

My name is Sophia Garcia-Jackson and I'm running for Chester County Coroner.

I'm currently the Chief Deputy Coroner with Chester County, and have been with the office for the last 2 years, originally in the role of First Deputy Coroner until my promotion last March.

In my current role I manage the office and oversee all Coroner investigations and transport duties. I have direct managerial responsibilities for the majority of the staff, including all of our investigators. This year I was responsible for our budget and one of my achievements was streamlining the process, as well as making changes to the way we make payments that allow for true transparency to our cost basis. I sit on multiple task forces throughout the county, coordinating with local law enforcement and other county agencies for both investigative and planning and response purposes. The current Coroner and I share duties including the signing of death certificates and providing cause and manner of death, so I'm very familiar with the additional responsibilities of the Coroner role.

Prior to joining Chester County I worked for the State of New Jersey as a Death Investigator for 6 years in their Southern office.

I hold a master's degree in Forensic Medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from California State with a certification in Forensic Identification. I completed an internship with the Human ID Lab at Cal State which is a world-renowned forensic facility specializing in Forensic Anthropology and an internship with the Philadelphia Medical Examiner Office. I'm certified with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and working on the next level of fellowship which I will have completed prior to the election in November. I've completed the training and am certified with the PA Coroner Education Board.

I moved to West Chester in 2019, and bought a home there in 2020 with my husband, who also works in Chester County. I'm originally from California but moved to PA in 2010, before picking up and moving across the river to NJ for 6 years. Now that I'm back in PA I couldn't be happier to live and work in Chester County. I live with my husband, Blake, our dog Chico and two cats in our home in Zone 14 and of course I'm a lifelong Democrat.

If I have the honor of being elected, I will be prepared to lead the office on day one. I'm very passionate about this office and the service we provide to the residents of Chester County, especially in a time of medical crisis like this pandemic. The current Coroner, Dr. VandePol, has done excellent work these past 4 years in putting this office on the right path towards progress but there is much left to do. We need to modernize the office, leverage technology where we can to increase our efficiency and most importantly, we need a modern forensic facility that provides the proper safety mechanisms for our office to do its work in the most important of circumstances, like a pandemic. Currently we lack the required equipment to safely do autopsies with a contagious disease. We should also look to ensure we are spending the residents tax dollars appropriately and institute logical reforms, including hiring a forensic

pathologist which would cost less than what we spend today on outside consultants while also providing us increased capacity.

In the last two years I've helped to create a strong and effective staff that's been tested during one of the most trying times in memory. I'm proud to say we've only gotten better the harder things have become. The Coroner's Office provides an essential service to the residents of Chester County that I'm incredibly proud of and I want to continue that work; there is still much to do.