

# Official Notice of Election for Military and Overseas Voters County of Lawrence

2019 Municipal Election (November 5, 2019)

This is an official notice of an election to be conducted on 11/5/2019 in Lawrence County. You may register to vote and request an official absentee ballot by using the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA), available at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com) or [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). You may apply for an absentee ballot by submitting your FPCA by fax to (724) 656-1987, or by email to [lcvote@co.lawrence.pa.us](mailto:lcvote@co.lawrence.pa.us).

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). Military electors may also use the FWAB to register to vote and vote simultaneously.

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

To vote, refer to page 3 of the FWAB.

To vote, write in the name of the candidate of your choice in the space provided on 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 questions write "yes" or "no."

## MUNICIPAL BALLOT

**JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT** -- Vote for One (1) -- All Precincts within Lawrence County

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** – Vote for Two (2) -- All Precincts within Lawrence County

**COUNTY CONTROLLER** – Vote for One (1) – All Precincts within Lawrence County

**COUNTY TREASURER** – Vote for One (1) – All Precincts within Lawrence County

**PROTHONOTARY** – Vote for one (1) – All Precincts within Lawrence County

**CORONER** – Vote for One (1) – All Precincts within Lawrence County

**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE 53-1-1 AND 53-3-4** Vote for One (1) in each District – All precincts within each District

### **NEW CASTLE CITY OFFICES**

Mayor – Vote for One (1) – New Castle Precincts

City Controller – Vote for One (1) – New Castle Precincts

City Member of Council -- Vote for Three (3) – New Castle Precincts

**BOROUGH OFFICES**

Member of Council -- Number and Terms can vary (due to vacancies) by Borough

**TOWNSHIP OFFICES**

Supervisor – Number and Terms can vary (due to vacancies) by Township

Auditor – Number and Terms can vary (due to vacancies) by Township

**SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

In the various School Districts

Number varies by School District and terms can vary due to vacancies

**RETENTION QUESTIONS**

Shall Anne E Lazarus be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? Yes or No

Shall Judy Olson be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? Yes or No

Shall Kevin Brobson be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Commonwealth Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? Yes or No

Shall Patricia A McCullough be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Commonwealth Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? Yes or No

Shall J. Craig Cox be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 53<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District, Lawrence County? Yes or No

**HOME RULE CHARTER INITIATIVE**

Shall a government study commission of seven members be elected to study the existing form of government of the City of New Castle, to consider the advisability of the adoption of a home rule charter and, if advisable, to draft and recommend a home rule charter? Yes or No

**GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSIONER** – Vote for Seven (7) – All precincts within the City of New Castle

**CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION****CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS***Ballot Question*

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to grant certain rights to crime victims, including to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity; considering their safety in bail proceedings; timely notice and opportunity to take part in public proceedings; reasonable protection from the accused; right to refuse discovery requests made by the accused; restitution and return of property; proceedings free from delay; and to be informed of these rights, so they can enforce them?

## *Plain English Statement of the Office of Attorney General*

The proposed amendment, if approved by the electorate, will add a new section to Article I of the Pennsylvania Constitution. That amendment will provide victims of crimes with certain, new constitutional rights that must be protected in the same way as the rights afforded to individuals accused of committing a crime.

The proposed amendment defines “victim” as both a person against whom the criminal act was committed and any person who was directly harmed by it. The accused or any person a court decides is not acting in the best interest of a victim cannot be a victim.

Generally, the proposed amendment would grant victims the constitutional right to receive notice and be present and speak at public proceedings involving the alleged criminal conduct. It would also grant victims the constitutional right to receive notice of any escape or release of the accused and the right to have their safety and the safety of their family considered in setting the amount of bail and other release conditions. It would also create several other new constitutional rights, such as the right to timely restitution and return of property, the right to refuse to answer questions asked by the accused, and the right to speak with a government attorney.

Specifically, the proposed amendment would establish the following new rights for victims:

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- *To be treated with fairness and respect for the victim’s safety, dignity and privacy*
  - *To have the safety of the victim and the victim’s family considered in fixing the amount of bail and release conditions for the accused*
  - *To reasonable and timely notice of and to be present at all public proceedings involving the criminal or delinquent conduct*
  - *To be notified of any pretrial disposition of the case*
  - *With the exception of grand jury proceedings, to be heard in any proceeding where a right of the victim is implicated, including, but not limited to, release, plea, sentencing, disposition, parole and pardon*
  - *To be notified of all parole procedures, to participate in the parole process, to provide information to be considered before the parole of the offender, and to be notified of the parole of the offender*
  - *To reasonable protection from the accused or any person acting on behalf of the accused*
  - *To reasonable notice of any release or escape of the accused*
  - *To refuse an interview, deposition or other discovery request made by the accused or any person acting on behalf of the accused*
  - *Full and timely restitution from the person or entity convicted for the unlawful conduct*
  - *Full and timely restitution as determined by the court in a juvenile delinquency proceeding*
  - *To the prompt return of property when no longer needed as evidence*
  - *To proceedings free from unreasonable delay and a prompt and final conclusion of the case and any related postconviction proceedings*
  - *To confer with the attorney for the government*
  - *To be informed of all rights enumerated in this section*
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The proposed amendment would allow a victim or prosecutor to ask a court to enforce these constitutional rights but would not allow a victim to become a legal party to the criminal proceeding or sue the Commonwealth or any political subdivision, such as a county or municipality, for monetary damages.

Once added to the Pennsylvania Constitution, these specific rights of victims cannot be eliminated, except by a judicial decision finding all or part of the amendment unconstitutional or the approval of a subsequent constitutional amendment. If approved, the General Assembly may pass a law to implement these new, constitutional rights, but it may not pass a law eliminating them. If approved, State and local governments will need to create new procedures to ensure that victims receive the rights provided for by the amendment.