

## **Vote for Krasner, Butkovitz. We also recommend judges.**

It's just two days now until we nominate candidates for two critically important offices in Philadelphia. We urge you to make a plan **now** to go to your polling place Tuesday, May 16th, between the hours of 7 AM and 8 PM and vote for **Larry Krasner for District Attorney** (ballot number 57) and **Alan Butkovitz for City Controller** (ballot number 62.) At the end of this email, you'll also see our recommendations for the judicial positions that are on the ballot.

## **Why We Support Krasner and Butkovitz, and How To Help Them in Northwest Philadelphia.**

Krasner would be a transformational D.A., one whose commitment to reversing the shameful mass incarceration policies of our City is reflected in his lifelong service to the cause of civil rights. And Butkovitz has been a relentless watchdog over the provision of services to our City, exposing waste, criminality and fraud on a wide variety of fronts. For more detail on why we've endorsed these outstanding candidates, please [check out our website](#).

Important Note: NN is running an intense Get Out the Vote effort for both of our candidates in Northwest Philly. If you'd like to knock on doors for them right in your neighborhood, or work for them at your own polling place on Tuesday, just [click this link](#) and we'll get right back to plug you in.

Let's defy the odds and get all of our voters out on Tuesday. In the age of Trump, we can make a difference by electing progressive local candidates to protect our rights and fight with us to make the change we need. Northwesterners: [Help Get Out the Vote -- please click this link](#).

## **The Judicial Races**

Focusing hard on the races for District Attorney and Controller, Neighborhood Networks did not fully vet judicial candidates on the 2017 primary ballot. Given that, we did not formally endorse any candidates. However, we have reviewed the information available about them and believe we can state that the candidates listed and described below are worthy of support in the Democratic primary. This is based on publicly available information, comments by progressive lawyers, and endorsements by progressive organizations. We did not list any candidates that are rated not qualified by either of the Bar Associations, because these organizations test basic judicial competence and demeanor.

**SUPREME COURT** (1 opening). Supreme Court justices handle appeals from the Commonwealth Court and the Superior Court. This is the highest court in the Commonwealth. Only one Democratic candidate, *Dwayne Woodruff*, is running for one opening.

**SUPERIOR COURT** (4 openings). This is the intermediate appellate court of general jurisdiction and handles appeals from the lower courts. This court hears appeals in criminal cases, civil cases, and matters involving families and children. There are **five Democratic candidates** running for four positions.

### ***Superior Court Recommendation***

- ***Debora Kunselman*** - (Button #5) From Beaver County; Experience in family law and employment law. Endorsements: Planned Parenthood, highly recommended by Pa. Bar Assn.
- ***Maria McLaughlin*** – (Button #4) Philadelphia Family Court judge since 2012; Considered to be a fair decision-maker. Endorsements: Planned Parenthood, Liberty City Democrats, highly recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.
- ***Gregory Moulton*** – (Button #3) From Montgomery County; Incumbent since 8/16; Highly regarded. Endorsements: Planned Parenthood, Liberty City, highly recommended by Pa. Bar Assn.
- ***Carolyn Nichols*** – (Button #2) Supports reproductive health; background in employment law, housing and worked for the city solicitor; Philadelphia criminal judge since 2011; High ethical standards. Endorsements: Planned Parenthood, Liberty City and Philly for Change, recommended by Pa.Bar Assn.

**COMMONWEALTH COURT** (2 openings). This is also an intermediate appellate court which hears appeals from cases in lower courts; it conducts trials when lawsuits are filed against the Commonwealth as well as hears appeals from decisions of state and local governments and regulatory agencies. There are **six Democratic candidates** running for two positions.

### ***Commonwealth Court Recommendation***

- ***Ellen Ceisler*** – (Button #9). Neighborhood Networks endorsed her for Philadelphia Common Pleas Court where she has been on the bench for 9 years; Criminal law background and evidence expert; Was director of the Police Accountability Office of the Philadelphia Police Dept; Considered to have integrity. Endorsements: Americans for Democratic

Action, Philly NOW, Liberty City, Planned Parenthood, Latino Caucus, Liberty City Democratic Club, recommended by the Pa. Bar Assn.

- **R. Todd Eagen** – (Button #10). Ethical; Background in labor and employment law with an emphasis on representing public sector unions; From Lackawanna County. Endorsements: Planned Parenthood, Liberty City Democratic Club, Americans for Democratic Action, recommended by the Pa. Bar Assn.

**COMMON PLEAS COURT** (9 openings). This is Pennsylvania's court of general trial jurisdiction which consists of three divisions: Trial Division (criminal matters), Family Court, and Orphans Court. **27 Democratic candidates** are competing for 9 open positions.

### **Common Pleas Court Recommendation**

- **Wendy Barish** (button #29) Works for Housing Authority; years advocating for women and underprivileged; incarcerated father; disabled sister; did employment defense work. Endorsements: Americans for Democratic Action, Philly NOW, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.
- **Lucretia Clemons** (button #40) Appointed to the Court by Governor Wolf; employment lawyer. Endorsements: Philly for Change, Liberty City, Philly NOW, Americans for Democratic Action, Guardian Civic League, AFL-CIO, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.
- **Vicki Kristiansson** (button #14) Public interest attorney; experience in family law; former Philadelphia public school teacher. Endorsements: Philly For Change, Liberty City Democratic Club, Philly NOW, Americans for Democratic Action, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.
- **Jennifer Schultz** (button #32) Community Legal Services attorney who works to prevent foreclosures and predatory lending; specializes in consumer rights. Endorsements: Americans for Democratic Action, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.
- **Zac Shaffer** (button #31) General law practice focusing on courtroom litigation and representation in union matters. Endorsements: Philly for Change, Philly NOW, Liberty City, many unions, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.
- **Henry Sias** (button #18) First openly male trans candidate in USA; bright and progressive. Endorsements: Philly For Change Philly NOW, Liberty City, Reclaim Philadelphia, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.

- **Dan Sulman** (button #24) Appointed a common pleas judge by Governor Wolf; law clerk and master in Family Court for many years. Endorsed Philly NOW, Americans for Democratic Action, Liberty City, numerous unions, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.
- **Stella Tsai** (button #13) Appointed by Governor Wolf; Asian-American. Endorsements: Liberty City, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.

**MUNICIPAL COURT** (2 openings) This court handles minor criminal offenses (with maximum sentences of less than five years), civil cases in which the amount is \$10,000 or less (Small Claims) or \$15,000 or less (real-estate cases), and Landlord-Tenant cases. Municipal Courts are also responsible for preliminary hearings in criminal felony cases. **Six Democratic candidates** are running for two open positions.

### **Municipal Court Recommendation**

- **Marissa Brumbach** (button #45) Law clerk for 20 years; private practice of providing free and low cost legal services to the indigent and her community; criminal lawyer; outstanding negotiator. Endorsements: Philly For Change, Americans for Democratic Action, Philly NOW, Guardian Civic League, Liberty City, AFL-CIO, recommended by Philadelphia Bar Assn.

### **Resources Consulted**

- AFL-CIO
- Americans for Democratic Action
- Committee of Seventy
- Guardian Civic League
- Liberty City
- National Lawyers Guild, Philadelphia Chapter, Survey of Practitioners
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Philly for Change
- Philly National Organization for Women
- Planned Parenthood
- Reclaim Philadelphia