

The Case for Regional Appellate Court Districts

*a 50-year review of individuals serving on
Pennsylvania's Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth Courts*

Compiled by Rep. Russ Diamond

in support of House Bill 196

Two Counties Disproportionately Dominate Pennsylvania's Appellate Courts

Despite accounting for just 21.8 percent of Pennsylvania's total population, jurists from Philadelphia and Allegheny counties disproportionately dominate the state's appellate court system.

Currently, 54.5 percent of all state appellate court seats, including four of seven Supreme Court justices (57.1 percent) and 11 of 16 Superior Court judges (68.8 percent), are held by residents of Allegheny and Philadelphia counties. Half (14 of 28) were elected from Allegheny and Philadelphia counties. Three senior judges appointed to assist with the Commonwealth Court caseload are also residents of these two counties. (*See: list - page 3; map & chart - page 4*)

The disproportionate domination of our appellate courts by Pennsylvania's two most populous counties is not a recent phenomenon. Since 1969, 57.4 percent of all appellate court seats (85 of 148) have been filled by Allegheny and Philadelphia jurists. This figure includes 66.7 percent of all Supreme Court justices and 59.5 percent of Superior Court judges. (*See: lists - pages 5 & 9-12; map & chart - page 6*)

A review of all statewide judicial elections held during the last 50 years reveals that 55.2 percent of seats (53 of 96) have been won by candidates from Allegheny and Philadelphia counties. (*See: map & chart - page 7*)

A total of 52 appointments to appellate courts have been made since 1969. Of those appointees, 31 (59.6%) were from Allegheny and Philadelphia counties. (*See: map & chart - page 8*)

There are two reasons why appointments and incumbency need to be considered in any discussion regarding appellate court elections. First, an interim appointee, as an incumbent, is more likely to win a subsequent elected term of their own. Twelve jurists have gone on to recapture the seat they were first appointed to via the electoral process. Second, it is more likely that a jurist elected to one appellate court will be considered for an appointment to a "higher" appellate court. Eight sitting appellate court jurists have been appointed to seats on other appellate courts.

Additionally, ten individuals who were elected to one appellate court seat have subsequently been elected to serve on a different appellate court. Prior appointment or election to an appellate court seat – due to the disproportionate ratio favoring the two counties in both processes – serves as a multiplying force for the disproportionate dominance of Allegheny and Philadelphia counties in our appellate system.

The typical dynamics of statewide primaries and elections contribute heavily to the disproportionate ratio of individuals from Allegheny and Philadelphia serving on appellate courts. Further, Governors with allegiances to supporters from Allegheny and Philadelphia counties are naturally inclined to select potential appointees for vacancies from those communities.

Regional appellate court elections – as opposed to statewide elections – will go far in halting this disproportional dominance and will allow Pennsylvania's diversity to be more accurately represented when our courts arrive at important legal decisions which impact every citizen in the Commonwealth.

Current Appellate Court Jurists

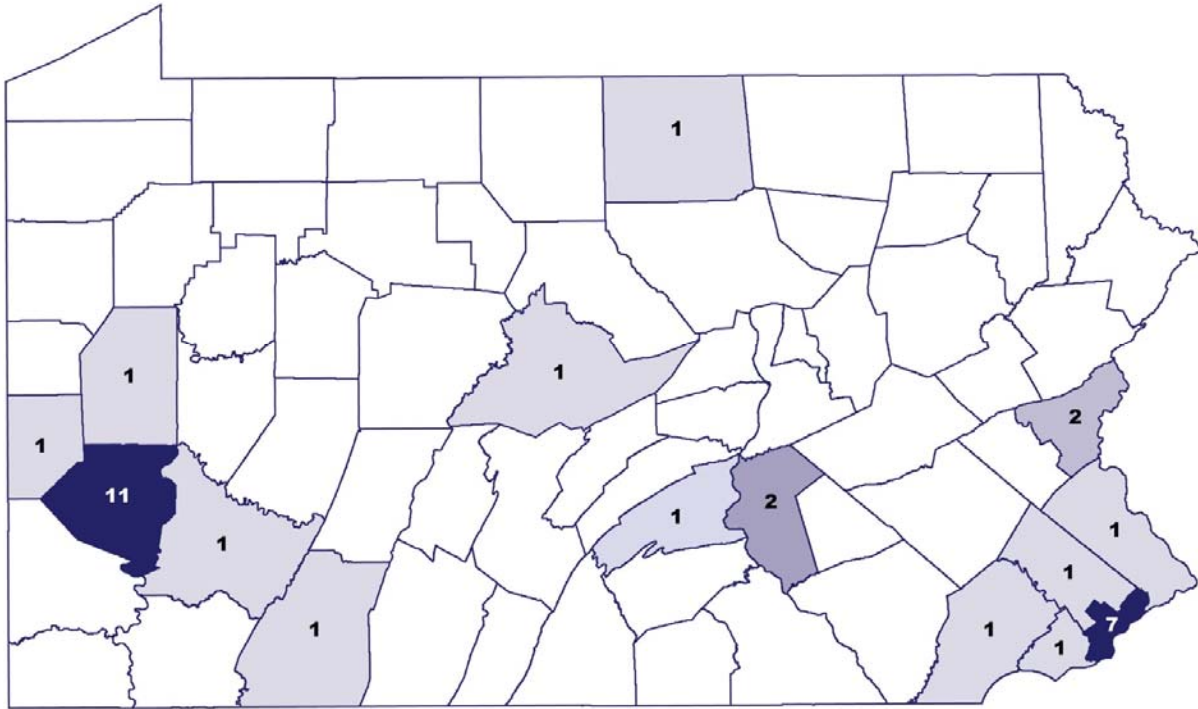
Jurist	Court	County	Sworn In	Elected or Appointed by	Status
John L. Musmanno	Superior	Allegheny	1998	Elected	Senior
Bonnie Brigance Leadbetter	Commonwealth	Montgomery	1998	Elected	Senior
Thomas G. Saylor	Supreme	Somerset	1998	Elected	Current CJ
Mary Jane Bowes	Superior	Allegheny	2002	Elected	Current
Renée Cohn Jubelirer	Commonwealth	Centre	2002	Elected	Current
Mary Hannah Leavitt	Commonwealth	Dauphin	2002	Elected	Current PJ
Robert Simpson Jr	Commonwealth	Northampton	2002	Elected	Current
Max Baer	Supreme	Allegheny	2004	Elected	Current
Jack A. Panella	Superior	Northampton	2004	Elected	Current PJ
Debra Todd	Supreme	Butler	2008	Elected	Current
Jacqueline O. Shogan	Superior	Westmoreland	2008	Elected	Current
Judith Ference Olson	Superior	Allegheny	2010	Elected	Current
Patricia A. McCullough	Commonwealth	Allegheny	2010	Elected	Current
Paula Francisco Ott	Superior	Chester	2010	Elected	Current
Paul Kevin Brobson	Commonwealth	Dauphin	2010	Elected	Current
Anne E. Lazarus	Superior	Philadelphia	2010	Elected	Current
Eugene B. Strassburger III	Superior	Allegheny	2011	Saylor	Senior
Anne E. Covey	Commonwealth	Bucks	2012	Elected	Current
Victor P. Stabile	Superior	Cumberland	2014	Elected	Current
David N. Wecht	Supreme	Allegheny	2016	Elected	Current
Christine Donohue	Supreme	Allegheny	2016	Elected	Current
Michael H. Wojcik	Commonwealth	Allegheny	2016	Elected	Current
Kevin Dougherty	Supreme	Philadelphia	2016	Elected	Current
Alice B. Dubow	Superior	Philadelphia	2016	Elected	Current
Sallie Updyke Mundy	Supreme	Tioga	2016	Elected	Current
Mary P. Murray	Superior	Allegheny	2017	Elected	Current
Deborah A. Kunselman	Superior	Beaver	2017	Elected	Current
Maria McLaughlin	Superior	Philadelphia	2017	Elected	Current
Carolyn H. Nichols	Superior	Philadelphia	2017	Elected	Current
Christine Fizzano-Cannon	Commonwealth	Delaware	2018	Elected	Current
Ellen Ceisler	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	2018	Elected	Current
Dan Pellegrini	Superior	Allegheny	2019	Saylor	Senior
James Gardner Colins	Superior	Philadelphia	2019	Saylor	Senior

