

# Opinion

## Constitution and election issues

As we are well aware, our Constitution is not a one-size-fits-all, forever unchangeable document. As we issue new laws (legitimately), resolve issues, etc., we add to it. So, it is vis-à-vis our upcoming State election. Without question, who is running for what office or post is important, but so are the issues upon which we vote — thereby giving our elected representatives at every level of government not merely our input but guidance on how we want them to decide and act on issues of import to us.

This year, there are, of course, candidates across the State for positions at all levels. We'll vote for: State-level judges positions; County Sheriff, Treasurer, and Clerk of the Court (and comparable positions in other Counties); at the Municipal level, Mayors, Supervisors and Council Members; and School Board candidates. (This year particularly, School Board seats become ultra-important, especially if you still believe our schools are about the 3 Rs of "Reading, Writing, and Rithmetic" not Rioting, Reparations, and Revolution — i.e., education, not indoctrination.)

As for issues, there are several, State-wide Ballot Questions and irrespective of your Party affiliation:

1. There is a PA Constitutional Amendment to the Governor's authority to declare a state of emergency outside the traditional short-term weather emergency (Like what happened in Texas earlier this past winter) without the advice and consent of the General Assembly. WE've tried to strip it of its State-House controlled gobbledy-gook wording and present it simply and accurately. If you approve, vote "Yes."

2. This amendment would limit the length of time for a state of emergency to 21 days and provides that it can be extended only with the agreement of the General Assembly, and for a specified length of time. If you approve,

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vote "Yes."

3. A PA constitutional amendment to include non-discrimination language based on race and ethnicity. On its face, this appears innocuous enough, but as currently worded, it could open the door to allow unelected bureaucrats to create special minority classes and special rights to illegal immigrants, although the US Constitution's 14th Amendment and the US 1964 Civil Rights Act already cover this. A "No" vote appears appropriate.

4. This constitutional amendment would allow fire and EMS services with paid personnel to tap a 46-year-old, \$100,000,000 State fund originally structured to give loans to volunteer fire and EMS services to buy apparatus, improve buildings, and upgrade safety equipment. This was to allow volunteer fire and EMS services who now pay some personnel (due to the decline in volunteers) to tap the funds. Local examples would be Hanover, West Penn, and possibly SAVES (Southeast Adams Volunteer Emergency Services) who pay drivers to be at the station and drive the equipment and are joined by the rest of the volunteers to improve response times. The final language of this question includes "Municipal fire departments and services with paid personnel," which makes it possible for major metro services to tap into the same funds, and drain the resources, all to the detriment of rural volunteer servic-

es that Central Pennsylvania depends on. On its face, this looks like a really good deal for the major metro providers, but not so good for Adams County and environs.

Of special note is that the General Assembly passed these ballot questions over a 2-year period in accordance with the PA State Constitution. However, their final wording as they appear on your ballot is chosen, dictated, and phrased by the Governor and his staff, and may not necessarily be worded — and thus not actually implemented — as one might expect or suppose. We've tried to define and clarify these ballot questions as accurately as we can, but strongly suggest you contact your State Senator and General Assembly Representative to be certain.

And, while you are at it, check out every candidate. While many of them actually do have your best interests at the heart of their thinking, just a quick glance at some of the folks who managed to get themselves elected to Congress — and stay there, seemingly forever — should serve as a cautionary tale to every citizen. As Plato observed over 2,500 years ago, we must pay very close attention to the credentials and true motives of those who would represent in politics. He put it strongly, but accurately (with all due apologies to the Woke feminists and others for his using the non-inclusive language of his time) as we see all too often today: "The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men."

I welcome comments and suggestions; if you have a specific question or area of the Constitution, you'd like addressed, please let me know.

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