

Pennsylvania Post-Election Report and Analysis

January 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Top Ta	keaways	3
Dooka	round	1
васкд	rouna	, 4
Overv	ew of democracyFIRST Pennsylvania Program	5
Analysis of Pennsylvania County Elections Results		.6
• Eri	e County	6
	ks County	
	erne County	
• Da	iphin County	7
• Lar	caster County	8
• Mo	nroe County	. 8
• No	thampton County	8
• Bu	:ks County	9
• Ce	ntre County	9
• Ch	ester County	9
• Cu	nberland County1	0
• Lac	kawanna County1	0
• Lel	igh County1	0
• Mo	ntgomery County1	1
• Wa	shington County1	1
Analys	is of democracyFIRST May Primary Program1	2
List of	democracyFIRST Promise Candidates Elected1	3
Concli	usion 1	4

TOP TAKEAWAYS ON POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS

Pennsylvania voters helped safeguard the 2024 election by rejecting most countywide anti-democracy candidates in the primary and general elections. Voters overwhelmingly supported Democratic and Republican candidates who made the democracyFIRST Promise in most of the competitive countywide races for positions overseeing the administration, counting, and certification of elections.

- Overall, three-fourths (72 out of 98) county commission and county council candidates in Pennsylvania who made the democracyFIRST Promise won their election. Now nearly all the electorally competitive counties in Pennsylvania will have pro-democracy county officials in the critical offices overseeing the administration, counting, and certification of the 2024 elections.
- The success of democracyFIRST-backed candidates was nearly identical by party, with both
 Democratic and Republican candidates achieving a nearly 75% win rate. Nearly every Republican in competitive races who made the democracyFIRST Promise won.
- There are 3.3 million registered voters in the 16 most competitive, swing counties in Pennsylvania.
 13 of the 16 county commissions or county councils in these counties will now have prodemocracy majorities in 2024 with the majority of electeds having made the democracyFIRST Promise.

In the general election, democracyFIRST PAC invested over \$2 million in twelve targeted counties and successfully helped elect pro-democracy majorities in nine counties.

- Among the campaigns that democracyFIRST PAC invested in and prioritized to flip party-control—
 three won, with Erie, Dauphin, and Northampton counties electing new pro-democracy
 Democratic majorities. In Luzerne County, voters elected pro-democracy candidates in 4 of 6
 seats and rejected the leading incumbent election denier on the Council bringing much-needed
 balance to the County Council ahead of the 2024 elections.
- Across the primary and general elections in 2023, democracyFIRST PAC spent in support and contributed directly to 33 candidates and campaigns. This included 14 Republican candidates and 19 Democratic candidates. Of the 33 candidates, 29 won in 2023, producing a win-rate for the PAC of 88%.
- In the six counties that democracyFIRST PAC invested to help **defend pro-democracy incumbent majorities— the bi-partisan group of democracyFIRST Promise candidates won majorities in every county** (Lackawanna, Monroe, Centre, Cumberland, Montgomery, and Lehigh).

BACKGROUND:

Pennsylvania's election administration and certification process is one of the most decentralized in the country. The system grants county governments broad authority on policies ranging from the number of polling locations and ballot drop-boxes to the final certification of the election result. **This decentralized process creates major election vulnerabilities** that Donald Trump took full legal and political advantage in the aftermath of the 2020 election—sowing chaos, spreading disinformation, and stoking political extremism among his supporters that led to the January 6 Capitol Insurrection.

In 2021, the anti-democracy faction in Pennsylvania started to lay the groundwork to oust Democratic and rule-of-law Republican County Commissioners from office in 2023. Led by prominent election deniers like Doug Mastriano, this effort aimed to seize control of election administration county-by-county.

Election Deniers Running to Make Pennsylvania Voting Rules

"Dozens of people running for county commissioner in Pennsylvania this year have expressed skepticism about the outcome of the 2020 election or directly said it was stolen from Donald Trump."