Allegheny & Philadelphia County jurists currently comprise:

- 54.5% (18 of 33) of all appellate court jurists
- 57.1% (4 of 7) of all Supreme Court justices
- 68.8% (11 of 16) of all Superior Court judges
- 58.3% (7 of 12) of elected Superior Court judges
- 33.3% (3 of 9) of elected Commonwealth Court judges

CONCENTRATION OF CURRENT APPELLATE COURT SEATS, BY COUNTY

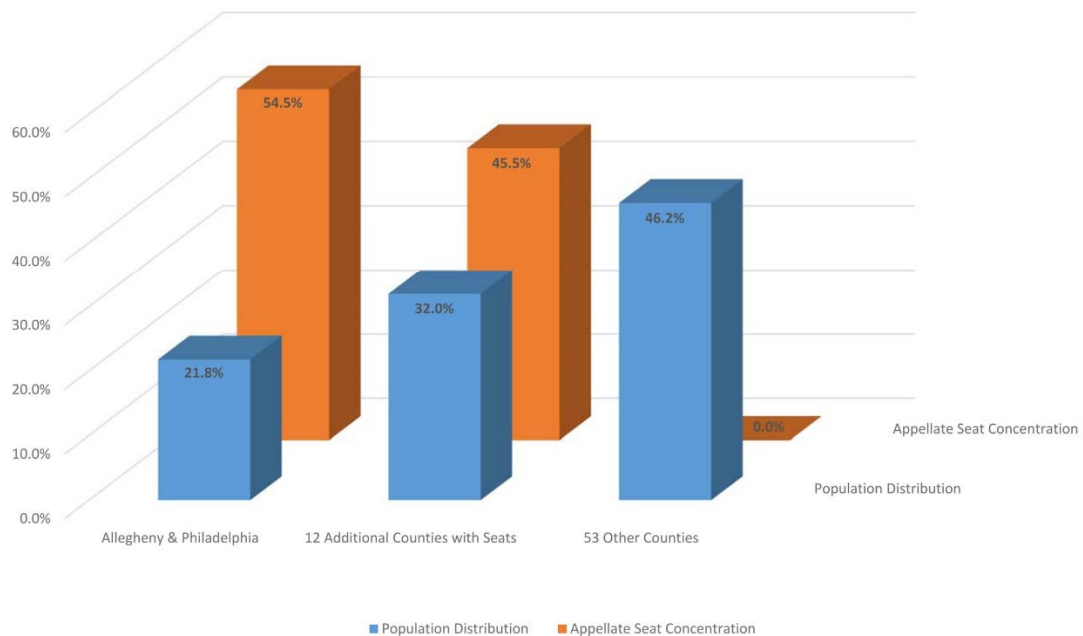
Jurists from Allegheny and Philadelphia counties, with 21.8% of Pennsylvania's population, currently hold 54.5% (18 of 33) of all appellate court seats, while 44 counties are not currently represented on the Commonwealth's appellate courts.



* One individual elected to Superior Court and then subsequently elected to Supreme Court is tallied as 2 in each of these counties.

**Allegheny has had two individuals elected to Superior Court and subsequently elected to Supreme Court (4 total seats).

Population Distribution vs. Current Appellate Court Seat Concentration, by County



Appellate Court Jurists since 1969

All Appellate Court Seats Filled since 1969, by County		All Elected Appellate Court Jurists since 1969, by County		All Appointed Appellate Court Jurists since 1969, by County	
Adams	1	Allegheny	33	Adams	1
Allegheny	44	Beaver	2	Allegheny	11
Beaver	2	Butler	2	Centre	1
Butler	2	Bucks	1	Chester	2
Bucks	1	Centre	2	Clarion	1
Centre	3	Chester	2	Cumberland	1
Chester	4	Cumberland	3	Dauphin	1
Clarion	1	Dauphin	3	Delaware	1
Cumberland	4	Delaware	4	Lehigh	2
Dauphin	4	Erie	1	Luzerne	2
Delaware	5	Lehigh	3	McKean	2
Erie	1	Luzerne	2	Montgomery	2
Lehigh	5	Montgomery	5	Philadelphia	20
Luzerne	4	Northampton	3	Washington	3
McKean	2	Philadelphia	21	Westmoreland	2
Montgomery	7	Schuylkill	1		
Northampton	3	Somerset	2		
Philadelphia	41	Tioga	2		
Schuylkill	1	Westmoreland	4		
Somerset	2				
Tioga	2				
Washington	3				
Westmoreland	6				

