

ELECTION SIGNS

Republicans swept Pennsylvania's key judicial races in Tuesday's balloting and made gains in local races from Bucks County to Erie, sounding alarm bells for Democrats ahead of next year's statewide races for governor and U.S. Senate.

In the pivotal contest for an opening on Pennsylvania's Supreme Court, **Angela Coulombis** and **Danielle Ohi** report Republican **Kevin Brobson** edged out Democrat **Maria McLaughlin**, [ending a contentious race marked by negative ads and big campaign spending](#).

Brobson's victory won't change the balance of power on the high court, but it staves off a furthering of a Democratic majority with key cases in the wings. It also serves as a potent symbol amid [GOP efforts to erode](#) the court's progressive bent.

In other judiciary news: The race for state Superior Court, which handles civil and criminal appeals, went to Republican **Megan Sullivan**, while contests for Commonwealth Court, the venue for suits involving state agencies, went to Republicans **Stacy Wallace** and **Drew Crompton**.

And finally, Tuesday's balloting included a slew of important local races from [Pittsburgh](#) to [Allentown](#), and [Erie](#) to [Bucks County](#).

But **Ethan Edward Coston** reports tracking the money behind local candidates is harder than you'd think — and harder than it should be, experts say.

That's because Pennsylvania counties — the repositories of such financial disclosures — aren't required to post them online, and many don't.

Melissa Melewsky, media law counsel for the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association, [said doing so would reduce work for them and taxpayers](#).

ELECTION RESULTS

While statewide races for Pennsylvania's high courts drew copious amounts of attention and money in this election, important local races were on ballots, too — reflecting running culture wars, political shifts, and a diversifying state.

Here are a few notable results, organized by county.

» ALLEGHENY COUNTY:

- Women and Black candidates [led the way](#) in county court races
- Xander Orenstein became the [first nonbinary person](#) elected to a judicial position in the country
- Democratic state Rep. Ed Gainey will become the [first Black mayor in Pittsburgh's history](#) and is said to be considering state Rep. Jake Wheatley (D., Allegheny) for deputy mayor

» DELAWARE COUNTY:

- Democrats [Kevin Madden and Richard Womack](#) held onto two county council seats two years after the governing body flipped to all-Democratic control
- The special election for Margo Davidson's former state House seat went to [Democrat Gina Curry](#)

» ERIE COUNTY:

- [Republican Brenton Davis](#) won the race for county executive over Democrat Tyler Titus, Pennsylvania's first openly trans elected official; the post has overwhelmingly been held by Democrats since the 1970s

» LACKAWANNA COUNTY:

- Democrat [Thom Welby won](#) the special election for the state House seat previously held by his former boss, Marty Flynn

» LEHIGH COUNTY:

- Allentown voters rejected a measure that would have removed English as the city's official language, and elected the city's [first Latino mayor](#)

» NORTHAMPTON COUNTY:

- In the race for county executive, incumbent Democrat Lamont McClure won against Republican Steve Lynch, who previously threatened school board members over school mask rules and who responded to Tuesday's loss with an [accusatory Facebook post](#)
- Races for county council were [too close to call](#) but leaned toward Democrats maintaining a narrow majority

» WESTMORELAND COUNTY:

- Republican Nicole Zicarelli ousted six-term Democratic incumbent John Peck in [the race for district attorney](#)
- Republicans swept [all four county office positions](#)

» YORK COUNTY:

- [Four Republicans and two Democrats](#) won seats on the Central York School Board, with incumbent Republican Veronica Gemma getting unseated after a high-profile ban on books by or about people of color
- [Republicans dominated](#) most other school board races in the county

—[Colin Deppen](#), *Spotlight PA*