SPOTLIGHT

May 10, 2023

To counteract these anti-democratic efforts, democracyFIRST executed a unique, cross-partisan political strategy in 2023 to elect pro-democracy, pro-rule of law Republicans and Democrats to the countywide positions that will oversee the administration, counting, and certification of the 2024 Presidential Election across Pennsylvania.

The premier focus of our advocacy program in Pennsylvania centered on the cross-partisan democracyFIRST Promise Campaign. The campaign launched in July with a statewide \$200,000 TV ad buy calling on county candidates to make the democracyFIRST Promise. The campaign aims to restore the standards, expectations, and norms for elected officials and candidates seeking positions overseeing the administration and certification of elections. The Promise includes four pro-democracy principles:



- Support every eligible American citizen's freedom to exercise their right to vote in free, fair, accessible, safe, and secure elections.
- **Denounce political violence** against opponents, their supporters, and election workers.
- **Don't propagate falsehoods** and misinformation about the electoral process.
- Accept and certify the final election result after all the votes are counted, concede the contest if you
 lose, and support the peaceful transition of power.

We enlisted over 100 countywide candidates to make the Promise, representing 48 counties across Pennsylvania (nearly three-fourths of all counties statewide). In early October, <u>all 5 living former Pennsylvania Governors</u> and eight former members of Congress signed on to support the effort. <u>democracyFIRST also released polling</u> that showed the principles outlined in the democracyFIRST Promise are considered non-partisan and widely popular with Pennsylvania voters across the ideological spectrum. Our <u>survey</u> found that, by a 50-point margin, Pennsylvania voters could never support a candidate who did not agree to the Promise, 75% - 25%.

Overview of democracyFIRST PA Program:

Across priority counties, democracyFIRST invested over \$2.5 million to support and help elect pro-rule of law & pro-democracy county commission and council majorities. This investment included:

- An aggressive \$250,000 <u>direct mail</u> and <u>digital ad campaign</u> targeting PA voters who requested vote-by-mail ballots, with the **pro-democracy candidates winning in seven of the nine counties in which these ads ran**.
- \$100,000 digital ad and newspaper print ad campaign recognizing and thanking incumbent County
 Commissioners from across the state for making the democracyFIRST promise and publicly supporting
 the four important pro-democracy principles. The ads recognized and thanked 14 Commissioners, 11
 Democrats and three Republicans, all of whom were re-elected.
- In the general election alone, democracyFIRST PAC contributed \$750,000, through in-kind and direct contributions, to 25 pro-democracy Republican and Democratic campaigns and candidates, making the PAC one of the largest direct contributors in Pennsylvania in 2023. Of the 25 candidates and campaigns that received contributions in the general election, 22 won their races.
- democracyFIRST PAC developed a unique and unprecedented partnership with four county Democratic
 committees in top targeted races to fully fund countywide coordinated field programs. This \$350,000
 investment resulted in 120,000 door and phone persuasion attempts, sent over 100,000 voter contact
 texts, engaged in pre-Election Day cure efforts, and made over 89,000 calls to volunteers, leading to
 over 6,000 volunteer shifts completed. democracyFIRST's work helped increase turnout in every county
 we ran a field program, including an 18.63% turnout increase in Berks, a 22.08% increase in Lancaster,
 and a 12.75% increase in Luzerne.

PA. Voters Will Soon Pick the People Who Run the 2024 Election—so a National Group is Fighting Election Denial

"The Washington-based interest group democracyFIRST is focusing on this November's general election, pressing candidates in races for county council and commissioner to take a four-point pledge."

