

Magisterial District 27-3-01 Judge Candidates

Voters are encouraged to use this comparison as part of a serious, thoughtful analysis prior to casting a vote. Magisterial District Number 27-3-01 encompasses the areas of McMurray, Finleyville, Union Township, Courtney, Peters Township, Mingo Creek Park, Nottingham, Venetia, Gastonville, Elrama, Rankintown Road, Hackett, and Crookham. Candidate profiles serve to introduce candidates to voters. The following information was obtained from a questionnaire completed by each candidate and a follow up interview with PTR.

While comprehensive, it is not inclusive of all information available from or about these candidates.

Republican Party of Peters Township (PTR) HIGHLY RECOMMENDS Bill Merrell for District Magistrate

Jacob (Jake) Machel

William (Bill) Merrell as a Write-In

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| Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. Political Science and Economics (Washington and Jefferson College) • Peters Township Graduate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.A. Legal Studies (University of Pittsburgh) • M.S. Secondary Education (Duquesne University) • Dual M.A. Regional Planning and Geography (California University of PA) • A.S. Safety Technology (Community College of the Air Force) • Graduate of the Realtor Institute (PA Association of Realtors) • Hillsdale College Online Courses – The Supreme Court (currently attending) • Post Graduate Courses at Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (Pitt), Nova Southeastern University and Duquesne University |
| Professional Designations/ Certifications/ License | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Secondary Teacher – Social Studies and Instructional Technology (PA D.O.E.) • PA Dept. of State Real Estate Estate Brokers License (inactive) • FL Dept. of Real Estate Salesman License (inactive) • School Director Training Certificate (PA School Boards Association) • Specialists in Safety and Health (University of Texas) • Certified Infrastructure Specialist (CIPS) • Certified Instructor Community First Aid and Safety |
| Memberships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennsylvania School Board Association • Veterans of Foreign Wars • American Society of Safety Engineers • National Rifle Association • Firearms Owners Against Crime (F. O. A. C.) • Dormont-Mt. Lebanon Sportsmen’s Club • Arabian Horse Association • Association of General Contractors • National Coordinating Council of Emergency Managers • National Disaster Medical System |
| Occupation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Real Estate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retired Teacher (2013) • Retired Military (1995) |
| Public Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current School Board Director Peters Township (Elected twice) • Past Councilman Peters Township (Elected) • 20 year service in Air Force (Retired SMSgt) • State Committee Member (Elected) • Host of “Talking Politics in Western PA” and “Things They Don’t Teach You” on Peters Township Community Television |
| Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400+ hours spent in current District Magistrate courtroom • Political Science major with internships on several local political campaigns • Common sense, ability to be impartial, honest and very direct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.A. Legal Studies (University of Pittsburgh) • Real Estate Broker/Manager knowledgeable about landlord/tenant laws • Knowledge and practical wisdom gained from a diverse education, training and service background; Successful in addressing complex issues and resolving problems • Life experiences dealing with court systems at local and state levels • Understanding of laws dealing with local government • Strong performance in public service (Air Force, PT Council, PT School Board) • Sincere interest in improving our community |
| If elected, what are your three (3) most important issues? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting into local schools early and often, start prevention programs, become a true resource for students • Shown no tolerance/mercy for people bringing in drugs that are poisoning our society, the same goes for violent crime offenders • Be extremely fair and engaged in my community; my door will always be open and I am there to serve the people of my community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal integrity in following the letter of the law • Meet with Chief of Police to learn their needs and discuss support they can expect from me • Work with school administration as they deal with issues of truancy and safety • Start community programs that educate all ages (school children and adults) on issues such as drugs, theft, robberies and including an evaluation of a Community Watch Program concept so that everyone feels part of the community and not left out |