




Lancaster  
Chamber

# Elections Guide



2025  
General Election

# Introduction

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**At the Lancaster Chamber, we believe a strong community and thriving economy are built on the foundation of informed and active citizenship.** That's why we are committed to promoting civic learning and engagement through a non-partisan approach that equips every Lancasterian with the knowledge and tools to make confident decisions in local, state, and federal elections. This Municipal Election Guide reflects our ongoing effort to foster a culture of civic responsibility across Lancaster County by providing clear, accessible, and impartial information that empowers voters to take an active role in shaping their communities.

While municipal elections may not draw the same spotlight as national races, the outcomes have a direct and lasting impact on daily life — from public safety and infrastructure to education, housing, and economic growth. The leaders chosen at the local level make decisions that affect us all, including setting property tax rates, determining fire and EMS service accessibility, enacting traffic and parking ordinances, and more.

This guide offers a clear overview of what's on the ballot, how to vote, where to find reliable information about candidates and issues, and how to stay engaged beyond Election Day. Whether you're a first-time voter or a long-time participant in our democratic process, our hope is that this resource helps you feel prepared, empowered, and inspired to participate.



## Questions?

**Reach out to Kat DeSantis**

Public Policy Manager

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# Important Dates

## Key Dates for the 2025 Municipal General Election

### October 20

Last day to register to vote for the general election. [vote.pa.gov/register](https://vote.pa.gov/register)

Scan this  
QR Code



To vote in the municipal election, you must register by this date. You are eligible to register if:

- You have been a U.S. citizen for at least one month before the election;
- You have been a resident of Pennsylvania and your election district for at least 30 days before the election;
- You will be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day.

You can also update your registration if you have moved, changed your name, or wish to change your political party affiliation. Register or update your information at: [vote.pa.gov/register](https://vote.pa.gov/register)

### October 28

Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot. [vote.pa.gov/mailballot](https://vote.pa.gov/mailballot)

Scan this  
QR Code



Applications for mail-in or absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 PM. Registered voters can:

- Apply online,
- Download and mail an application, or
- Apply in person at the Lancaster County Office of Elections.

Apply here: [vote.pa.gov/mailballot](https://vote.pa.gov/mailballot)

### November 4

Polls open from 7am-8pm. [vote.pa.gov/mailballotstatus](https://vote.pa.gov/mailballotstatus)

Scan this  
QR Code



- Mail-in and absentee ballots must be received by the Lancaster County Office of Elections by 8:00 PM on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.
- Ballots can be mailed to: P.O. Box 2139, Lancaster, PA 17608
- Voters may also drop off their own ballots in person at: 150 N Queen St, Suite 117, Lancaster, PA 17603

Track your ballot status at: [vote.pa.gov/MailBallotStatus](https://vote.pa.gov/MailBallotStatus)

# What's on the Ballot?

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## PA Superior Court Judge

Reviews appeals in most criminal and civil cases from county courts.

There are 15 judges who serve 10-year terms. Their decisions can impact statewide legal precedents.

## PA Commonwealth Court Judge

Handles cases involving state and local governments, including laws about taxes, elections, labor, and land use. Also hears lawsuits involving or against the state. Judges serve 10-year terms.

## Magisterial District Judge

Oversees small claims, traffic offenses, landlord-tenant disputes, and preliminary criminal hearings.

## Lancaster County Offices:

- **Controller:** Manages audits and county finances.
- **Recorder of Deeds:** Maintains real estate and property transaction records.

## Local Government Offices:

- **Mayor:** The mayor serves as the chief executive officer of a city, overseeing city departments and implementing policies. At the borough level, the mayor is the chief law enforcement officer and helps shape local ordinances.
- **City Council:** City council members legislate and make decisions on city ordinances, budgets, and policies.
- **Borough Council:** Similar to city councils but for boroughs, these councils handle local governance and community affairs.
- **Auditor:** The auditor reviews and monitors the financial operations of local government entities to ensure transparency and accountability.
- **Township Supervisor/Commissioner:** These officials manage township operations, including zoning, infrastructure, and community services.
- **Tax Collector:** Responsible for collecting local taxes, including property and income taxes, to fund municipal services.
- **Judges of Election:** These officials oversee the conduct of elections at polling places, ensuring that voting procedures are followed and that the election is fair.

## School Board

School board members govern public school districts, making decisions on budgets, policies, curriculum, and staffing.



Scan this QR Code to view the candidate listing for Lancaster County.



# How Do I Vote in a General Election?



## If you're voting in-person...

- First, find your polling location. If you've recently moved, make sure your voter registration is updated so you're assigned to the correct polling place.
- Plan what time you'll go and how you'll get there. In Pennsylvania, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you're in line by 8 p.m., you have the right to vote.
- Know what to bring. If it's your first time voting at a particular polling place, you'll need to show ID; acceptable forms include a driver's license, U.S. passport, student ID, or utility bill with your name and address.



Scan this QR Code to  
find your polling place!

Ask yourself **WHEN**  
you plan to vote:

Add it to your  
calendar today!

Ask yourself **HOW**  
you plan to vote:

By mail or on  
election day?