| Pittsburgh | Post-Gazette | Pittsburgh | P

July 3, 2023

- Three-fourths of countywide democracyFIRST Promise Democratic and Republican candidates representing over half of Pennsylvania's counties won; democracyFIRST had substantial wins in 3 of its 5 top tier counties; and democracyFIRST won every single county where it invested to defend prodemocracy majorities. Looking ahead to the 2024 election, there will be pro-democracy majorities in nearly all the competitive counties in Pennsylvania: in the 16 most competitive, swing counties in Pennsylvania, which includes 3.3 million registered voters, 13 of the county commissions or county councils will have pro-democracy majorities in 2024 (majority of members made the democracyFIRST Promise). These results sent another clear signal that voters from both parties want a return to prodemocracy governance and a cross-partisan embrace of functional political norms.
- The general election electoral program built on democracyFIRST PAC's investment in eight Republican counties in the May 2023 primary election to help defeat anti-democracy candidates and re-elect pro-democracy Republican incumbents for county commission. democracyFIRST PAC ran a targeted, data-driven, Independent Expenditure program that included persuasion and turnout direct mail and digital ads. The \$200,000 outside effort targeted over 100,000 Republican primary voters to encourage them to elect pro-democracy Republican officials. We won seven of the targeted counties, all of which are Republican strongholds. See democracyFIRST's post-primary report on the success of pro-democracy Republican candidates in the May primary.

Analysis of PA County Election Results:

ERIE COUNTY

Top target Brian Shank was defeated in District 5, bringing a 5-2 majority to the County Commission and ensuring a strong pro-democracy majority.

Drexel Upsets Shank in Erie County Council Race; Scutella, Copeland, Schauerman Score Wins

"Democrat Chris Drexel defeated Republican incumbent Brian Shank in a major upset Tuesday night, giving Democrats a powerful 5-2 majority on Erie County Council."

November 8, 2023

democracyFIRST achieved its goal of defeating the leading election denier on the Erie County Council, Chairman Brian Shank, and electing <u>pro-democracy and democracyFIRST Promise candidate Chris Drexel</u> in County Council District 5. As summed up in Erie's primary local paper, "Democrat Chris Drexel defeated Republican incumbent Brian Shank in a **major upset Tuesday night**, giving Democrats a powerful 5-2 majority on the Erie County Council."

Defeating Shank removed the worst MAGA-aligned, anti-democracy member of the County Council and delivered a new pro-democracy majority to oversee the 2024 Presidential election. Shank still refuses to say Biden won the election, and hosted his own January 6th rally in Erie. democracyFIRST's investments in Erie included running a field program that was able to contact target voters roughly 2.5 times at the door, eight unique <u>mail pieces</u>, TV & digital <u>ads</u>, and a <u>campaign website</u> that had over 600 unique visitors in the month of October alone.

BERKS COUNTY

One pro-democracy candidates was elected, with the other losing narrowly to antidemocratic incumbent who underperformed after being a top target of democracyFIRST.

democracyFIRST's goal in Berks County was to elect two pro-democracy candidates <u>Jess Royer and Dante Santoni</u> and defeat Commissioner Michael Rivera, one of the two anti-democracy incumbents running for re-election on the three seat Commission. Rivera narrowly won the third spot by 2,000 votes in a county Trump won by 8% in 2020, including having a significant 5,000 voter drop off compared to the other GOP incumbent while the pro-democracy candidates outperformed their projected vote totals by nearly 20%.

democracyFIRST's investments in Berks included running a field program that was able to knock on over 24,000 door attempts and made over 55,000 phone attempts, four unique <u>mail pieces</u>, an extensive paid media campaign that included <u>digital ads</u> and a Spanish language radio ad, and a <u>campaign website</u> that had over 2,000 unique visitors in the month of October alone. Finally, through a separate, independent expenditure entity, "Pennsylvania Democracy FIRST PAC", over \$80,000 in additional negative, paid communication was spent in the final two weeks criticizing our primary target, Commissioner Rivera.

LUZERNE COUNTY

Four candidates supported by democracyFIRST PAC elected to County Council and the worst anti-democracy incumbent lost re-election.

4 Democrats, 2 Republicans Win Luzerne County Council Seats

"Luzerne County voters selected four Democrats and two
Republicans for county council Tuesday, according to unofficial
general election results."

