



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, October 22, 2023

Ready to Vote in the 2023 Municipal Election?

The 2023 Municipal Election is **Tuesday, November 7**, and it's especially important in Philadelphia as we will choose our city's next Mayor and Council At-Large members.

As Pennsylvanians, we will also cast our votes for a new state Supreme Court justice, as well as for new judges to sit on Commonwealth and Superior Courts. Voters will also decide whether two appellate judges on Superior Court should get another term. Judges play a crucial role in ensuring our state's laws are fair, just, and in line with our values.

Voting Deadlines in Pennsylvania

Monday, October 23 is the last day you can **update your voter registration and register to vote** in this election, and you can do so by clicking [here](#).

Tuesday, October 31 is the deadline if you plan on **voting by mail-in or absentee ballot**. Your application for one of these ballots must be received by your county election board by 5 p.m. on that date. Apply for one of these ballots [here](#).

If you plan on voting in-person on election day, make sure you know where **your polling place** is. Click [here](#) to find out.

A complete guide to who is on the ballot, when to vote, how to vote, where to vote, casting mail ballots & more can be found here at <https://whyy.org/articles/pa-general-election-2023-voter-guide/>.

“Using our voices to fulfill our civic duty and vote in every election makes a difference in our communities – and our world. **Your vote is how you can speak up for our common home and our neighbors.** Voting is how we create a society based on our shared values.” (Interfaith Power & Light)

A Note on Closed Primaries

During this November general election, all registered voters can vote for any candidate.

However, Pennsylvania is one of nine states that has closed primaries, meaning only registered Democrats and Republicans can vote for candidates during partisan spring elections. This means only those voters have a say in which candidates from those parties will face off in the November election, **excluding the 1.2 million people in Pennsylvania who are registered to a third party or who are unaffiliated.** This includes nearly two-thirds of young voters who don't identify with either major political party.

On October 17, the Pennsylvania House State Government Committee **approved two bi-partisan measures, HB 976 and HB 979, that would end closed primaries in Pennsylvania.** Both bills now advance to the full House for consideration. Stay tuned.

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.