this year, there are several issues that stand to impact her community such as the Social Security shortfall, the protection of the Affordable Care Act and Medicare funding levels. "We also need to get young people involved so that they can learn to take over when the elders step down," she said.

Johnson cares deeply about his community, which is another reason she plans to show up at the polls. "Our people died, fought hard. And I remember, as a child, seeing them being beaten up, the icon, John Lewis getting busted while marching for voting rights. And now the Supreme Court, and other people, are trying to take my rights away."

Judith Mitchell
PHA Resident Leader at Gladys B. Jacobs Manor and Majority Poll Inspector for her Division

PHA resident Judith Mitchell has a vital role on Election Day. She has been elected as a Majority Inspector for her voting division. These officials administer the elections in each of the 1,703 divisions throughout Philadelphia.



Philadelphians rely on them to maintain the integrity of the election and help voters.

"Well, the majority inspector has a lot of responsibility," Mitchell explained. "She works with the judge to set up the polls and get all the paperwork. She or he manages the computers that the voters come to vote on. She and the minority inspector actually operate those computers. But if the judge is ill or doesn't show up, she or he has a responsibility that the judge would normally have. The majority inspector also helps voters."

This year, with threats of voter intimidation and concerns about election security, the role is more important than ever.

Mitchell, who has been the Majority Inspector for four years, believes the 2024 election will be a turning point for the United States. "It's important for me to

Voting makes things happen in your neighborhood, with new street lights and getting the streets fixed. So, we need to work together to find solutions to those problems. And your vote means that you're helping to help us solve this problem!"

- Judith Mitchell

vote because there are issues that are facing, not just African-Americans or brown people, but everybody in the United States, no matter their religious orientation or the color of their skin. Everyone needs to become involved. Your vote does matter. If you have a candidate running for office, a State Representative or Senator or President, you need to be involved to ensure the right person comes in. We need someone who is going to be aware of the challenges

that face our country and the challenges that face us from outside our country.

"Just make sure you vote. Your vote is important. Don't ever say, 'Oh, it's just that one vote. It doesn't matter. There have been presidents who were voted in with as little as a three or four-vote margin (at polls). So, it's important. Not only that, but your vote is important for your children, your grandchildren, your great-grandchildren.

OUR HOMES, OUR VOTES, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Vote on November 5th

**On November 5, 2024,
Philadelphia voters will elect a
President and a U.S. Senator**



Polls are open 7am - 8pm

Last day to register to vote:
October 21, 2024.

The last day to request a mail-in
or absentee ballot: **October 29, 2024.**

If you have questions or problems,
call the election hotline at **215-686-1590**
or the Philadelphia District Attorney's office
at **215-686-9641** for assistance on election day.