TIMES LEADER

November 8, 2023

<u>Four</u> of the five candidates democracyFIRST supported - all challengers - won their elections, helping bring balance to a Council whose previous one-party rule had consistently attempted to abuse its power and undermine County elections. The worst anti-democratic incumbent on the ballot and democracyFIRST's top target in the County, Stephen Urban, was soundly defeated - despite being the top vote getter in the May primary and having high name recognition from being from a local prominent political family.

democracyFIRST's investments in Luzerne included running a field program that was able to knock on over 19,000 door attempts and made over 47,000 phone attempts, five unique <u>mail pieces</u>, an extensive paid media campaign that included <u>digital ads</u> and a Spanish language radio ad, and a <u>campaign website</u> that had over 1,000 unique visitors in the month of October alone.

Finally, through a separate, independent expenditure entity, "Pennsylvania Democracy FIRST PAC", \$75,000 in additional negative, paid communication was spent in the final two weeks of the election. All of these efforts helped the pro-democracy candidates outperform their forecasted vote totals by nearly 13%.

DAUPHIN COUNTY

Bi-partisan coalition of democracyFIRST candidates all won, flipping complete control of the Commission to pro-democracy officials.

All three candidates who took the democracyFIRST Promise - incumbents Mike Pries (R) and George Hartwick (D) and challenger Justin Douglas (D) - all emerged victorious, knocking off the other incumbent and flipping the party composition on the Commission. Pries and Hartwick have <u>worked tirelessly</u> to <u>downplay</u> false claims of voter fraud and ensure voters have faith in the County's elections, with Pries <u>saying</u> his goal was "someday to have 100% voter turnout." Now to be joined by Douglas, Dauphin will have a complete pro-democracy Commission heading into the 2024 election.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Despite the pro-democracy candidates overperforming, they were unable to defeat the anti-democratic majority on the Council.

democracyFIRST's goal in Lancaster County was to elect pro-democracy Democratic candidates Alice Yoder and Bob Hollister, while defeating Commissioner Josh Parsons, one of the two anti-democracy incumbent Republicans. While Yoder and Hollister as a ticket vastly outperformed the 2023 Supreme Court candidate they shared the ticket with as well as President Biden's vote share in 2020, they were unable to defeat Parsons and the other anti-democratic incumbent.

Due to the difficult path of winning in the County (polling showed Lancaster as the most difficult of democracyFIRST's priorities), the large population of the County, and an organized and well resourced opposition, democracyFIRST's program in Lancaster County was comparatively smaller than in its other top tier races. Still, the hired field program knocked on more than 13,000 door attempts and made nearly 32,000 phone attempts, while democracyFIRST produced field lit, three turnout mail pieces, and digital advertising - all helping the pro-democracy candidates outperform their forecasted vote totals by 22%.

MONROE COUNTY

democracyFIRST Promise candidates reelected in the County Commission races and democracyFIRST-backed candidate defeated the incumbent County Recorder, who served as a Fake Elector in 2020 for Donald Trump.

democracyFIRST Promise incumbents Sharon Laverdure (D) and John Christy (D) were reelected along with challenger David Parker (R) - with all three outpacing the fourth candidate by at least 3%. Laverdure and Christy have successfully helped oversee Monroe's past elections, while Parker pushed for <u>pro-democracy reforms</u> during his tenure in the state legislature. In the race for the County's Recorder position, democracyFIRST Promise candidate Kate Best soundly defeated incumbent Josephine Ferro, who held the <u>distinction</u> of being one of the only officeholders anywhere in the country to sign on as a fake elector to try to overturn the 2020 election in favor of Trump.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Pro-democracy candidate was elected in District 3, ensuring a pro-democracy majority on the County Council.

democracyFIRST achieved its goal of helping elect democracyFIRST Promise candidate Jeff Warren in District 3, ensuring a pro-democracy majority on the County Council. Warren performed over 2% higher than President Biden did in the County in 2020.

BUCKS COUNTY

All three incumbents were reelected after working their previous terms to ensure local faith and integrity in the County's elections.

