

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

President Judge Administrative Order
No. 2016-01

In re: Special Election for the following Legislative Districts:

192nd Legislative District
200th Legislative District

To Be Held: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

ORDER

AND NOW, this 14th day of January, 2016, the following assignments are made in connection with the March 15, 2016 Special Election, which shall supersede other assignments, during the scheduled Election Court hours only.

No substitutes will be provided by the President Judge. In the event of a personal emergency, the assigned judges must arrange for substitutes with any judge not assigned herein. However, judges assigned to the criminal list room program should not sit in Election Court in lieu of their list room assignments. If substitutions are made, the information must be provided to the Office of the President Judge as soon as possible.

I. **CENTRAL ELECTION COURT - Courtroom 676 City Hall**

Courtroom 676 City Hall will be the central location for all records of the Registration Division, Board of Elections and the Office of Judicial Records (formerly “Prothonotary”). Central Election Court will be available **as needed** from 7:00 AM until 10:00 PM (Phone: 215-686-7357).

Judges assigned to the Central Election Court will have jurisdiction over all election matters, and shall, as provided in 25 P.S. § 3046:

act as a committing magistrate for any violation of the election laws;
settle summarily controversies that may arise with respect to the conduct of the election;
issue process, if necessary, to enforce and secure compliance with the election laws;
decide such other matters pertaining to the election as may be necessary to carry out the intent of the Election Code; and
when an individual is seeking a judicial order to vote, shall inform the individual of the provisional ballot process set forth in 25 P.S. § 3050. Section 3050 provides, *inter alia*:
• an individual who claims to be properly registered and eligible to vote at the election district but whose name does not appear on the district register

and whose registration cannot be determined by the inspectors of election or the county election board shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot.

• Prior to voting the provisional ballot, the elector shall be required to execute an affidavit which must be signed by the voter, the Judge of Election and minority inspector.

• After the provisional ballot has been cast, the individual shall place it in a secrecy envelope. The individual shall place the secrecy envelope in the provisional ballot envelope and shall place his signature on the front of the provisional ballot envelope.

No judge who is not assigned to Central Election Court shall take any action with respect to any election matter, unless prior approval is obtained from the President Judge. The assigned Central Election Court Judges shall provide their personal tipstaff to assist them in their Election Day duties.

	<u>Judge</u>	<u>Court Reporter</u>
7 AM to 2:30 PM - <i>as needed</i>	Honorable Gwendolyn Bright	Leah Blum
2:30 PM to 10:00 PM - <i>as needed</i>	Honorable Joseph Fernandes	Barry Harris

II. STANDBY ASSIGNMENTS

Judges with standby assignments may only be called upon by the President Judge to preside in Central Election Court, 676 City Hall in the event of unforeseen events. All of the standby judges must be available, *as needed*, between the hours of 7 AM and 10:00 PM either in their chambers or at home.

<u>Judge</u>	<u>Court Reporter</u>
Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper	TBD

III. ELECTION BOARD PETITIONS

Petitions to Fill Vacancies in Election Boards (judge of election, majority inspector, minority inspector) must be electronically filed not earlier than January 11, 2016 and no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 through the Court's electronic filing website at: <http://www.courts.phila.gov> pursuant to Pa.R.C.P. No. 205.4 and Philadelphia Civil Rule *205.4. Assistance with electronic filing shall be provided through the Office of Judicial Records (formerly "Prothonotary"), Room 296 City Hall, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

The Petitioner shall serve the City Commissioners and the Democratic/Republican City Committee, as applicable, as provided in the Order to Show Cause.

A hearing on the *Petitions to Fill Vacancies in Election Boards* will be held in Courtroom 676 City Hall, Philadelphia, PA on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper or designee presiding. The Order to Show Cause attached as **Exhibit 1** will be issued upon filing of the Petition and other required documentation. Unless terminated earlier as

provided by law, the term of office of any person appointed to fill a vacancy in the Election Board shall continue for the remainder of the vacancy.

IV. EMERGENCY APPLICATIONS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

As provided by Act 137 of 2006 (see 25 P.S. §3146.2a), Electors who become physically disabled or ill, or due to business reasons are absent from Philadelphia after 5:00 PM Friday, March 11, 2016 and until 8:00 PM on the day of the Special Election – March 15, 2016 may request an Absentee Ballot if the Elector or the Elector’s Authorized Representative completes and files with the Court of Common Pleas “an Emergency Application” (or a letter or other signed document which includes the same information as is provided in the Emergency Application) as follows:

1) Only the Elector or his/her Authorized Representative can file the Emergency Application and attend the hearing scheduled on the Application.

2) **No Emergency Applications can be filed with the Court during non-court hours.**

3) **Monday, March 14, 2016.** The elector or the elector’s Authorized Representative may request an **Emergency Application for Absentee Ballot** between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM as follows:

a) bring the completed Emergency Application form (and if you are applying on behalf of the Elector, the Elector’s Authorized Representative form) to the City Commissioners’ Office, Room 142 City Hall. The Election Voter Registration Clerk will determine whether the Elector is otherwise qualified to vote, and if so, will direct the person to the ***Office of Judicial Records*** (heretofore the “*Prothonotary*”) for filing the Application;

b) bring the documentation provided by the Election Voter Registration Clerk to the ***Office of Judicial Records*** (heretofore the “*Prothonotary*”) in Room 296 City Hall. The Application will be filed, a hearing will be scheduled, and a Scheduling Order with the date, time and place of the hearing will be given to the filer. The Office of Judicial Records will send a copy of the Scheduling Order to the Election Voter Registration Clerk; and

c) the Elector or Authorized Representative must appear on the scheduled hearing date, and after the hearing, the Election Judge will issue an Order. If the Application is granted, the Elector or Authorized Representative will be given the absentee ballot. Election Staff personnel will be available to answer any questions.

4) **Tuesday, March 15, 2016.** The elector or the elector’s Authorized Representative may request an **Emergency Application for Absentee Ballot** between 7:00 AM and 8:00 PM provided in Section 3, above.

5) The required forms are available from: **the County Board of Elections**, Room 142 City Hall; the **Office of Judicial Records** (formerly the “*Prothonotary*”) in Room 296 City Hall; and the Court’s website: <http://courts.phila.gov/forms>.

V. OFFICIAL ELECTION COUNT

The official election count will commence on Friday, March 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., at Riverview Place, 6th Floor, Delaware Avenue and Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*This Election Schedule is available on the First Judicial District Web Site at: <http://courts.phila.gov>.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Sheila Woods-Skipper

Honorable Sheila Woods-Skipper
President Judge, Court of Common Pleas
Philadelphia County
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

EXHIBIT 1

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County**

In Re	:	Special Election: <u>March 15, 2016</u>
	:	
Election Board of the	:	TERM, 20
	:	
_____ WARD, _____ DIVISION	:	NO. _____

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

AND NOW, this _____ day of _____, 2016, upon consideration of the
Petition for the Court Appointment of a Member of the Election Board for the above Ward and Division,

as Judge of Election Majority Inspector Minority Inspector

it is hereby ORDERED that a hearing shall be held on March 2, 2016, at 9:00 AM Courtroom 676 City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A copy of this Order and a copy of the Petition shall be served upon the County Board of Elections by personal service on an employee in charge, in Room 142 City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, no later than February 26, 2016 at 1:00 PM. An Affidavit of Service shall be filed on or before the hearing date.

BY THE COURT:

SHEILA WOODS-SKIPPER, P.J.