

the Lansdowne Leader

November 2021

"Accountable Leadership, Accessible Government"

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PENNSYLVANIA REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 164TH DISTRICT

Gina Hackett Curry

Gina Hackett Curry is a change agent for advocacy, activism and equity, who is now seeking your vote to be our next representative in the 164th district. With her proven track record of leadership and advocacy for children and their families, she wants to take the fight to Harrisburg on our behalf. In her words, "I understand that the communities of the 164th face many diverse obstacles, but I know listening to members of the community and taking those voices, concerns and needs to Harrisburg, will help to create change here at home in the 164th."

As an educator with more than 20 years of experience, she has worked with young people and their families involving policy development and practice. Both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from St. Joseph's University are in the field of Criminal Justice, with a concentration in Sociology. Gina has vast experience in the behavioral health field as a clinical supervisor, behavioral specialist, and therapeutic consultant. She further enjoys mentoring roles that support young professionals in developing leadership skills,



volunteerism, and civic engagement. Gina is also an Equity & Advocacy Consultant for Living Strong Consulting, LLC

She was elected in November 2019 to a four-year term as a director of the Upper Darby (UD) School Board with the highest vote total (12,672) having previously won a two-year term in 2017 by more than 1,600 votes. The strong voter support she received is a direct result of her hard work in response to the diverse needs of her constituency. While a member of the Board, she has served as Education and Pupil Services Committee Co-Chair, New Policy Committee, Instruction and Curriculum Stonehurst Hills Elementary

School. She was recently selected as Vice President of the UD School Board.

Gina also serves as vice-chair of the Delaware County Democratic Party, and an elected member of the UD Democratic Committee. She is appointed as the PR/Social Media Branding Specialist for the Women's Democratic Club of Delaware County.

Gina and her husband, Rap Curry, have previously lived in Lansdowne, have strong family ties to Lansdowne, and are currently residing nearby in Upper Darby Township. They are the parents of three children, of whom two have graduated from the UD School District, while one is still attending school in the district. She speaks about public education, advocating for all children, "I'm a parent who really wants to see my own children have the most equitable experience they can here, but I also want to see that all children and their families have that same experience."

The platform for which Gina Curry stands includes: Economic Development, Union Trade and Education Opportunities,

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SPECIAL ELECTION

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

As many of you might know, State Representative Margo Davidson recently resigned her seat. A special election will be held on November 2nd to fill out the remainder of her term (until November 2022). This coincides with the date of the general election, so you only need to come out once in November to vote.

According to the state rules, each party is responsible for selecting their candidate to place on the ballot for this special election. The selection was required to be submitted within 30 days of the announcement of the special election date. That deadline occurred at the end of August. Each party could determine their own internal guidelines and process to select their candidate. Although we do not know and cannot address the Republican's process, the Delaware County Democrats (Delco Dems) sought to create the most interactive and fair process that they could within their by-laws and the extreme time constraints.

In accordance with their by-laws, the Delco Dems' leadership council can propose the candidate to be placed on the ballot. They did not want to make this decision unilaterally, but to act in a more transparent and democratic way. So, they quickly organized a straw poll of all the Democratic committee people and elected officials within the boundaries of the 164th District and agreed to propose the winner of that poll as their candidate for the special election. The district includes all of Lansdowne, East Lansdowne, and Millbourne; and parts of Upper Darby and Yeadon. Therefore, the decision was to be made by the constituent leaders in the 164th and not the entire county.

Those interested in running for the vacant seat were requested to submit not only their bios, but also answers to questionnaires and background checks. This material was reviewed and then provided to all the potential straw poll voters. An on-line forum occurred on August 17th where six

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DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP WORKING FOR US

PRO-ACT: Remove Obstacles to Unionization, Improve Workers Lives

By Ben Hover

Labor history in the United States is rife with stories of abuse, exploitation, and mistreatment of workers by profit driven managers and corporate bad actors. From the Triangle Shirtwaist Coat Factory where 146 garment workers died—123 women and girls—due to unsafe worker conditions to the minefields in Pennsylvania where miners in 1902 fought for shorter work days, better pay, and safer conditions, labor union activism created the expectation we all have for the weekend, the 40 hour work week, safe working conditions, and dignity in the workplace. Yet, these changes did not occur without struggle, sacrifice, the death or injury of workers and attempts to stifle Union activity by employers.

After the passage of the Wagner Act in 1935, labor union membership increased, reaching its high point in 1954 with 1/3 of all workers being members of labor unions. Union membership remained high through the 1970's. However, attacks by anti-labor forces resulted in right to work legislation being passed throughout many states and continues to be a force attempting to dismantle the rights of

As a result of the decline of unions, the stagnation of workers wages and acceleration of executive pay has created vast inequality.

Unions to organize in Pennsylvania and the United States. The first states to pass Right to Work regulations were in the South and West – Arkansas in 1944 – and the movement expanded into Wisconsin and West Virginia within the past six years. As a result, workers experience lower wages and worse working conditions in these states.