Since 1969, Allegheny & Philadelphia County jurists have comprised:

57.4% (85 of 148) of all appellate court jurists

55.2% (53 of 96) of elected appellate court jurists

59.6% (31 of 52) of appointed appellate court jurists

66.7% (22 of 33) of all Supreme Court justices

60.0% (15 of 25) of elected Supreme Court justices

59.5% (44 of 74) of all Superior Court judges

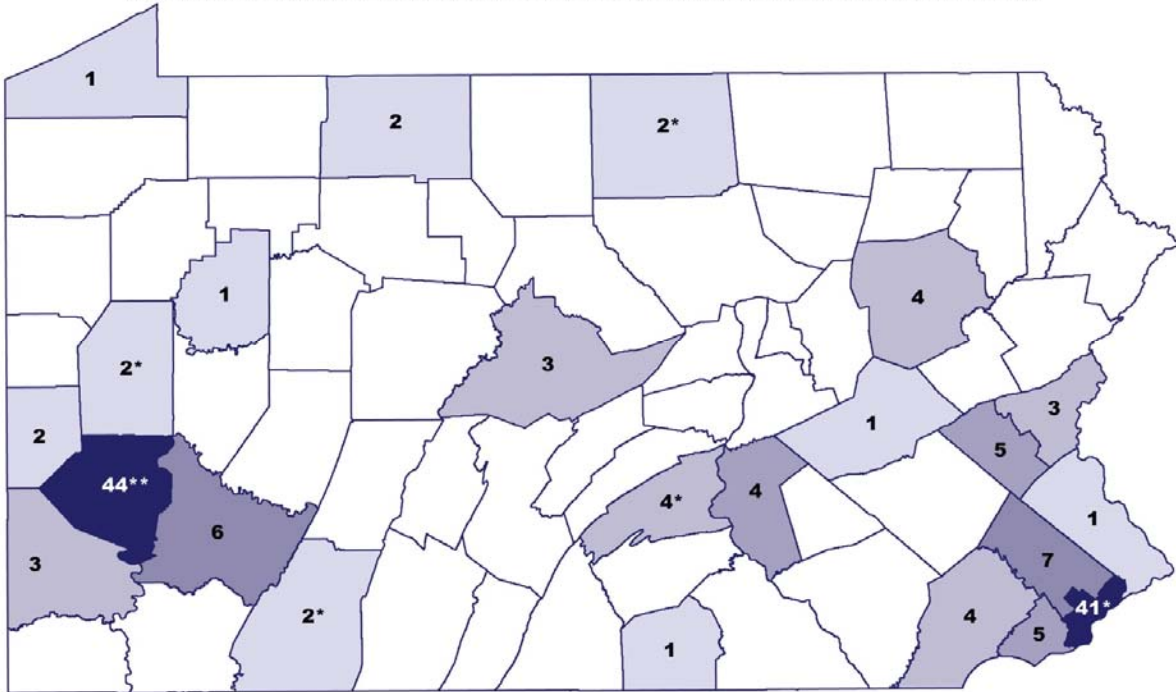
56.9% (29 of 51) of elected Superior Court judges

42.9% (18 of 42) of all Commonwealth Court judges

47.6% (10 of 21) of elected Commonwealth Court judges

CONCENTRATION OF ALL APPELLATE COURT SEATS SINCE 1969, BY COUNTY

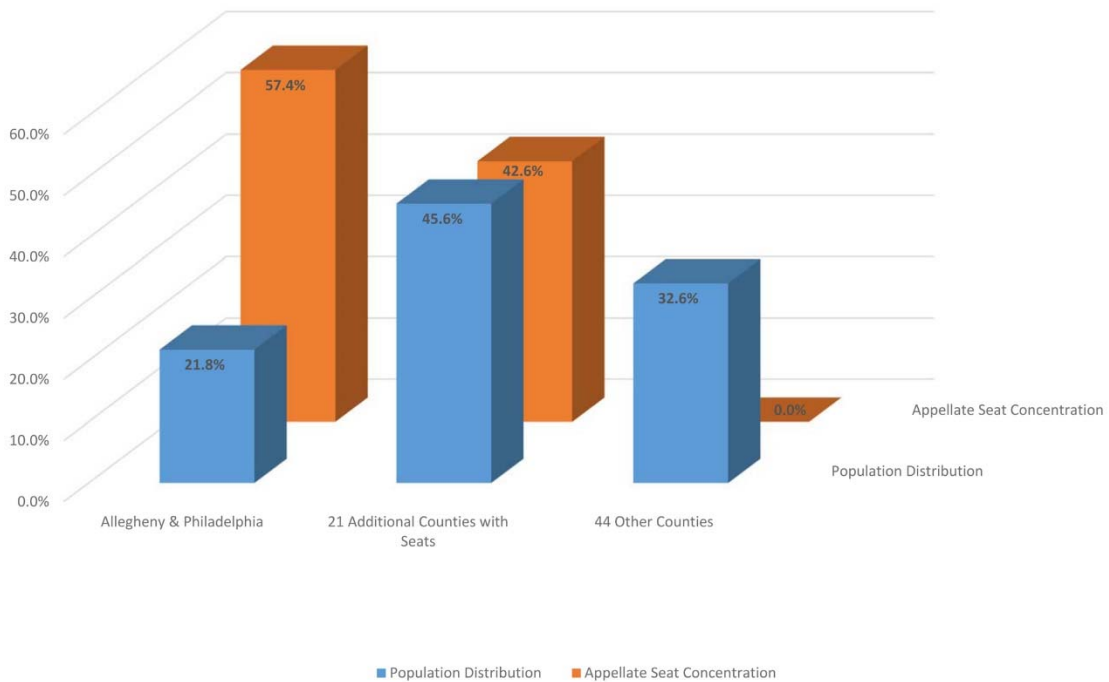
Jurists from Allegheny and Philadelphia counties, with 21.8% of Pennsylvania's population, have held 57.7% (86 of 149) of all appellate court seats, while 44 counties have never been represented on the Commonwealth's appellate courts during the past half-century.