## If you're voting by mail-in ballot, follow these steps:

- All registered voters in Pennsylvania are eligible to vote by mail—no excuse needed. Applications for mail-in ballots are available in multiple languages and should be submitted as early as possible to ensure enough time to receive, complete, and return your ballot before the deadline.
- Once completed, your mail-in ballot can be returned by mail or delivered in person to the Lancaster County Board of Elections. To be counted, it must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

## Here's how to vote by mail step by step:

- Once you receive your ballot, carefully follow the instructions to mark your choices.
- Place your completed ballot in the secrecy envelope labeled "official election ballot," then seal it.
- Insert the secrecy envelope into the official return envelope, making sure to complete and sign the back. Unsigned ballots may not be counted.
- Return your ballot by 8 p.m. on Election Day. You can mail it to: P.O. Box 2139, Lancaster, PA 17608 or drop it off in person at: 150 N Queen St., Suite 117, Lancaster, PA 17603. Voters must return their own ballot; ballots submitted by others will not be accepted. at 150 N Queen St. Suite 117 Lancaster, PA 17603.



Scan this QR Code to check  
the status of your mail-in ballot

# Voter Information

## Check your registration status

Use your name, your PennDOT Driver's License, or PennDOT ID.

[pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx](http://pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx)

Scan this  
QR Code



## You can register to vote if you're:

- ✓ A U.S. citizen at least 30 days before the next election.
- ✓ A resident of Pennsylvania and your election district for at least 30 days before the next election.
- ✓ At least 18 years of age on the day of the next election.

Check your registration status using your name, your PennDOT Driver's License, or PennDOT ID.

## Incarcerated Voters & Returning Citizens:

In Pennsylvania, you only lose your right to vote if you are currently incarcerated for a felony conviction.

If you lost your voting rights because of a conviction, you could register to vote immediately after release.

Your voting rights are not restricted by pretrial detention, misdemeanors, probation, or parole.

Note: This does not apply if you have been convicted of a violation of the Pennsylvania Election Code.

## Voters Without Traditional Residence:

If you do not have a street address or a permanent residence, use the map on the back of the voter registration form to show where you live or spend most of your time, with landmarks and road names.

If you do not receive mail at your residential address, the mailing address on their registration form can be a PO box, local shelter, advocacy organization, outreach center, or the home of someone who will accept mail for you.

# How to Stay Informed & Engaged

Civic engagement doesn't end at the ballot box. Staying informed and involved in local decision-making helps build a stronger, more responsive community.

## Ways to stay engaged year-round:

- **Attend or watch public meetings** (e.g., city council, school board, planning commission): Stay up-to-date on local decisions by attending meetings in person or watching livestreams. Check out the Impact Update newsletter for a list of upcoming municipal meetings!
- **Sign up for newsletters or alerts from your municipality:** Many local governments offer email updates or text alerts about meetings, policy changes, and emergency notifications.
- **Participate in forums, town halls, or candidate debates:** These events are great opportunities to ask questions, hear from local leaders, and learn more about issues that matter to your neighborhood.
- **Share your ideas or concerns with local leaders:** Most municipalities offer easy ways to submit feedback on things like potholes, streetlight outages, development ideas, or zoning questions. You can usually do this online, by phone, or at public meetings.
- **Attend community events:** Fairs, festivals, open streets, and neighborhood gatherings are a fun way for the whole family to connect with neighbors, local leaders, and community organizations.
- **Become a Poll Worker:** You can make sure we have safe, fair, and efficient elections by becoming a poll worker – you must be 18 years old and a registered voter in Pennsylvania.



### Impact Update Newsletter:

*Scan QR Code to Sign up for our e-newsletter  
to stay up-to-date on all pre- and post- elections insights!*



# Resources

Here are trusted resources where you can find accurate, up-to-date election information:

- **Pennsylvania Voter Services:**  
[vote.pa.gov](https://vote.pa.gov)
- **Lancaster County Office of Elections:**  
[co.lancaster.pa.us/164/Voter-Registration-Board-of-Elections](https://co.lancaster.pa.us/164/Voter-Registration-Board-of-Elections)
- **View the candidate listing for Lancaster County:**  
[lancastercountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17916/Candidate-Listing-Nov-2025-Municipal-Election?bidId=](https://lancastercountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/17916/Candidate-Listing-Nov-2025-Municipal-Election?bidId=)
- **Check out your personalized sample ballot:**  
[vote411.org/ballot](https://vote411.org/ballot)
- **Apply to be a poll worker:**  
[paebprod.powerappsportals.us/EBR/DOS/Votes-PA-County/](https://paebprod.powerappsportals.us/EBR/DOS/Votes-PA-County/)



**Lancaster Chamber**

## Vision:

Lancaster County. A thriving community for all.

## Mission:

Create the environment, facilitate partnerships, and lead on issues that elevate business success.

## Core Values

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Serve</b>   | We commit to a culture of service.  |
| <b>Connect</b> | We maximize connections that grow networks and accelerate business success. |
| <b>Solve</b>   | We approach all issues with a solution-oriented mindset.                    |
| <b>Lead</b>    | We pledge to lead on behalf of the business community.                      |



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