As a result of the decline of Unions in the late 1970's due to right to work legislation, the stagnation of workers wages and acceleration of executive pay has created vast inequality in the present day United States. According to the Economic Policy Institute, "In 2020, the ratio of CEO-to-typical-worker compensation was



351-to-1 under the realized measure of CEO pay; that is up from 307-to-1 in 2019 and a big increase from 21-to-1 in 1965 and 61-to-1 in 1989. CEOs are even making a lot more than other very high earners (wage earners in the top 0.1%)—more than six times as much. From 1978 to 2020, CEO pay based on realized compensation grew by 1,322%, far outstripping S&P stock market growth (817%) and top 0.1% earnings growth (which was 341% between 1978 and 2019, the latest data available). In contrast,

compensation of the typical worker grew by just 18.0% from 1978 to 2020."

PRO-ACT

With the current laws, CEOs will continue to make more while their employees make less. To combat this growing inequality, the organization of labor unions the AFL-CIO is advocating for the passage of the PRO-ACT. The PRO-ACT, which passed the House of Representatives and is currently stuck in

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CHAIR’S COLUMN

Why The 2021 Election is Just as Important as 2020

By Charlotte Hummel, Editor-in-Chief

The turnout for the last General Election in November 2020 was tremendous! Motivated by the chance to oust the last administration (I can’t even bring myself to say the name) voters across America made the definitive choice of steady, thoughtful, experienced and sane instead of the chaos we experienced for the previous four years. So why is THIS year’s General Election on November 2nd EQUALLY IMPORTANT?

This year, our votes will determine whether or not we, as a state and a country continue down the road of disinformation, irresponsible challenges to the last one and efforts to take away the right to vote OR if we finally put to rest that the system of elections (with some minor improvements) overseen by our own local citizen election boards and responsibly counted and audited at the County level are sound and fair.

All elections are important, but some have more impact on our lives than others.

If Democrats don’t win the two seats up for election on the County Council, Republicans will have two of the three seats on the Election board.

Take for instance the County Council elections. Did you know that the County Council appoints the County Election Board members? Did you know that based on the last County election, the Democrats got two of the three seats on that Board? The lone Republican member, who resigned in September, was a persistent NO vote on any improvements to the election system including wishing to block securing ballot drop off boxes in towns throughout the county. He continually raised irrelevant and settled issues on the

Board and caused the meetings to drag on for up to six (6!) hours. He even voted, in the end, to NOT certify the election in Delaware County.

Recently I learned that the Republicans could take back the majority on the County Election Board even if the Democrats still held onto a majority of seats on County Council in this coming election. How? The majority of seats on the election board are not based on having a majority of seats on Council but rather on who got the majority of votes in the most recent election.

Therefore, if the two seats up for election on the County Council in November were to fall to Republicans, even if there is a 3-2 majority on the County Council, the Republicans would get two of the three seats on the Election board. Confusing? Yes. The law, also yes. So, we must re-elect Kevin Madden and elect Richard Womack to County Council on

November 2nd or we could end up with a Republican controlled election board which will no doubt do everything in its power to deny or interfere with Delaware County voters’ right to vote.

You can learn about all the other endorsed candidates – judicial (including retention votes), state, county and municipal – in this edition of the Leader. The most important thing remains: you must come out to vote.

Also in this edition, please see a retrospective piece and thank you to our own outgoing Mayor Tony Campuzano. Be sure to say thanks for his over 30 years of service to the Borough the next time you see him. And while he is stepping away from elected public office he is NOT RETIRING or going anywhere. He will be running his successful construction business and finding other ways to contribute to the betterment of our beloved village.



PENNSYLVANIA BEAT

Redistricting is Coming

By Suzanne McElroy

We hear so much about the importance of reapportionment and redistricting that I set out to learn how it works. If you are as curious as I am, you just might find this article worth your time.

Since I am a numbers person, I started there. On the federal level, Congress is composed of the House of Representatives with a set number of members: 435; and the Senate with a set number as well: 50 total or 2 from each state. Every 10 years the United States conducts a census to determine how many people are living in the United States and where they live. The population is then divided by 435 to determine how many people are to be served by a representative. Reapportionment refers to assigning the number of seats to each state by population of the state. In 2020 the population of the United States grew, but Pennsylvania’s population gained at a lower rate. Therefore, PA will lose one congressional seat. Our seats are reapportioned from the current 18 to 17. Currently, we are in the 5th congressional district, but the future district number and configuration is unknown.

Redistricting refers to drawing of lines. Congressional redistricting for the 17 seats is drawn by legislative action. A bill defining district boundaries is passed by both the PA House and PA Senate and signed by the governor. Federal law stipulates districts must have nearly equal populations and must not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity. Unfortunately, PA law does not specify how districts should be drawn or what criteria should be used to ensure that new district boundaries are fair

A decade ago, the Republican-led legislature created the 7th district map, which became a national joke known as the “Goofy Kicking Donald Duck” district. Look it up, if you have not done so previously. The League of Women Voters took this to court and the PA Supreme Court found it unconstitutional, requiring new district lines be drawn without racial gerrymandering. Thus, we ended up in the 5th district which encompasses all of Delaware County and small parts of Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties.