* One individual elected to Superior Court and then subsequently elected to Supreme Court is tallied as 2 in each of these counties.

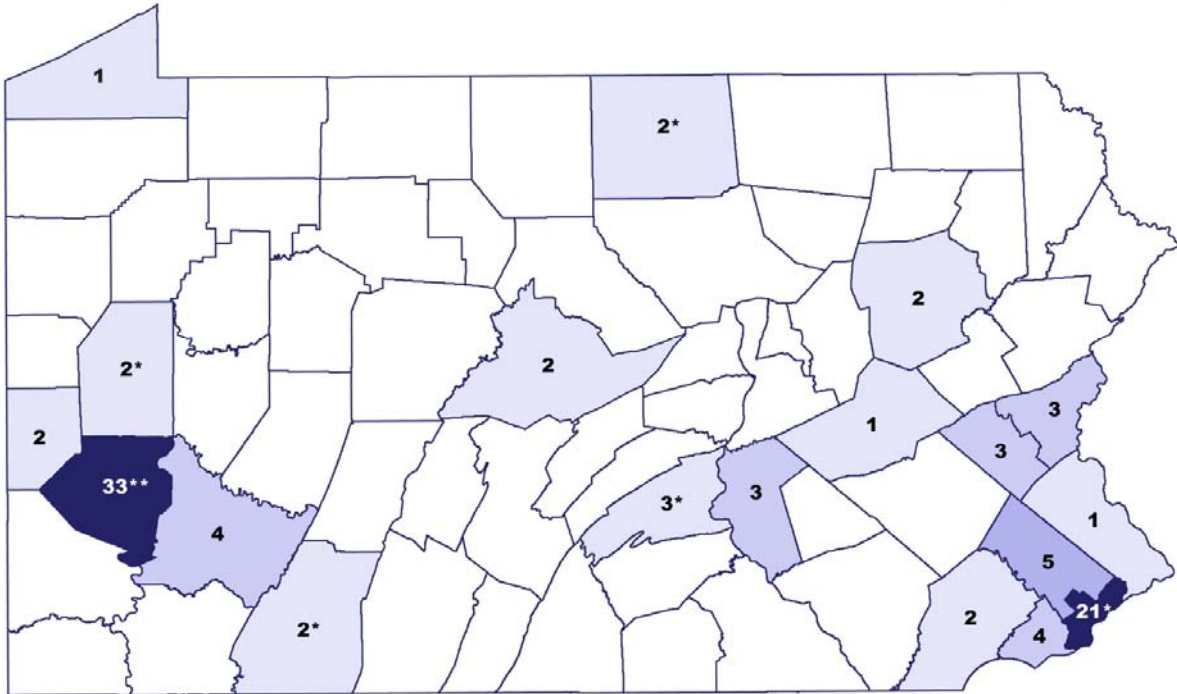
**Allegheny has had two individuals elected to Superior Court and subsequently elected to Supreme Court (4 total seats).

Population Distribution vs. Appellate Court Seat Concentration since 1969, by County



ALL ELECTED APPELLATE COURT JURISTS SINCE 1969, BY COUNTY

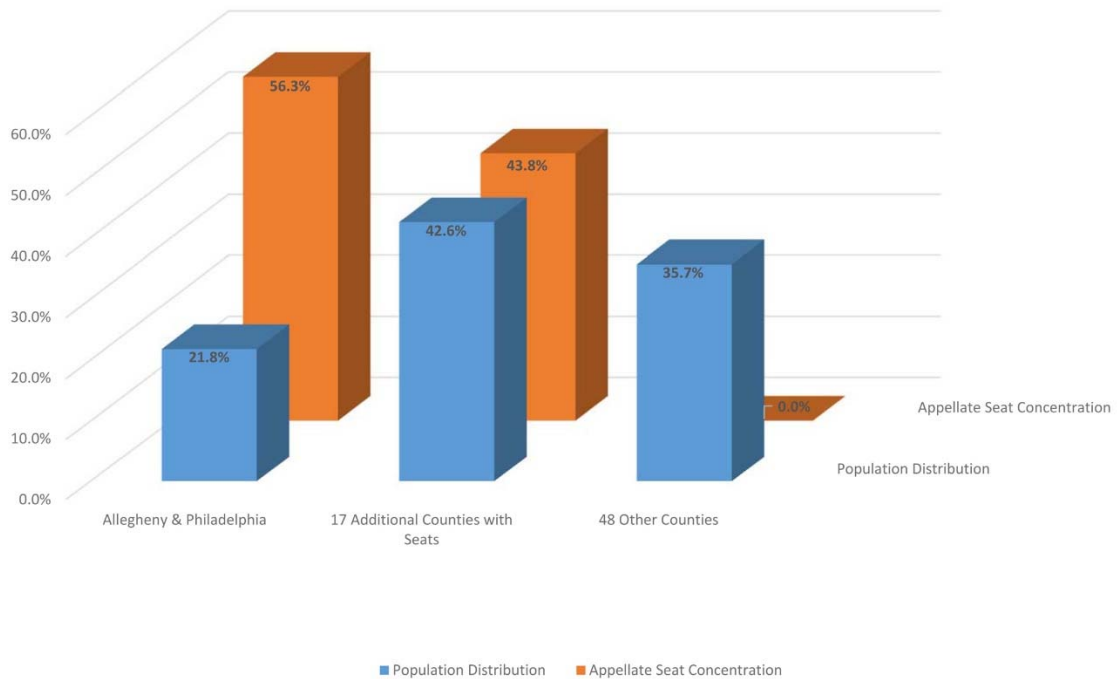
Jurists from Allegheny and Philadelphia counties, with 21.8% of Pennsylvania's population, have won 55.7% (54 of 97) of all appellate court elections, while 48 counties have never been elected to the Commonwealth's appellate courts during the past half-century.