In one of the state's most closely watched bellwethers, incumbents and democracyFIRST Promise candidates Gene DiGirolamo (R), Diane Ellis-Marseglia (D), and Bob Harvie (D) all were reelected. DiGirolamo has been one of the most vocal pro-democracy Republican Commissioners in the state, <u>denouncing Trump and the Big Lie</u> after the January 6 Insurrection through an open letter in the local press, working to <u>assure</u> residents there was no voter fraud in Bucks County and that the 2020 election "was safe and secure," and voicing <u>support</u> for Pennsylvania's mail-in voting system, which he voted in favor of when he served as a state representative. Along with Ellis-Marseglia and Harvie, the three incumbents have worked closely together to successfully help run Bucks' elections, and ensure that Bucks has a complete pro-democracy commission heading into the 2024 elections.

CENTRE COUNTY

All three pro-democracy incumbents were reelected, defeating a challenger who made restricting voting options a campaign priority.

Incumbents Steven Dershem (R), Amber Concepcion (D), and Mark Higgins (D) all were reelected by fairly wide margins. Concepcion and Higgins are both democracyFIRST Promise candidates, and were joined by Dershem in unanimously defending the certification process of the County's 2022 and 2020 election results. The incumbents defeated a challenger who made eliminating drop boxes a core component of her campaign, ensuring that Centre's voters will continue to have a complete prodemocracy Commission that will protect their voting options and access.

CHESTER COUNTY

Chester County replaced the far-right, anti-democracy, Commissioner who refused to certify past elections and elected entire bipartisan slate of candidates who made the democracyFIRST Promise

Following the retirement of Commissioner Michelle Kichline, who <u>voted against</u> certifying a number of Chester's past elections, Chester County voters chose to go in another direction and elected all three candidates who took the democracyFIRST pledge, incumbents Josh Maxwell (D) and Marian Moskowitz (D), and challenger Eric Roe (R). Roe, who was one of the first candidates to take the democracyFIRST pledge and ran on his <u>pro-democracy accomplishments</u> in the state legislature, soundly defeated the other candidate in the race, David Sommers, whose <u>platform</u> and <u>past actions</u> aligned closely with that of the outgoing Kichline.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

The two pro-democracy incumbents running were reelected, ensuring the Cumberland County maintains a bipartisan, pro-democracy majority on the County Commission.

Incumbents Gary Eichelberger (R) and Jean Foschi (D) were reelected, after Eichelberger also emerged victorious in a 9-candidate race in the GOP primary earlier this year. Eichelberger has stood up to the extreme election denying factions in the County, <u>denouncing</u> the <u>post-2020 misinformation</u> that led to the January 6 insurrection, and <u>refusing</u> to bow to the demands of the local GOP party to try to wrongly dispute the results in favor of Trump. Eichelberger and Foschi <u>unanimously certified</u> the County's 2020 election results and <u>criticized</u> the Trump campaign's efforts prior to the election to try to get specific security details for ballots and voting machines in the county. Together, they will continue to provide the County with a pro-democracy majority overseeing its future elections. Dauphin will have a complete pro-democracy Commission heading into the 2024 election.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

All three democracyFIRST Promise candidates won, creating a bi-partisan, pro-democracy, county commission.

The three democracyFIRST Promise candidates - incumbent Chris Chermak (R) and challengers Bill Gaughan (D) and McGloin (D) - all prevailed, defeating the other candidate in the race who had not taken the promise; this included Gaughan and McGloin nearly doubling that candidate's vote total. Chermak was part of the team that unanimously certified Lackawanna's 2020 and 2022 elections, and now will be working with two other prodemocracy Commissioners to help the County continue to run safe and secure elections.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Four democracyFIRST candidates won the four open seats, including defeating one of the most prominent anti-democracy, election denying candidates in the state.