According to FairDistrictsPA, the General Assembly committees follow regular bill-to-law process for the congressional map. The House GOP (Republican) Caucus Redistricting website makes it clear that there is no coordination between parties OR between chambers, suggesting that the map itself might be drawn elsewhere. What’s in store for us this time around, as the PA legislature is still Republican-led?

What is the timing on the congressional map for PA? Redistricting Authorities in PA have not established a timeline for the 2024 cycle. In July a series of public hearings on congressional redistricting was announced, including a Regional Hearing: Southeast PA on October 19, 2021 and a Regional Hearing: Philadelphia on October 20, 2021. This information was obtained from www.ballotpedia.org but no specific locations were designated at the time of writing.

At the state level, the General Assembly is composed of the PA House and PA Senate, with 203 seats and 50 seats respectively, specified by the PA Constitution. Therefore, two maps are required, one for the PA House and one for the PA Senate. In PA, the Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC) is responsible for drawing these maps. The maps they create become law- no governor or legislature approval is required.

Who’s on the LRC? It is a five member commission composed of four political leaders: PA Senate Majority Leader (Kim L. Ward), PA Senate Democratic Leader (Jay Costa), PA House Majority Leader (Kerry Benninghoff), PA House Democratic Leader (Joanna McClinton), and chaired by a fifth member to be chosen by the four of them. Since they were unable to decide, the new Chair (Mark A. Nordenberg) was appointed by the PA Supreme Court as spelled out in the PA Constitution. The LRC has hired a mapping expert, Dr. Jonathan Cerva from Carnegie Mellon to assist them in the district map-making process. Generally, the desired expertise in such a consultant is geographic information systems (GIS), demographics, and census data. The PA Constitution states that the districts “shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. Each senatorial district shall elect one Senator, and each representative district one Representative. Unless absolutely necessary, no county, city, incorporated town, borough or ward shall be divided in forming either a senatorial or representative district.”

What is the timing? “No later than 90 days after either the commission was duly certified or the population data for the Commonwealth as determined by the Federal decennial census are available, whichever is later in time, the commission shall file a preliminary plan with such elections officer.” Since data was released by the US Census Bureau on August 12, 2021, this preliminary map is due to be released November 10, 2021. There is a thirty day window for public input or challenge to this plan.

Lansdowne’s Fight for Fair School Funding

Reprinted from the Fundourschoolspa.org website

In 2014, six Pennsylvania school districts, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools, the NAACP-PA State Conference, and a group of public school parents filed suit in Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court against state legislative leaders, state education officials, and the governor for failing to uphold the General Assembly’s constitutional obligation to provide a “thorough and efficient” system of public education. The districts—William Penn, Greater Johnstown, Lancaster, Panther Valley, Shenandoah Valley, and Wilkes-Barre Area—and other petitioners are represented by the Education Law Center of Pennsylvania, the Public Interest Law Center and O’Melveny.

Students are on track to have their day in court in November 2021. A trial will take place in Commonwealth Court in Harrisburg starting November 12.

The case for fair school funding

All kids deserve a high-quality public education. But legislative leaders in Harrisburg have created a school funding system where the students who need the most get the least, because of where they live.

Low-wealth Pennsylvania school districts have \$4,800 less to spend per pupil on students than wealthy school districts—and this gap, one of the widest in the country, is growing. This wide gap reflects the deep inequality between communities in Pennsylvania, which has some of the starkest resource disparities across school district borders in the country. More than 50 percent of Black students and 40 percent of Latino students attend districts in the bottom 20 percent of local wealth.

Across Pennsylvania, according to a benchmark written into state law, public schools need \$4.6 billion in additional funding to be able to give all of their students a shot at reaching state academic standards. And 277 districts—urban, suburban,

Legislative leaders in Harrisburg have created a school funding system where the students who need the most get the least, because of where they live.

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ELECTION DAY IN LANSDOWNE

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL OFFICES

Magda Byrne

MAYOR

I believe it is important for us to enhance our business district by adding more shops and eateries, as well as adding some night life. I value our historic homes and landscapes. I would like to find a way to honor the history of those things we hold dear, while progressively incorporating tradition and new construction that reflect current times.

Based on my experience some things that I have learned and have tried my best to practice are: listen more, talk less (super hard if you know me), assume good intent and meet people where they are.



Bill Smith

TAX COLLECTOR

If I had a vision for Lansdowne, it would be to get the theater opened and bring a bit more vibrancy and stability to our town. As tax collector, I am the first in our Borough to attain DCED Act 48 certification as required and additional certification from PSTCA. In the past year, I have handled literally thousands of emails and phone calls from residents, property owners, title/mortgage agents and other taxing entities; have processed almost two thousand tax certifications; have made ‘house calls’ to assist our senior population with tax items.



Jerome Fletcher

CONSTABLE

My interest in running for the position of constable is to be of service to my community and to be able to help others like the way I was helped out while growing up here. My vision for Lansdowne would have more programs involving the youth and first responders and possibly have a citizens’ academy to have youth or citizens more involved.