* One individual elected to Superior Court and then subsequently elected to Supreme Court is tallied as 2 in each of these counties.

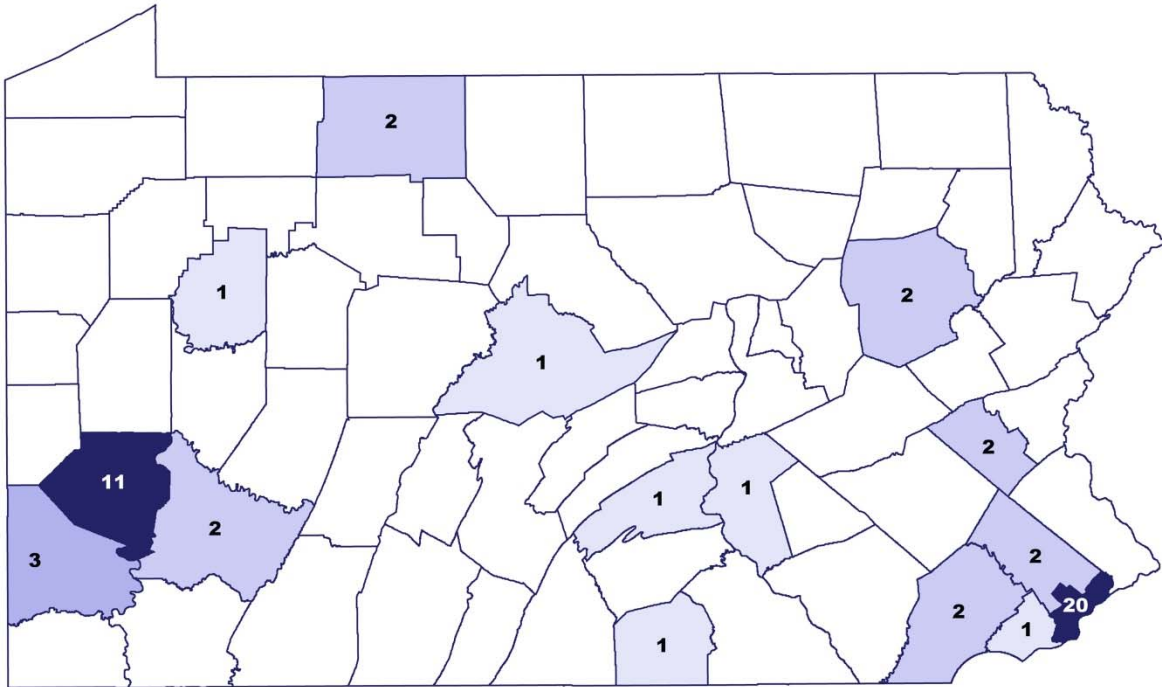
**Allegheny has had two individuals elected to Superior Court and subsequently elected to Supreme Court.

Population Distribution vs. Elected Appellate Seats Won since 1969, by County



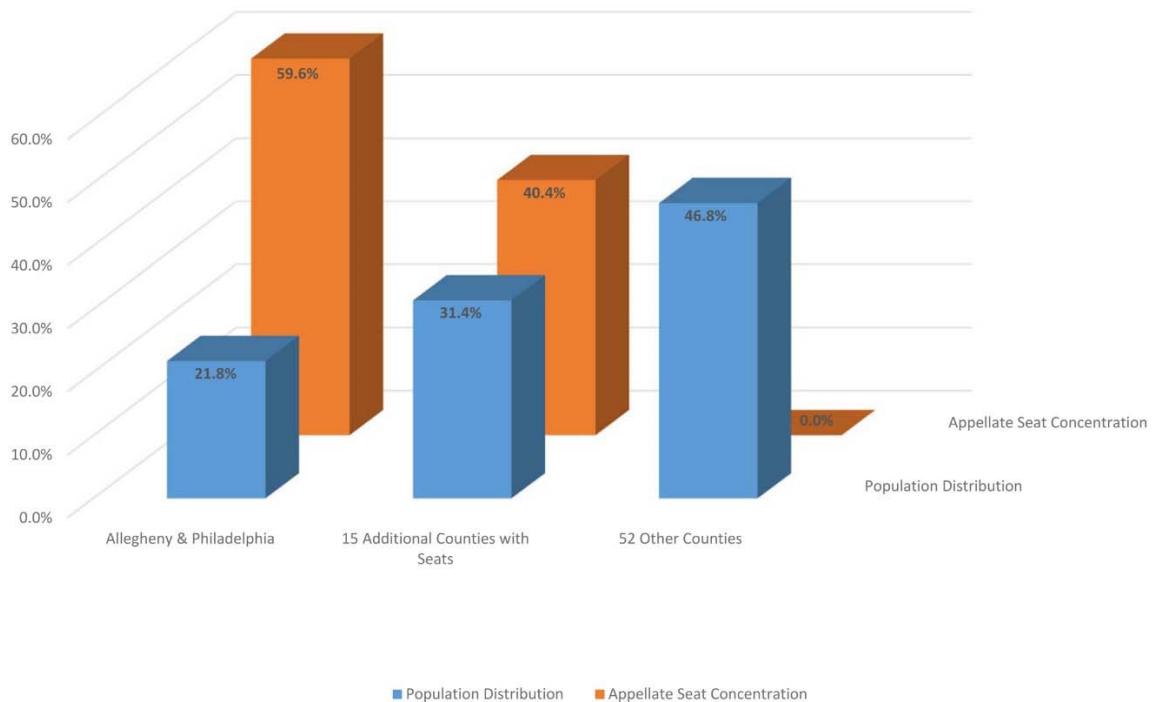
ALL APPOINTED APPELLATE COURT JURISTS SINCE 1969, BY COUNTY

Allegheny and Philadelphia counties, with 21.8% of Pennsylvania's population, have provided 59.6% (31 of 52) of all appellate court appointees, while 55 counties have never had a jurist appointed to the Commonwealth's appellate courts during the past half-century.



Twelve appointees have gone on to recapture their seat via the election process.
Eight sitting appellate court jurists have been appointed to seats on other appellate courts.

