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News Release

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Democratic Jewish Outreach PA endorses judicial candidates Wendy Rothstein and Jeff Saltz

On Friday, October 27, 2017, Democratic Jewish Outreach PA (DJOP) announced its endorsement of Wendy Rothstein and Jeff Saltz, candidates for judge of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas in the PA General Election being held Tuesday, November 7, 2017. DJOP is taking special interest in this year's judicial races because of the substantial role the courts have nationally and at the state level in maintaining checks and balances on the executive and legislative branches of government. Now, more so than ever before, the role of the judiciary is critical in protecting individual rights, as conservative lawmakers attempt to exert far-reaching control—often beyond the established boundaries of their positions—and erase years of progress.

A total of seven seats are open between the PA Supreme Court, PA Superior Court, and PA Commonwealth Court, and three statewide judges are standing for retention. There are also scores of openings and retention elections for the Courts of Common Pleas in counties across the state. The Courts of Common Pleas typically receive less attention from voters, but they are the courts that state residents are most likely to encounter. They are the general trial courts of Pennsylvania and hear major civil and criminal cases. They also handle appeals from the minor courts (Magisterial District Courts) and matters involving children and families.

Looking specifically at Montgomery County, Democrats outnumber Republicans by over 50,000 voters, yet only 7 of the 23 judges currently serving on the Court of Common Pleas are Democrats. The election of Rothstein and Saltz will reduce the gap in representation significantly.

Both Rothstein and Saltz are extremely qualified and well-regarded by a variety of legal and community organizations. After receiving the news that DJOP had endorsed her, Rothstein shared her perception of why she's the right person for this position. "Beyond my experience and the professional recognition I've received, I believe it is my view of the kind of judge I aspire to be that distinguishes me...When people leave my courtroom they will feel like they appeared in front of a Judge who was well prepared and unbiased...and that they had an even playing field to present their case."

Saltz shared what inspired him to run and why this race is so critical: "I am running because of the challenge that faces us as the result of last year's national election. If we have learned nothing else in the past ten months, it is the importance of judges who will be independent and courageous in standing up for individual rights and equal rights. These rights are under attack from the highest levels of our government, and the courts are our last line of defense. After last year's election, President Obama...said that we shouldn't cry the blues, but instead should grab a clipboard and run for office—and I decided that he was talking to me."

DJOP urges all eligible voters to get to the polls on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Electing judges with integrity and vision is paramount. Rothstein and Saltz satisfy both of those requirements. For more information about Rothstein and Saltz, and the Democratic judicial candidates for statewide positions, visit <http://bit.ly/MCDC2017UpdatedJudicialGuide>.

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About Democratic Jewish Outreach PA (DJOP)

DJOP was founded in 2008 to support the candidacy of Barack Obama. Since then, DJOP's mission has expanded to helping elect Democratic candidates running for office in PA who fight for progressive policies and social justice. By doing so, we are advancing the Jewish imperative to repair the world or "*tikkun olam*."