Carol Martsof

BOROUGH COUNCIL

I have lived in Lansdowne for 26 years, and I love this town. I am Chair of the Lansdowne Environmental Advisory Council, and I’m on the Parks and Recreation Board of Lansdowne. I would love the opportunity to further serve my community as a member of the Borough Council. I have varied technical and government related experience that can help our Borough, including my experience as a civil engineer. My daughter now is grown. This is the right time for me to increase my contribution and involvement in my town.



There are a number of environmental initiatives, including adopting and working collectively on a clean energy transition plan that would be very exciting, and a goal that can be achieved, within our Borough. I can leverage my experience as Chair of the Lansdowne Environmental Advisory Council, as well as my experience as Interim Chair of the Delaware County Sustainability Commission.

My vision for Lansdowne is that it becomes a strong hub for environmental progressive movement and clean energy, for a better quality of life for all of our residents and businesses, where other towns can see how we are protecting the environment and we have best practices to share, for better quality of life overall. My vision is also one of greater community unity as a diverse place. I see opportunities for further enhancing our green space and as the society comes out of this pandemic, there will be greater desire and appreciation for such important natural assets.

Kellie Bowker

BOROUGH COUNCIL

I have always been an active volunteer in Lansdowne having been a member of the Parks and Rec Board and the Landing Board, and volunteering at the Arts Festival, at playground builds etc. I love Lansdowne and welcome the opportunity to work on behalf of this community. I also believe that Lansdowne, which has the second-highest percentage of same-sex couples in Pennsylvania, is well served by having LGBTQ representation on Council.

The walkability of our town is often cited by people as part of what drew them to Lansdowne, and I would love to see us continue to improve that here. The concept of “Strong Towns” proposes a model called 15-Minute Neighborhoods where you can get your basic day to day needs met within a 15-minute walk from your home. With our proximity to the city, and our 12-minute train ride to some of the best hospitals in the country, as well as the commitment to increasing the walkability of our town, I think we could become a 20 to 25-minute town. I would like to see Lansdowne increase our use of renewable energy, perhaps finding more ways to encourage local use of solar power. I have heard a lot of interest in a community garden and would like to see if this could become a reality.



Robert Curry

BOROUGH COUNCIL

I would like to be actively involved in the decision making process for Lansdowne and feel the office of Borough Council should be represented by the community they are serving. I am African American male and my experiences would provide valuable insight into the decision making processes to ensure equity in decisions. I love the diversity of Lansdowne and the warm and friendly community. My wife and children love Lansdowne as well.

I would like to improve the commercial spaces downtown and look into ways to bring sustainable



businesses to Lansdowne. As a member of the Penn Wood High School administration, I would like to strengthen the ties between the people who attend the schools and work in the district and those who live in Lansdowne.

I would like Lansdowne to continue to be a place where all feel welcome. I also would like Lansdowne to continue to be an advocate for all in the community, so they can live in a safe and secure community.

Jayne Young

BOROUGH COUNCIL

I am running to serve on Borough Council to help improve what I already believe to be a great town. I would promote the work done by local community groups and government that excite and engage our residents. The Landing, BNL, LEDC activities (Farmer’s Market, Arts Festival etc.), Town wide Yard sale, Jingle Judge, are all great and can be added to or enhanced as with other activities that create a community.

I would like to see a more rigorous approach to code enforcement and developing strong standards that protect a buyer’s investment is something I feel strongly about. This approach also helps safeguard the investment that current residents are making when they improve their homes. This doesn’t have to be punitive. Educational outreach that makes the connection between real estate value and the overall look of the town and the integrity of our housing stock may encourage the cooperation by residents and investors alike.

Another thing I believe would help is for the borough to up our communication game. A comprehensive review of all our communication efforts is in order.



Jan Tong

SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR

I am strongly pro-public education. My five children attend the district schools and are getting a well-rounded and quality education. I work for the School District of Philadelphia and I know that schools like Philadelphia’s and William Penn’s are severely underfunded by the state. Our property taxes are far too high and the contribution of the state from state-wide taxes is far too low. That is why I also support the fair funding lawsuit now in the Courts and am proud that William Penn is the lead Plaintiff.

As a member of the board of school directors I have worked to support a pro-public education coalition among the six borough represented in the District and have found that there is common ground to be found with all six towns. I am proud of how our district has handled the Covid crisis and although there have been some hiccups along the way, we have done the very best we can to continue to provide quality education and to also keep our students, staff and families safe.

I look forward to my next term on the Board and am open to hearing from all of our residents who are interested in and supportive of public education.



FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING
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and rural—need more than \$2,000 in additional funding per student to reach the funding level they need.

This underfunding isn’t some abstract principle. It determines which kids get what they need, and which kids do not. It is teachers and counselors. Nurses and librarians. Computers and STEM labs. Art and music. Smaller class sizes and remedial help for children who are struggling to learn. In Pennsylvania, local wealth shapes everything kids need in school to reach their full potential.

That’s wrong. How did we get here?

Pennsylvania is more reliant on local property taxpayers

to fund schools than all but six other states, with only 38 percent of funding coming from the state level. Property taxpayers in lower-wealth districts are trying to make up the difference: they actually pay higher tax rates than those in wealthy districts. But it’s not enough, and every year, these districts struggle to meet the needs of their students, who are more likely to live in poverty, or speak English as a second language.