Population Distribution vs. Appointed Appellate Seats Held since 1969, by County



All Appellate Court Jurists since 1969

Jurist	Court	County	Sworn In	Elected or Appointed by	Status
William Franklin Cercone	Superior	Allegheny	1969	Elected	---
Harry A. Kramer	Commonwealth	Allegheny	1970	Shafer	---
Roy Wilkinson Jr.	Commonwealth	Centre	1970	Shafer	---
James S. Bowman	Commonwealth	Dauphin	1970	Shafer	---
Glenn E. Mencer	Commonwealth	McKean	1970	Shafer	---
Alexander F. Barbieri	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	1970	Shafer	---
James C. Crumlish	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	1970	Shafer	---
Louis L. Manderino	Commonwealth	Westmoreland	1970	Shafer	---
Theodore O. Rogers	Commonwealth	Chester	1971	Shafer	---
Alexander F. Barbieri	Supreme	Philadelphia	1971	Shafer	---
Israel Packel	Superior	Philadelphia	1971	Shapp	---
Genevieve Blatt	Commonwealth	Clarion	1972	Shapp	---
Robert N. C. Nix Jr.	Supreme	Philadelphia	1972	Elected	---
Louis L. Manderino	Supreme	Westmoreland	1972	Elected	---
Edmund B. Spaeth Jr.	Superior	Philadelphia	1973	Shapp	---
Gwilym A. Price Jr.	Superior	Allegheny	1974	Elected	---
Robert Van der Voort	Superior	Allegheny	1974	Elected	---
Edmund B. Spaeth Jr.	Superior	Philadelphia	1974	Elected	---
Israel Packel	Supreme	Philadelphia	1977	Shapp	---
Richard DiSalle	Commonwealth	Washington	1977	Shapp	---
Donald E. Wieand	Superior	Lehigh	1978	Casey	---
John A. MacPhail	Commonwealth	Adams	1978	Shapp	---
David W. Craig	Commonwealth	Allegheny	1978	Shapp	---
John P. Hester	Superior	Allegheny	1978	Elected	---
Rolf Larsen	Supreme	Allegheny	1978	Elected	---
James R. Cavanaugh	Superior	Allegheny	1979	Thornburgh	---
John P. Flaherty Jr.	Supreme	Allegheny	1979	Elected	---
Zoran Popovich	Superior	Allegheny	1980	Thornburgh	---
Madaline Palladino	Commonwealth	Lehigh	1980	Thornburgh	---
Frank J. Montemuro Jr.	Superior	Philadelphia	1980	Thornburgh	---
Justin M. Johnson	Superior	Washington	1980	Thornburgh	---
Richard DiSalle	Superior	Washington	1980	Thornburgh	---
James R. Cavanaugh	Superior	Allegheny	1980	Elected	---
John G. Brosky	Superior	Allegheny	1980	Elected	---
Richard B. Wickersham	Superior	Dauphin	1980	Elected	---
Donald E. Wieand	Superior	Lehigh	1980	Elected	---
Bruce W. Kauffman	Supreme	Philadelphia	1980	Elected	---
Robert W. Williams, Jr.	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	1980	Elected	---
Stephen J. McEwen Jr.	Superior	Delaware	1981	Thornburgh	---
Phyllis W. Beck	Superior	Philadelphia	1981	Thornburgh	---
Roy Wilkinson Jr.	Supreme	Centre	1981	Elected	---

James E. Rowley	Superior	Beaver	1982	Elected	---
Stephen J. McEwen Jr.	Superior	Delaware	1982	Elected	---
Joseph T. Doyle	Commonwealth	Delaware	1982	Elected	---
Vincent A. Cirillo	Superior	Montgomery	1982	Elected	---
James T. McDermott	Supreme	Philadelphia	1982	Elected	---
William D. Hutchinson	Supreme	Schuylkill	1982	Elected	---
Francis A. Barry	Commonwealth	Allegheny	1983	Thornburgh	---
Stephen A. Zappala	Supreme	Allegheny	1983	Elected	---
Joseph A. Del Sole	Superior	Allegheny	1984	Elected	---
Nicholas P. Papadakos	Supreme	Allegheny	1984	Elected	---
Patrick R. Tamilia	Superior	Allegheny	1984	Elected	---
Madaline Palladino	Commonwealth	Lehigh	1984	Elected	---
Peter Paul Olszewski Sr.	Superior	Luzerne	1984	Elected	---
James Gardner Colins	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	1984	Elected	---
Phyllis W. Beck	Superior	Philadelphia	1984	Elected	---
Zoran Popovich	Superior	Allegheny	1986	Elected	---
John T.J. Kelly Jr.	Superior	Philadelphia	1986	Elected	---
James R. Melinson	Superior	Philadelphia	1988	Casey	---
Juanita Kidd Stout	Supreme	Philadelphia	1988	Casey	---
Bernard L. McGinley	Commonwealth	Allegheny	1988	Elected	---
Doris A. Smith-Ribner	Commonwealth	Allegheny	1988	Elected	---
Kate Ford Elliott	Superior	Allegheny	1990	Elected	PJ Emeritus
Robert L. Byer	Commonwealth	Allegheny	1990	Casey	---
James R. Kelley	Commonwealth	Westmoreland	1990	Casey	---
Dan Pellegrini	Commonwealth	Allegheny	1990	Elected	---
Ralph J. Cappy	Supreme	Allegheny	1990	Elected	---
Joseph A. Hudock	Superior	Westmoreland	1990	Elected	---
Frank J. Montemuro Jr.	Supreme	Philadelphia	1992	Casey	---
Rochelle S. Friedman	Commonwealth	Allegheny	1992	Elected	---
James R. Kelley	Commonwealth	Westmoreland	1992	Elected	---
Sandra Schultz Newman	Commonwealth	Montgomery	1994	Elected	---
Thomas G. Saylor	Superior	Somerset	1994	Elected	---
D. Donald Jamieson	Superior	Philadelphia	1995	Ridge	---
J. Michael Eakin	Superior	Cumberland	1995	Elected	---
Bonnie Brigance Leadbetter	Commonwealth	Montgomery	1996	Ridge	---
Sandra Schultz Newman	Supreme	Montgomery	1996	Elected	---
Jim Flaherty	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	1996	Elected	---
Russell M. Nigro	Supreme	Philadelphia	1996	Elected	---
Ronald D. Castille	Supreme	Philadelphia	1996	Elected	---
Thomas G. Saylor	Supreme	Somerset	1998	Elected	Current CJ
Correale F. Stevens	Superior	Luzerne	1998	Elected	PJ Emeritus
John L. Musmanno	Superior	Allegheny	1998	Elected	Senior
Bonnie Brigance Leadbetter	Commonwealth	Montgomery	1998	Elected	Senior
Maureen Lally-Green	Superior	Allegheny	1998	Ridge	---

