

A Tale of Two Courts

Pennsylvania's Victory Against Gerrymandering vs. Texas's Anti-Democratic Maps

By Central Chester County Democrats Staff

Pennsylvania and Texas offer starkly different visions of American democracy—one where courts protect fair representation, another where partisan manipulation runs amok. In the November 2025 election, Pennsylvania voters need to decide which of these two visions they prefer.

Option 1: Courts as Guardians of Democracy

Pennsylvania's Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled in favor of free and fair elections. In 2018, they struck down one of the most gerrymandered congressional maps in the countryⁱ and replaced it with a map created using traditional criteria—*compact districts respecting community boundaries*; not political party, not race. This resulted in a congressional delegation that closely reflected Pennsylvania's political makeupⁱⁱ - exactly as it should.

Save Pennsylvania - Vote YES to retain our Justices on November 4

Again in 2022, the court needed to step in and select a fair map over partisan alternativesⁱⁱⁱ. In both cases, the court grounded their decision in Pennsylvania's constitution, with Justice Debra Todd declaring that *every Pennsylvania voter must have the same free and equal opportunity to select his or her representatives*^{iv}.

Option 2: Democracy Under Siege

While Pennsylvania moved toward fairness, Texas doubled down on partisan manipulation. The *Gerrymandering Project* from Princeton University gives Texas an **F grade** for congressional redistricting—among the nation's most extreme gerrymanders^v. Pennsylvania has a **B**^{vi}.

Recently, Texas Republicans bowed to Trump's demand that they redraw their already partisan maps to gain five more seats— an unprecedented action^{vii}. The courts did nothing to stop this naked power grab. Instead, they have allowed partisans in Texas to implement maps so skewed that Republicans will maintain control even as the Texas voting patterns continue to shift toward Democrats^{viii}.

The Contrast is Stark

The vision of the Pennsylvania courts could not be more different from the lack of vision from the Texas courts:

- Pennsylvania's courts have repeatedly **protected the rights** of all Pennsylvanians. Texas courts have enabled *brazen partisan manipulation*
- Pennsylvania's model offers **hope**: fair districts, equal representation. Texas serves as a *warning*—partisan manipulation can entrench minority rule regardless of how Americans vote.
- Pennsylvania can choose **democracy**. Texas has chosen *partisanship*.

As the 2025 elections approach, Pennsylvania voters face a choice that extends far beyond their state: *will courts continue protecting fair representation, or will partisan gerrymandering become the new American norm?*

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court is under attack

The same right-wing extremists that have skewed Texas' courts have now set their sights on Pennsylvania. They tried to buy the courts in Wisconsin and democracy defeated them. They have learned from that experience and are now trying it in our Commonwealth.

These anti-democracy operatives know that their policies are unpopular and contrary to the values held by most Pennsylvanians. They know that the only way they can win is to change the makeup of our courts and install judges who will rubberstamp their plans.

For the November 2025 election, they are campaigning to remove Justices Christine Donohue, Kevin Dougherty, and David Wecht, specifically targeting these justices for their opposition to partisan gerrymandering^{ix}. We cannot allow them to lie and slander their way to victory at the expense of all Pennsylvanians.

Pennsylvania is Not Texas

This election is about whether democracy will survive in Pennsylvania or whether partisan extremists will be allowed to rig the system to gain and maintain power. As we prepare for the 2025 judicial retention elections, the stakes couldn't be higher: will Pennsylvania maintain its tradition of a fair, independent judicial system, or will we surrender our courts to the same extremist forces that corrupted Texas?

You have the power to save Pennsylvania - **Vote YES to retain our Justices on November 4.**

ⁱ <https://pubintlaw.org/cases-and-projects/pennsylvania-supreme-court-holds-congressional-map-violates-pa-constitution>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.270towin.com/content/pennsylvania-2018-redistricting>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2022/03/pennsylvania-redistricting-supreme-court-congressional-map-reasons>

^{iv} <https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2022/03/pennsylvania-redistricting-supreme-court-congressional-map-reasons>

^v <https://gerrymander.princeton.edu/redistricting-report-card?planId=recL5EF85h0ILukMA>

^{vi} <https://gerrymander.princeton.edu/redistricting-report-card?planId=recT95YHHudtpR3Fc>

^{vii} <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-democratic-legislators-flee-state-to-protest-gops-redistricting-plan/>

^{viii} <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/faculty-research/policy-topics/politics/explainer-understanding-mid-decade-redistricting-push-texas>

^{ix} <https://why.org/articles/pennsylvania-election-2025-supreme-court-retention-appearance/>