Unless the state of Pennsylvania steps up and pays its fair share, inequality will continue to grow in Pennsylvania public schools, and hundreds of thousands of students will continue to be denied the promise of American public education because of where they are born.

The General Assembly in Harrisburg has the power to

address this problem by making sure all kids can receive an education that gives them the chance to reach their potential, whether or not they live in a wealthy community.

It is their duty to do so, according to the Pennsylvania state constitution, which requires the legislature to provide for a “thorough and efficient system of public education.” But for decades, they have failed to fulfill that duty. The result is a system so unequal that it violates the state constitution’s guarantee of equal protection under the law, a system that fails to ensure that every student even gets the basics, let alone the support they need to thrive in the 21st century.

So school districts and families took them to court. Trial is coming in November 2021.

REMEMBRANCE

Norman “Marty” Council, 1953-2021

Norman Martin “Marty” Council, 67, of West Granby, CT, beloved husband, father and brother, passed away at Hartford Hospital on July 11, 2021. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Marty was the son of the late Norman A. and Marie (Whitman) Council. As a young man, Marty lived in Somers Point, NJ, and Birmingham, AL, where he married Cindy Skelton and had son Joshua Council. Marty moved to the Philadelphia area in his mid-20’s, where he met and married Judith Faust and had son Zachariah Faust Council, and then in 1989 met and later married Katherine “Katie” Dunnington and settled in Lansdowne, PA.

Marty was a man of many talents and interests. His work focused on supporting people with serious and persistent mental illness to integrate into the community as a therapist, grant writer, residential and day program director, executive director, assistant

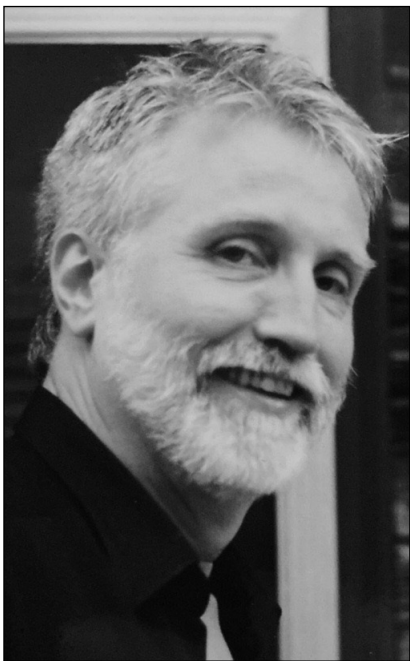
professor, consultant and adjunct professor. Marty was also a writer, a musician, a student of history and the Constitution, a politician and an artist.

One of his proudest achievements was serving the community of Lansdowne, PA, in various roles, including as President of the Borough Council. After co-founding The Lansdowne Leader in 1995, Marty helped lead the effort to support Democrats to win the majority of local elected offices in 1997, the first time since the Borough’s Founding in 1893. During his term in office, Marty also served as Vice President of Council and served on the Finance and Administration and Municipal Services Committees. As chair of the Economic Development Committee Marty offered a persistent, bi-partisan approach to the future economy of the Borough. He played a leadership role in the formation of the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation and the

Eastern Delaware County Council of Governments, one of the first intergovernmental cooperation efforts in the County.

In 2004, Marty moved to West Granby, CT, and at the age of 52 became a stay-at-home dad after the birth of his daughter, Hannah Josephine Council, and was active in the local community. Marty is survived by his wife, Katie Dunnington; his sons, Zachariah Council and wife Elizabeth, and Joshua Council; his daughter, Hannah Council; three sisters, Karen Sisk, Bonnie Council and Andrea Mathews; a step-brother, Roger Macartney and his wife Mary Ellen; a step-sister, Debbie Lauderback and her husband John; several nieces and nephews, and many special friends.

A memorial service for Marty was held on Saturday, August 7, 2021. Among the many family members and friends in attendance were friends from Lansdowne including Mayor Tony



Campuzano and his wife, Marie, Former Council President, Mary Rita Merlino and her husband Joe and Democratic Committee Chair, Charlotte Hummel.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Marty’s memory may be made to the Granby Education Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 351, Granby, CT 06035.

CHANGE FOR GOOD

Lansdowne Has a Problem: Big, Stinky Feet

By Christine Du Bois-Buxbaum

These are our “carbon footprints.” Your footprint is your impact—like prints you leave on wet sand. Your carbon footprint is the amount of carbon pollution your behaviors put in the air, which matters because carbon in the air makes Earth hotter (it traps the sun’s heat like a blanket). Our carbon “footprints” make our climate worse. An overheated Earth has more extreme weather—sometimes more hurricanes, sometimes wildfires, heat waves, droughts, or floods. It’s like we’re putting big, hot, stinky feet into the sky. Yuck!

Your carbon footprint is the amount of carbon pollution your behaviors put in the air, which matters because carbon in the air makes Earth hotter.

