

This candidate information is brought to you by the League of Women Voters of Wood County as a public service. Candidates for Magistrate were asked to submit a statement to the voters in unopposed races and were asked to respond to questions in opposed races. Candidate responses are printed exactly as received, including spelling, grammar and content. Candidate biographies and responses to questions were limited to 60 words and 120 words for the statement to the voters.

Office Magistrate Division 1
Name Maryann “Mur” Copeland
Party Non-partisan

Biography

Originally from northern PA, I’ve lived in Vienna, WV for 20 years now. I have an amazing 28 year old son who also resides in Vienna. Currently, I work as Magistrate Assistant for Wood Co Magistrate Court and worked with both Magistrate Donna Jackson and now Magistrate Joe Kuhl.

WEBSITE:

www.facebook.com/MurForMagistrate

www.linkedin.com/in/maryann-copeland

Judicial/Legal Experience

I graduated from Gannon University, a Catholic college in Erie, PA. Once here, I owned a Real Estate Title Company for 10 years in WV and OH. By 2010, I worked at the Wood Co. Prosecuting Attorney’s Office and currently work for the Wood Co. Magistrate Court as Magistrate Assistant for nearly 9 years now.

1. What changes would you suggest to reduce overcrowding in our correctional facilities?

Obviously, not everyone will agree with reducing jail sentences however, the public should understand that overcrowding in correctional facilities costs us all money. Alternative sentencing would be the best solution to cut such costs, including home confinement, probation, drug court, etc. Additionally, considering lower or appropriate bonds which fit the offense and the specific defendant should be considered.

2. If there was one thing you could change about the current magistrate court system, what would it be?

If there were one thing I may change about the Magistrate Court system, it would be to have better communication with the public, as well as the other courts and facilities throughout Wood County. Too many times, the public is automatically directed to Magistrate Court when it is outside of their jurisdiction to help. This wastes valuable time for everyone.

3. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for magistrate?

My best training for being a qualified Magistrate is my nearly 10 years of experience as Magistrate Assistant. This includes working with two very different, although experienced and knowledgeable, Magistrates. With my many years at Magistrate Court, I’ve learned first hand the procedures, policies, and practices from arraignments to sentencing, and the very important responsibilities of a Magistrate.

Office Magistrate Division 1
Name Jody M. Purkey
Party Non-partisan

Biography

I grew up in Vienna WV and went to the local grade school and middle school.

Graduate of Parkersburg Catholic High School, Attended College at Shepherd College, and attended school at the Ohio Institute of Photography. Worked as an Assistant Supervisor / Trainer at the Wood County 911 center

Judicial/Legal Experience

I have been a Wood County Magistrate going on for 3 years and several months, each year I have been assigned approximately 1100 misdemeanor cases ,200 felony cases , 550 civil cases, 250 domestic violence orders and 35 fugitives cases. The cases are heard as a bench trial or some of them as a jury trials.

1. What changes would you suggest to reduce overcrowding in our correctional facilities?

The overcrowding issue we have in this state, could be reduce with alternative sentencing, we also could use the Home Incarceration system. We should look into using the prison population for work force for the state. Inmates working in our state parks, cleaning up our roadways.

2. If there was one thing you could change about the current magistrate court system, what would it be?

I would like to see the technology improve with the court system, in ways of working remotely, have more access to our court files. Able to work from a remote location when working on call bases. Would like to see more magistrates for the larger counties to ease some of the case load.

3. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for magistrate?

My skill level of a good listener, and open mind gives me an insight to the cases, and the ability to rule fairly in all cases. The Supreme Court works with the magistrate of each county to insure we have the newest information on all new laws and WV codes. My 10 years' experience with the Wood county 911 center

Office Magistrate Division 2

Name Brenda K. Marshall

Party Non-partisan

Biography

Lifelong resident of Wood County. I've raised my daughter's Victoria Pence, Muriah Lane and they're raising my grandchildren, Jakob,Kaylei,Cole,Landon here as well. Daughter of Robert Marshall. 1975 graduate of PHS, attended PPC

Judicial/Legal Experience

I have worked at Magistrate Court for thirty years, last seventeen as Magistrate. Attended all judicial conferences required by Supreme Court of appeals. Member of Magistrate Association serving as treasurer.

Statement to the Voters

I know I cannot please everyone. I do my absolute best to maintain a professional and fair attitude for all who enter my courtroom. I promise to continue that same mentality, compassion and determination throughout my next term as Wood County Magistrate. I am grateful to be part of helping families acquire peace of mind. I understand there are issues in our county, and most just want it the way it used to be. If we all join together we can accomplish great things. It can't be done by one person or In one day. I look forward to working with my fellow Magistrates to meet the needs of Wood County.

Office Magistrate Division 3

Name Robin A. Waters

Party Non-partisan

No Reply

Office Magistrate Division 4

Name Joe A. Kuhl

Party Non-partisan

No Reply