Berle M. Schiller	Superior	Philadelphia	1998	Ridge	---
Joan Orié Melvin	Superior	Allegheny	1998	Elected	---
Michael T. Joyce	Superior	Erie	1998	Elected	---
Maureen Lally-Green	Superior	Allegheny	2000	Elected	---
Debra Todd	Superior	Butler	2000	Elected	---
Mary Jane Bowes	Superior	Allegheny	2002	Elected	Current
Renée Cohn Jubelire	Commonwealth	Centre	2002	Elected	Current
Robert Simpson Jr	Commonwealth	Northampton	2002	Elected	Current
Mary Hannah Leavitt	Commonwealth	Dauphin	2002	Elected	Current PJ
John T. Bender	Superior	Allegheny	2002	Elected	PJ Emeritus
Robert A. Graci	Superior	Cumberland	2002	Schweiker	---
J. Michael Eakin	Supreme	Cumberland	2002	Elected	---
Richard B. Klein	Superior	Philadelphia	2002	Elected	---
William H. Lamb	Supreme	Chester	2003	Elected	---
Max Baer	Supreme	Allegheny	2004	Elected	Current
Jack A. Panella	Superior	Northampton	2004	Elected	Current PJ
Susan Peikes Gantman	Superior	Montgomery	2004	Elected	PJ Emeritus
Seamus P. McCaffery	Superior	Philadelphia	2004	Elected	---
Cynthia A Baldwin	Supreme	Allegheny	2006	Rendell	---
Robert E. Colville	Superior	Allegheny	2006	Rendell	---
James J. Fitzgerald III	Supreme	Philadelphia	2007	Rendell	---
Robert C. Daniels	Superior	Philadelphia	2007	Rendell	---
Debra Todd	Supreme	Butler	2008	Elected	Current
Jacqueline O. Shogan	Superior	Westmoreland	2008	Elected	Current
John M. Cleland	Superior	Mckean	2008	Rendell	---
Jane Cutler Greenspan	Supreme	Philadelphia	2008	Rendell	---
Johnny J. Butler	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	2008	Rendell	---
Robert A. Freedberg	Superior	Northampton	2008	Elected	---
Seamus P. McCaffery	Supreme	Philadelphia	2008	Elected	---
Johnny J. Butler	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	2009	Rendell	---
Judith Ference Olson	Superior	Allegheny	2010	Elected	Current
Patricia A. McCullough	Commonwealth	Allegheny	2010	Elected	Current
Paula Francisco Ott	Superior	Chester	2010	Elected	Current
Paul Kevin Brobson	Commonwealth	Dauphin	2010	Elected	Current
Anne E. Lazarus	Superior	Philadelphia	2010	Elected	Current
Joan Orié Melvin	Supreme	Allegheny	2010	Elected	---
Sallie Updyke Mundy	Superior	Tioga	2010	Elected	---
Eugene B. Strassburger III	Superior	Allegheny	2011	Saylor	Senior
William H. Platt	Superior	Lehigh	2011	Elected	---
Anne E. Covey	Commonwealth	Bucks	2012	Elected	Current
David N. Wecht	Superior	Allegheny	2012	Elected	---
Correale F. Stevens	Supreme	Luzerne	2013	Corbett	---
Victor P. Stabile	Superior	Cumberland	2014	Elected	Current
Patricia H. Jenkins	Superior	Delaware	2014	Elected	---

Christine Donohue	Supreme	Allegheny	2016	Elected	Current
David N. Wecht	Supreme	Allegheny	2016	Elected	Current
Michael H. Wojcik	Commonwealth	Allegheny	2016	Elected	Current
Alice B. Dubow	Superior	Philadelphia	2016	Elected	Current
Kevin Dougherty	Supreme	Philadelphia	2016	Elected	Current
Sallie Updyke Mundy	Supreme	Tioga	2016	Elected	Current
Julia K. Hearthway	Commonwealth	Chester	2016	Wolf	---
Joseph M. Cosgrove	Commonwealth	Luzerne	2016	Wolf	---
H. Geoffrey Moulton Jr.	Superior	Montgomery	2016	Wolf	---
Carl A. Solano	Superior	Philadelphia	2016	Wolf	---
Lillian Harris Ransom	Superior	Philadelphia	2016	Elected	---
Mary P. Murray	Superior	Allegheny	2017	Elected	Current
Deborah A. Kunselman	Superior	Beaver	2017	Elected	Current
Carolyn H. Nichols	Superior	Philadelphia	2017	Elected	Current
Maria McLaughlin	Superior	Philadelphia	2017	Elected	Current
Christine Fizzano-Cannon	Commonwealth	Delaware	2018	Elected	Current
Ellen Ceisler	Commonwealth	Philadelphia	2018	Elected	Current
Dan Pellegrini	Superior	Allegheny	2019	Saylor	Senior
James Gardner Colins	Superior	Philadelphia	2019	Saylor	Senior

Resources

<http://www.pacourts.us/learn/history/historical-list-of-supreme-court-justices>
<http://www.pacourts.us/learn/history/historical-list-of-superior-court-judges>
<http://www.pacourts.us/learn/history/historical-list-of-commonwealth-court-judges>
<http://pacchs.org>, Google.com, and Wikipedia.com for jurist home counties
Wikipedia.com for state and county census data

House Co-Sponsorship Memoranda

House of Representatives Session of 2019 - 2020 Regular Session

MEMORANDUM

Posted: December 12, 2018 12:42 PM
From: Representative Russ Diamond
To: All House members
Subject: Regional Appellate Court Districts

In the near future I will be introducing legislation (2015-16 HB2210; 2017-18 HB829) to amend the PA Constitution to change the way Pennsylvania elects appellate court judges. Specifically, my legislation would divide the Commonwealth into nine (9) Commonwealth Court districts, fifteen (15) Superior Court districts, and seven (7) Supreme Court districts.