We need to do better. We’re already suffering from climate change (think of those huge wildfires in our West and in Australia). Our region is predicted to become hotter and wetter—meaning more big storms, downed trees, flooded basements. More mosquitoes. More sickness caused by mosquitoes. More summer days so hot it’s not safe outside. Worldwide, less successful farming and less food (parts of Africa, for example, are expected to become too dry to reliably grow crops). More refugees escaping climate disasters. Many more plant and animal extinctions, as creatures sharing our planet can’t keep up with the changes.

- We can do better. We don’t have to make big, stinky footprints. Start simply, adding more effort over time. If everyone helps, we can make a difference. Here’s what you can do while SAVING MONEY, or certainly without spending extra money:
- Drive less. Instead, walk or bike. Consider not owning a car; use public transportation. If you do drive, do errands together near each other; avoid extra driving.
 - Fly less.
 - Eat less beef and dairy. Raising cows creates a lot of gasses that trap heat around the Earth.
 - Waste less food. Rotting food in landfills releases lots of carbon.
 - Eat a little bit less. You’ll be healthier and save money, too!
 - Trees are great carbon-absorbers. Take care of the trees you meet, and teach children to care for them.
 - Lansdowne gives away free trees for planting in front yards. See if your property qualifies at LansdowneBorough.com. Click on “How do I ...” and on the next page click on “Free Trees.”
 - Help people donate to pro-tree organizations. Set up a Facebook fundraiser, or convince your boss to donate a percentage of her/his profits, or have a bake sale—whatever works!
 - Lower the temperature of your hot water heater a bit to use less energy. You’ll save on energy bills.
 - Wash your clothes, sheets, and towels a little less often. If they’re gross, of course wash them—but first ask yourself: is this item truly dirty, or did I just throw it in the wash automatically? If you only wore a shirt for a little while, or you’ve only used a towel once, it probably doesn’t need to be washed yet. Also, wash things in COLD water, and hang up as much as you can to dry

- instead of using a clothes dryer (you’ll save money).
- Turn off lights and TVs you’re not using. You’ll save money!
 - “Buy dry” as much as you can—such as powdered flavorings to add to tap water instead of bottled drinks, powdered detergent instead of liquid detergent, powdered cleaning products instead of wet ones, etc. It takes less energy for companies to truck dry products to stores than to truck wet ones.
 - Keep your home no higher than 67° in winter and no lower than 76° in summer. In winter, wear warmer clothes and add blankets to your beds. Your ancestors managed that; you can too. In summer, at home use a fan and hang out in your bathing suit. Make Lansdowne famous for a beachy summer style!
 - Don’t let precious heat in winter or coolness in summer escape your home. Cover up cracks in window sills or doors where air comes in from outside. You’ll save on energy bills.
 - Vote for candidates who care about climate change. Politicians can create laws and policies that really help!
 - Contact politicians—tell them you care about climate change and want better energy solutions in our society. Politicians notice when many people contact them about an issue. Be one of those people! Find out how to write or call here: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>
 - Tell your family, friends, and co-workers about the carbon problem and how they can help. Be an influencer!
 - Contact companies you buy from, asking them to use cleaner energy. Check their websites for contact information. Let them know this matters to you!

Questions? Comments? Proud of changes you’re making? Let me know at mrsbuxbaum@gmail.com.

Also, did you know that Lansdowne’s Environmental Advisory Council is developing several environmental initiatives? For more information, email eaclansdowne@gmail.com.

the
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LansdowneDems@gmail.com
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LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Delaware County Government Under Democratic Leadership

For too long, our government was used as a subsidiary of the Republican Party, where jobs, no-bid contracts, and perks are doled out to a well-connected few. In 2019, we ended this corruption, and this year we must once again vote to ensure our government works for all of us. Some of the major accomplishments of the current government include:

Transparency and Accountability

- Barring practice of paying for full-time benefits for part-time employees whose jobs are awarded on the basis of party loyalty
- Hiring government workers based on their qualifications and experience, not their party affiliation
- Enacting meaningful ethics reforms, including full disclosure of campaign contributions by entities bidding for county contracts
- Holding and scheduling public meetings during convenient times to accommodate residents who work

Quality of Life

- Not once since gaining Democratic control has Council raised our taxes. Our valuable tax dollars should continue to be put to use improving the quality of life for Delaware County residents.
- Strengthening job training programs and developing pipelines between education and jobs
- Uniting the efforts of our economic development authorities and commissions behind a single strategic vision
- Utilizing state and federal resources to invest in underserved communities

Strengthen Public Health

- Delaware County is the largest county in the state and the only county in the region without a health department. But not for long! Thanks to the hard work of our Democratic incumbents, a

Delaware County will be opening its own Department of Health in 2022.