democracyFIRST Promise candidates incumbent Dan Hartzell (D) and challengers April Riddick (D), Jon Irons (D), and Sheila Alvarado (D) all won - with each defeating the four candidates who refused to take the Promise by at least 3,000 votes. One of the defeated candidates, Jacqueline Rivera (R), was featured in democracyFIRST's <u>pre-election report</u> as one of the countywide candidates on the ballot this November who posed the greatest threat anywhere in the state to the future of free and fair elections in Pennsylvania. Rivera previously joined a lawsuit to restrict Lehigh voters' access and options, and had <u>associated</u> herself with <u>fringe election conspiracy theorists</u>.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

One of the most prominent anti-democracy Commissioners in Pennsylvania, Joe Gale, lost the Republican primary, and all three democracyFIRST backed candidates won in the general election.

After kicking out election denier Joe Gale in the May primary, Montgomery voters again chose democracy this November, electing democracyFIRST Promise candidates Thomas DiBello (R), Jamila Winder (D), and Neil Makhija (D). Together, this new Commission will help Montgomery move forward in a much better direction than it was under Gale's <u>destructive</u>, <u>anti-democratic actions</u>.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

democracyFIRST's investment in both the primary and general elections resulted in a bipartisan pair of candidates who made the Promise and won seats on the Commission.

A bipartisan pair of democracyFIRST candidates, Electra Janis (R) and Larry Maggi (D), captured two of the three seats for County Commissioner, ensuring Washington County will have a pro-democratic majority going forward. In a County that has seen <u>consistent threats</u> <u>and criticism</u> from residents related to election conspiracy theories, democracyFIRST helped Janis defeat a number of election deniers running in the primary. Now, teamed with Maggi, Washington County voters can be assured they have a Commission that will work to ensure their votes are counted and elections can be trusted.

Analysis of democracyFIRST May Primary Program:

CAMBRIA COUNTY

democracyFIRST-backed candidate defeated a pair of election denier candidates.

democracyFIRST-backed incumbent Commissioner Scott Hunt won the primary and beat back the MAGA-aligned election-denier ticket of John DeBartola and Joe Taranto with 38% of the vote.

FULTON COUNTY

democracyFIRST PAC helped end one of the state's most anti-democracy majorities.

democracyFIRST backed candidate Steven Wible who won an upset victory with 35% of the primary vote, beating out Republican incumbent Commissioner Stuart Ulsh, whose actions led to the county violating the law when it gave an outside group access to the county voting machines following the 2020 election.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Pro-democracy Republican candidate prevailed over election denier candidates.

The two candidates with the most concerning statements and backgrounds supporting election denialism lost the primary against democracyFIRST-backed incumbent Republican Dan Vogler.

PIKE COUNTY

Pro-rule of law and democracyFIRST PAC supported incumbents beat-back anti-democracy and election denying primary challengers.

Incumbents Matthew Osterberg and Ronald Schmalzle both won the Republican primary. The pair, who are reliable on election-related issues, handily defeated a team of "patriot" candidates aligned with the election denier movement, Bob Roch and Matthew Contreras.

POTTER COUNTY

democracyFIRST PAC helped defeat a pair of far-right "America First" primary challengers.

democracyFIRST PAC supported incumbents Paul Heimel and Nancy Grupp, who were both re-elected in the Republican primary. The incumbents, who were the first to fight back against Trump's mail ballot lawsuit in 2020, defeated a team of "America First" candidates aligned with the far-right on anti-democracy issues.

WARREN COUNTY

Group of anti-democracy, election denier candidates, lost their races.

democracyFIRST PAC supported incumbent Tricia Durbin and her win helped ensure Warren County will have a pro-rule of law majority for the next four years. Durbin has a reliable record on democracy and election-related issues and defeated two election denier candidates.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

democracyFIRST PAC supported pro-rule of law candidate Electra Janis who faced a crowded and competitive primary for the open seat on the County Commission.

Republican challenger candidate Electra Janis won her campaign against two leading election denier candidates Ashley Duff and Bruce Bandel, finishing directly ahead of them.