These districts would be defined by the General Assembly following the redistricting principles found in our Constitution, requiring populations as equal as possible in each district with compact and contiguous geographic boundaries, and would comport with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. Candidates for appellate seats would be required to reside in the district they seek to represent on the court.

Eleven other states (Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin) select judges and justices for either some or all of their appellate courts via regional judicial district elections.

Currently, over 60 [correction: 54] percent of appellate court seats are held by residents of just two counties. Pennsylvania is a diverse Commonwealth, and our appellate courts ought to reflect that diversity. My legislation will also go far in improving the chances that voters can identify with candidates for appellate court seats.

I urge you to join me in preserving the right to elect judges and justices, and providing for judicial diversity, by co-sponsoring this legislation.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 196 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DIAMOND, BERNSTINE, CAUSER, DUSH, EMRICK, EVERETT,
IRVIN, JAMES, KAUFFMAN, KEEFER, MACKENZIE, MILLARD,
B. MILLER, PICKETT, RADER, RAPP, ROAE, ROTHMAN, RYAN, SAYLOR,
WARNER AND ZIMMERMAN, JANUARY 28, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 28, 2019

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, organizing the Judiciary into
3 representative districts and further providing for residency
4 requirements.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby resolves as follows:

7 Section 1. The following integrated amendments to the
8 Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with
9 Article XI:

10 (1) That section 2 of Article V be amended to read:

11 § 2. Supreme Court.

12 The Supreme Court (a) shall be the highest court of the
13 Commonwealth and in this court shall be reposed the supreme
14 judicial power of the Commonwealth;

15 (b) shall consist of seven justices, to be elected from
16 seven judicial districts which shall be established by law, one
17 of whom shall be the Chief Justice; and

1 (c) shall have such jurisdiction as shall be provided by
2 law.

3 (2) That section 3 of Article V be amended to read:

4 § 3. Superior Court.

5 The Superior Court shall be a statewide court, and shall
6 consist of the number of judges, which shall be not less than
7 seven judges, to be elected from judicial districts which shall
8 be established by law, and have such jurisdiction as shall be
9 provided by this Constitution or by the General Assembly. One of
10 its judges shall be the president judge.

11 (3) That section 4 of Article V be amended to read:

12 § 4. Commonwealth Court.

13 The Commonwealth Court shall be a statewide court, and shall
14 consist of the number of judges, to be elected from judicial
15 districts which shall be established by law, and have such
16 jurisdiction as shall be provided by law. One of its judges
17 shall be the president judge.

18 (4) That section 11 of Article V be amended to read:

19 § 11. Judicial districts; boundaries.

20 [The number and boundaries of judicial districts shall be
21 changed by the General Assembly only with the advice and consent
22 of the Supreme Court.]

23 (a) The number of judges and justices of the Supreme Court,
24 the Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court elected from each
25 judicial district shall provide every resident of the
26 Commonwealth with approximately equal representation on a court.
27 Each judicial district shall be composed of compact and
28 contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as
29 practicable. Each judicial district shall elect one judge or
30 justice. Unless absolutely necessary, no county, city,

1 incorporated town, borough, township or ward may be divided in
2 forming a judicial district.

3 (b) The General Assembly shall, by law, establish:

4 (1) The judicial districts from which justices of the
5 Supreme Court and the judges of the Superior Court and the
6 Commonwealth Court are elected.

7 (2) A transition to an appellate court judiciary elected
8 from judicial districts.

9 (3) The effect of set judicial districts upon eligibility to
10 seek retention election.

11 (4) The order in which judicial districts shall elect
12 justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Superior Court
13 and the Commonwealth Court.

14 (5) The decennial realignment of the appellate judicial
15 districts based on the Federal decennial census, beginning in
16 2021 and occurring each ten years thereafter.

17 (c) Except as provided under subsection (b) and section
18 7(b), the number and boundaries of all other judicial districts
19 shall be established by the General Assembly by law, with the
20 advice and consent of the Supreme Court.

21 (5) That section 12 of Article V be amended to read:

22 § 12. Qualifications of justices, judges and justices of the
23 peace.

24 (a) Justices, judges and justices of the peace shall be
25 citizens of the Commonwealth. Justices and judges, except the
26 judges of the traffic court in the City of Philadelphia, shall
27 be members of the bar of the Supreme Court. Justices [and judges
28 of statewide courts, for a period of one year preceding their
29 election or appointment and during their continuance in office,
30 shall reside within the Commonwealth. Other], judges and

1 justices of the peace, for a period of one year preceding their
2 election or appointment and during their continuance in office,
3 shall reside within their respective districts, except as
4 provided in this article for temporary assignments.

5 (b) Justices of the peace shall be members of the bar of the
6 Supreme Court or shall complete a course of training and
7 instruction in the duties of their respective offices and pass
8 an examination prior to assuming office. Such courses and
9 examinations shall be as provided by law.

10 Section 3. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
11 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the
12 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
13 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
14 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
15 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
16 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
17 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

18 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these
19 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the
20 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
21 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
22 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
23 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
24 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
25 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the
26 Commonwealth shall submit the proposed constitutional amendments
27 under section 1 of this resolution to the qualified electors of
28 this Commonwealth as a single ballot question as provided under
29 subsection (c) at the first primary, general or municipal
30 election which meets the requirements of and is in conformance

1 with section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania
2 and which occurs at least three months after the proposed
3 constitutional amendments are passed by the General Assembly.

4 (c) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall place these
5 proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot as a single
6 ballot question in the following form:

7 Shall sections 2, 3, 4, 11 and 12 of Article V of the
8 Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to require that
9 judges and justices of the Supreme Court, the Superior
10 Court and the Commonwealth Court be elected from judicial
11 districts established by the General Assembly which must
12 be compact, contiguous and nearly equal in population as
13 practicable and to require that all justices, judges and
14 justices of the peace to be residents of their judicial
15 districts for one year preceding election or appointment
16 and during service?