- Aggressively seek state and federal support to help the county invest more resources into public health initiatives
- Improving collaboration, coordination, and communication amongst to increase awareness of public health programs and initiatives

Reform Our Criminal Justice System

- Our criminal justice system is in desperate need of reform. We need to prioritize people and rehabilitation over profit.
- Delaware County has the only private, for-profit prison in the entire state of Pennsylvania. We spend more money on our jail facilities than any of our neighboring counties, some of which have larger populations.
- Establishing real oversight and accountability in our prison system

- Deprivatizing the George W. Hill Correctional Facility
- Restructuring the prison board to ensure transparency and accountability
- Investing in job training and reentry programs for inmates

Preserve Our Environment

- A clean environment is vital to a good quality of life. 80% of Delaware County residents support making the protection of open space a priority. In June of 2021, our County Council confirmed the acquisition of the 213-acre Don Guanella site, creating the largest protected space owned by the county.
- Investing more in open space protection, trail development, and park improvement
- Supporting and properly funding County Planning Department proposals

DEMOCRATS IN COUNTY RACES

Left to right: Richard Womack, Kevin Madden, Jerry Sanders, Joanne Phillips, Rachel Ezzell Berry



Richard Womack
COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard served on Darby Township’s Board of Commissioners for 10 years—serving variously as President, Vice-President, and police commissioner. He worked across the aisle to increase revenue and equitably distribute resources. A member of the Communications Workers of America, Richard has worked for the national AFL-CIO for 24 years, first as northeast field representative and currently as Assistant to the President for Civil Rights and Community & Religious Affairs.

Kevin Madden
COUNTY COUNCIL

In 2017, Kevin was one of the first two Democrats ever to win a seat on the Council. An entrepreneur by profession, Kevin has promoted innovative efficiency in every part of government. He’s cut no-bid contracts and wasteful spending, adopted fair hiring practices, led the effort to pass major ethics reform, and established an open space fund. Kevin also worked to fund the Delco Strong program, providing millions in aid to small businesses negatively affected by the pandemic.

Jerry Sanders
SHERIFF

Since his historic election as Delco’s first Democratic and African-American Sheriff, Jerry has substantially reformed the Sheriff’s Office by investing in de-escalation training and creating a diverse office environment, while also securing higher wages for deputies. The Sheriff’s Office is one of five law enforcement agencies out of forty-eight in Delaware County to be accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Police Chiefs.

Joanne Phillips
CONTROLLER

In 2017, Joanne was the first Democrat ever elected as Controller. Joanne has transformed the office—building a team of dedicated public servants, publishing financial reports and audits online, creating a fraud hotline and unclaimed property program, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars through oversight of contracts and bank accounts, and reorganizing audits. Committed to protecting our tax dollars, Joanne is an independent voice for Delco residents.

Rachel Ezzell Berry
REGISTER OF WILLS

Rachel modernized the Register of Wills Office by leveraging 21st century technology and assembling a bipartisan team. Rachel designed the systems to complete over 6,000 estates and marriage licenses virtually; improved services by introducing e-signatures and print-at-home options; increased transparency by migrating public records to an online database; and opened the office’s first E-Commerce Store that generated taxpayer savings of over \$100,000.

DELCO DEMOCRATS OFFICIAL BALLOT LANSDOWNE BOROUGH VOTE STRAIGHT DEMOCRATIC		
OFFICES	DEMOCRATIC	
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (VOTE FOR 1)	MARIA MCLAUGHLIN	1
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (VOTE FOR 1)	TIMIKA LANE	11
JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT (VOTE FOR 2)	LORI DUMAS	21
	DAVID SPURGEON	22
JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (VOTE FOR 2)	DEBORAH KRULL	31
	TINU MOSS	32
	RICHARD WOMACK	41
COUNTY COUNCIL (VOTE FOR 2)	KEVIN MADDEN	42
SHERIFF (VOTE FOR 1)	JERRY SANDERS	51
COUNTY CONTROLLER (VOTE FOR 1)	JOANNE PHILLIPS	61
REGISTER OF WILLS (VOTE FOR 1)	RACHEL EZZELL BERRY	71
SCHOOL DIRECTOR WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT (VOTE FOR 1)	JAN S TONG	91
TAX COLLECTOR (VOTE FOR 1)	WILLIAM T SMITH	131
CONSTABLE (VOTE FOR 1)	JEROME FLETCHER	141
MAYOR (VOTE FOR 1)	MAGDA BYRNE	151
BOROUGH COUNCIL (VOTE FOR 4)	JAYNE C YOUNG	171
	ROBERT A CURRY	172
	KELLIE BOWKER	173
	CAROL C MARTSOLF	174
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 164TH DIST	GINA H CURRY	221

CANDIDATES IN JUDICIAL RACES

Maria McLaughlin

PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

A lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, first in her family to attend college, single mom, lawyer, judge and appellate judge, Maria McLaughlin personifies the meaning of hard work.

Judge McLaughlin grew up in the Overbrook section of West Philadelphia. She received her undergraduate degree from Penn State University and her law degree from Delaware Law School-Widener University. It is fortuitous that during her final year of law school, Judge McLaughlin clerked for the President Judge of the Superior Court, where she is now a member.

Upon graduation from law school and for the next 19 years, Judge McLaughlin worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia and later as Chief of the Child Support Enforcement Unit. She was one of the youngest female Chiefs ever appointed in Philadelphia. Her life was dedicated to protecting the rights of children. As a single mother and judge on the Court of Common Pleas, Family Division, of utmost importance to her was continuing to safeguard the rights of children. Judge McLaughlin is known for her commitment and compassion both on and off the bench.



