

**[J-1-2018]**  
**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**MIDDLE DISTRICT**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF : No. 159 MM 2017  
PENNSYLVANIA, CARMEN FEBO SAN :  
MIGUEL, JAMES SOLOMON, JOHN :  
GREINER, JOHN CAPOWSKI, :  
GRETCHEN BRANDT, THOMAS :  
RENTSCHLER, MARY ELIZABETH :  
LAWN, LISA ISAACS, DON LANCASTER, :  
JORDI COMAS, ROBERT SMITH, :  
WILLIAM MARX, RICHARD MANTELL, :  
PRISCILLA MCNULTY, THOMAS :  
ULRICH, ROBERT MCKINSTRY, MARK :  
LICHTY, LORRAINE PETROSKY, :

Petitioners

v.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF :  
PENNSYLVANIA; THE PENNSYLVANIA :  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY; THOMAS W. :  
WOLF, IN HIS CAPACITY AS :  
GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA; :  
MICHAEL J. STACK III, IN HIS CAPACITY :  
AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF :  
PENNSYLVANIA AND PRESIDENT OF :  
THE PENNSYLVANIA SENATE; :  
MICHAEL C. TURZAI, IN HIS CAPACITY :  
AS SPEAKER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA :  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; :  
JOSEPH B. SCARNATI III, IN HIS :  
CAPACITY AS PENNSYLVANIA SENATE :  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE; ROBERT :  
TORRES, IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING :  
SECRETARY OF THE :  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA; :  
JONATHAN M. MARKS, IN HIS :  
CAPACITY AS COMMISSIONER OF THE :  
BUREAU OF COMMISSIONS, :  
ELECTIONS, AND LEGISLATION OF :

THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF :  
STATE, :  
Respondents :

**RESPONSE OF JUSTICE CHRISTINE DONOHUE TO THE APPLICATION OF  
RESPONDENTS MICHAEL C. TURZAI, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS SPEAKER  
OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND JOSEPH B.  
SCARNATI, III, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS PENNSYLVANIA SENATE  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE FOR FULL DISCLOSURE**

Although disquieted by the untimely and irregular nature of the Application, I nonetheless file this response in the interest of public clarification.

First, I never made any pledges, promises or commitments other than to faithfully apply the law. Throughout the 2015 campaign, I confined my speeches to personal background and experience, the Court's constitutional roles and to the importance of the Court's non-adjudicatory functions. I spoke regularly about the Court's role in appointments to boards and disciplinary bodies, the Court's function in the supervision of the judicial system and the Court's appointment duty under Article 2, Section 17 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. That provision requires the Court to appoint the fifth member of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission in the case of deadlock. The Commission and the Court's appointment duty relate solely to state, not federal, legislative districts. None of these subjects bear any relationship to the case at hand.

  
Justice Christine Donohue

Dated: February 5, 2018