

Pennsylvania Courts are Under Attack

Don't Let Pennsylvania Become Texas

By Central Chester County Democrats Staff

As voters 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?

In Texas, judges are for sale to the highest bidder. Now radical Republican operatives want to destroy Pennsylvania's judiciary, turning it into a corporate-controlled rubber stamp, using Texas as a model. Pennsylvania courts have protected the rights of all Pennsylvanians for decades and Republicans want to end that.

We cannot allow it to happen.

*Pennsylvanians of all political persuasions must overcome partisanship and vote to YES to retain **Justices Donohue, Dougherty, and Wecht***

The Texas Nightmare: Money Buys Favorable Court Decisions

In Texas, high-profile law firms with deep pockets and a history of aggressive campaign donations are over five times more likely to win their cases at the Texas Supreme Court than the average [person]ⁱ.

This shows us exactly what Pennsylvania will become if extremist Republicans succeed in their assault on our courts. Corporate donors and special interests will pour millions into campaigns, literally buying the legal results they want. The corruption is staggering. Courts favor the wealthy while working families get crushed.

Pennsylvania's Shield: The Retention System Works

Pennsylvania's judicial retention system strikes an elegant balance: justices serve so long as the people of the commonwealth think they are doing a good job - based solely on their performance. Since retention elections were established in 1968, Pennsylvania's judicial system has been a model of legitimacy and high standards. Judges are freed from the pressures of the political arena and rule on cases without worrying about what party bosses or political donors think. They answer only to the citizens of Pennsylvania. Voters get to evaluate judicial

performance without the noise of partisan politics or campaign fundraising influencing their decisions.

This is the dystopian future Republicans want for Pennsylvania: courts where justice depends on your bank account and political connections, not the law.

The Republican Plot to Destroy Pennsylvania's Courts

Make no mistake: what the GOP is trying to do in Pennsylvania right now is a coordinated attack on all Pennsylvanians. The same extremist Republicans who tried to overturn the 2020 election are now targeting our state Supreme Court with unprecedented aggression. They've honed their strategy after losing the Wisconsin judicial election and are focused on not repeating the same mistakes.

Pennsylvanians must stand up against extremist Republicans who want to destroy our judiciary and replace it with the Texas model of legalized judicial bribery.

Republican operatives have already spent more than a million dollars and hired significant staff in Pennsylvaniaⁱⁱ to try and defeat three qualified justices who have served with distinction. The Republican State Leadership Committee has expressed its interest in influencing the election: "That's why the RSLC is already committed to spending seven-figures [in Pennsylvania] in 2025"ⁱⁱⁱ.

Republican extremist Scott Presler has been clear about his goals: elect partisan hacks, not qualified judges^{iv}. To do this, the GOP will pull from the same dirty playbook they've used before - spread lies about qualified judges, flood judicial races with dark money, and try to *trick* voters into thinking partisan loyalty matters more than judicial competence. This isn't justice, it's legalized bribery masquerading as democracy.

If they succeed in Pennsylvania, we will lose everything that makes PA a beacon of democratic values. Under Republican control, Pennsylvania's Supreme Court would become another tool to impose extremist policies that most Pennsylvanians reject.

The Choice Will Define Pennsylvania's Future

Pennsylvania stands at a crossroads that will determine whether we remain a state governed by law or become another Texas-style oligarchy where courts serve the highest bidder. Our

retention system has worked brilliantly for nearly 60 years. Our courts have maintained independence while ensuring accountability—exactly what the founders intended.

Our democracy, our rights, and our future depend on courts that serve justice, not partisan masters. On November 4th, **vote to YES to retain Justices Donohue, Dougherty, and Wecht.**

ⁱ <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/12/31/texas-judicial-elections-partisan/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2024-12-23/pennsylvania-supreme-court-retention-political-fight>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2025/02/judicial-retention-election-pennsylvania-2025-supreme-court-partisan/>

^{iv} <https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2024-12-23/pennsylvania-supreme-court-retention-political-fight>