



# COUNTY OF ERIE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 21, 2026**

### **Erie County Poll Workers to Take Oath of Office**

**Erie, PA** — Erie County poll workers will take the Oath of Office, affirming their commitment to uphold the integrity of elections and to ensure a free and fair election for all Erie County residents.

The swearing-in ceremonies will be held in **Courtroom H of the Erie County Courthouse**, located at **140 W. Sixth Street**. The ceremonies are scheduled as follows:

- **January 21, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.**, presided over by the **Honorable Peter J. Sala**
- **January 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**, presided over by the **Honorable David G. Ridge**

Erie County Chief Clerk **Karen Chillcott** emphasized that “This oath matters because democracy depends on people who honor their word. When our poll workers raise their right hand today, they are making a commitment that every ballot will be handled with care, and every voter will be treated with dignity and respect.”

**Tonia Fernandez**, Director of Elections, highlighted the importance of poll workers, stating, “Election workers are integral to the election process. They are our Champions of Democracy, who make sure every vote counts.”

Election workers provide essential services that are critical to the successful administration of elections, including setting up voting equipment, checking in voters, processing ballots, assisting voters with special needs, and securing and returning election materials to the Election Office.

Fernandez encourages any registered voter interested in serving as a poll worker to become part of the democratic process.

Individuals seeking more information are invited to contact the Erie County Election Office or visit <https://eriecountycouncilpa.gov/elections-voting/>.

The **2026 Erie County General Primary Election** will be held on **May 19, 2026**.  
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