Full list of democracyFIRST Promise candidates who won the general election:

Adams County: Marty Qually

Allegheny County: Sara Innamorato (County Executive) and Dan Grzybek (County Council, District 5)

Armstrong County: John Strate and Pat Fabian

Beaver County: Tony Amadio **Bedford County:** Deb Baughman **Berks County:** Dante Santoni, Jr.

Blair County: Laura Burke and David Kessling

Bucks County: Gene DiGirolamo; Diane Ellis-Marseglia; and Bob Harvie

Butler County: Kevin Boozel **Carbon County:** Rocky Ahner

Centre County: Amber Concepcion and Mark Higgins

Chester County: Josh Maxwell; Marian Moskowitz; and Eric Roe

Clarion County: Braxton White
Clearfield County: David Glass
Clinton County: Angela Harding
Crowford County Christopher So

Crawford County: Christopher Seeley

Cumberland County: Gary Eichelberger and Jean Foschi

Dauphin County: Justin Douglas; George Hartwick; and Mike Pries

Delaware County: Elaine Paul Schaefer; Christine Reuther; and Monica Taylor

Erie County: Rock Copland (District 3); Chris Drexel (District 5); and Terry Scutella (District 1);

Fayette County: Vincent Vicites
Indiana County: Sherene Hess
Jefferson County: Jeffrey Pisarcik

Lackawanna County: Chris Chermak; Bill Gaughan; and Matt McGloin

Lancaster County: Alice Yoder

Lehigh County: Sheila Alvarado; Dan Hartzell; Jon Irons; and April Riddick

Luzerne County: Joanna Bryn Smith; Patricia Krushnowski; Jimmy Sabatino; and Brittany Stephenson

Monroe County: Katie Best (Recorder); John Christy; and Sharon Laverdure

Montgomery County: Tom Dibello; Neil Makhija; and Jamila Winder

Northampton County: Kelly Keegan (District 2); Ken Kraft (District 1); and Jeff Warren (District 3)

Philadelphia County: Seth Bluestein (City Commission)

Schuylkill County: Gary Hess

Somerset County: Brian Fochtman; Irvin Kimmel; and Pamela Tokar-Ickes

Sullivan County: Scott Myers

Susquehanna County: Judy Herschel

Venango County: Albert "Chip" Abramovic

Washington County: Electra Janis and Larry Maggi

Westmoreland County: Ted Kopas

Conclusion:

To isolate and defeat the anti-democracy movement, we need to engage in every county where free and fair elections are under attack. The results in Pennsylvania's 2023 primary and general elections are a powerful illustration of the importance of the pro-democracy, cross-partisan political movement and its appeal to voters across the ideological spectrum. Voters across the state overwhelmingly supported Democratic and Republican candidates who made the democracyFIRST Promise in most of the competitive countywide races, leading to pro-democracy majorities in the counties that democracyFIRST prioritized.

However, the threat to democracy in Pennsylvania, and other Presidential Battleground States persists. As detailed in democracyFIRST's 2023 Pennsylvania Report released prior to the 2023 general election, there are still a number of county officials who won this November who will continue to pose great threats to the future of safe, free and fair elections in Pennsylvania. democracyFIRST is committed to holding them accountable and meeting the anti-democracy and election denier threat they present with a well-resourced pro-democracy effort in each contest with a pathway to victory.

Looking forward, democracyFIRST is laying the groundwork to replicate our successes in Pennsylvania in other competitive swing states, expanding its 2024 electoral strategy into Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Nevada. Each of these states are likely to have close statewide electoral outcomes in the future and remain particularly vulnerable to subversion and manipulation because of their decentralized election administration and certification process. These states were also the focus of Trump's attempt to overturn the 2020 election and have well-established election denier factions, many in dangerous positions of control over county and statewide party infrastructure.

For press inquiries and questions:

Please contact Tim Mulvey, at press@democracyfirst.org or Jordan Wood, Executive Director of democracyFIRST and democracyFIRST PAC, at jordan@democracyfirst.org