David Spurgeon

PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH COURT

Judge David Spurgeon has served in the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas since 2016. Assigned to the Family Division, he handles all matters involving children and families. He has been recognized as a national expert on domestic violence and has been named a Judicial Fellow by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges for his judicial leadership. Judge Spurgeon regularly participates as a panelist and contributor in various local, state, and national forums addressing intimate partner violence. He currently serves as the Chair of the Family Violence Work Group for the 5th Judicial District. Recently, Judge Spurgeon appeared as a guest legal expert on Court TV discussing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on family violence.

An accomplished trial lawyer, Judge Spurgeon began his career in private practice in 1996. He joined the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney in 1998 where he remained until 2016. He prosecuted all crime types, including homicide. Judge Spurgeon was promoted to the Domestic Violence Trial Unit, where he tried some of the most heinous cases involving women, children and pets as victims. In 2009, Spurgeon was the youngest person promoted to Deputy District Attorney. An advocate of diversionary courts, he assisted in the creation of Veterans' Court and supervised the attorneys assigned to Mental Health Court. Spurgeon was integral in the development of the first specialized accountability docket in Pennsylvania to address repeat batterers of violence. He was the County Coordinator for the STOP grant under the Violence Against Women Act and co-chair of

the DV Task Force. Spurgeon implemented the first Intimate Partner Violence Homicide Review Team to identify systematic breakdowns and prevent future violence. During his tenure, he was the first prosecutor honored by the Allegheny County Bar Foundation with the O'Connor Fellows Award for his contributions to public service and was recognized as one of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County's Top Public Servants by Champion Enterprises.

Judge Spurgeon has served as adjunct faculty at Point Park University and is currently an adjunct professor at Duquesne University School of Law. Judge Spurgeon is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association serving on various committees within the organization, including the Diversity Committee. He was rated "Highly Recommended" by the Judiciary Committee of the Allegheny County Bar Association when he ran for Judge. His community involvement includes past participation on the Board of Directors at the Center for Victims and Women's Place. He currently is a Board Member at White Oak Animal Safe Haven – a no kill animal shelter, the McKeesport Regional History and Heritage Center and is a Trustee at the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation. Judge Spurgeon also serves on multiple boards and committees within his family church.



Lori Dumas

PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH COURT

As a judge who has served on the Bench for over 18 years, the Honorable Lori A. Dumas is an impactful voice in the City of Philadelphia. She served as a Common Pleas Court Judge in the Philadelphia Family Court - Juvenile Division for the majority of her tenure where she fought for fair and equal justice for Philadelphia's most vulnerable children and families. She has served in the Criminal Division and is currently assigned to the Civil Division. She has presided over thousands of trials, both jury and non-jury.

While serving in Family Court, Judge Dumas established herself as an innovative leader in guiding the City of Philadelphia in its creation of the First Judicial District's Juvenile Human Trafficking Court, which provided services to youth that had been victims of commercial exploitation. She led many of the initiatives that were created to enhance the work of the court and to ensure that system children were the beneficiaries of some of the most innovative and effective services to lead them to success.

In the community, Judge Dumas seizes every opportunity to educate her fellow jurists and other stakeholders about human trafficking victims, trauma and the Court's role as a change agent in the lives of vulnerable children. Judge Dumas also serves as the local Chair of a national anti-violence program which uses literacy as a therapeutic tool to assist youth who have been traumatized by violence. Judge Dumas' contributions have been recognized both locally and nationally.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Judge Dumas has worked tirelessly with a number of boards and organizations including: The Mann Center, Dream Camp Foundation, Penn's Village, Philadelphia Triple Threat, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Northwest Victim Services, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Links, Incorporated, to name a few. She is also a member of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Bar Associations, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National Campaign to Stop Violence, and a former officer of the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. Judge Dumas also served on several committees of the First Judicial District such as the Elder Justice Task Force and the Juvenile and Education Committees, just to name a few.

Judge Dumas is a graduate of the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania, DiverseForce Board Governance Program and is also a Georgetown Fellow, specializing in Systems which serve Crossover Youth, she holds a Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University and is licensed in the state as a Personal Care Home Administrator. Judge Dumas has taught legal courses at several local institutions.

A native Philadelphian, Judge Dumas received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Duke University. She obtained her Juris Doctorate from North Carolina Central University School of Law, where she was a distinguished member of The Law Review.



Tamika Lane

PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT

Following a successful teaching career, Judge Lane decided to pursue a career in law. In 2002, she received her Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers-Camden School of Law in New Jersey. While attending Rutgers, she continuously sought ways to serve her community and worked for the Pro Bono Domestic Violence Project, the Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project and co-chaired the Black Law Students Community Outreach program. Her legal career has been defined by her desire to serve the community. After



serving as a law clerk, she represented clients in various areas of family law, ranging from support to custody issues, and represented indigent families involved in dependent matters as a Certified Child Advocate Attorney. Afterwards, she went on to work as a major trial attorney for the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

Her primary duties were to litigate complex criminal jury and waiver trials for indigent adults and juveniles in Philadelphia's criminal justice system. She also served as a supervisor and an attorney for the Safe Surrender Program at True Gospel Tabernacle Family Church.

She left the Defender Association to serve the community in a different capacity, as Chief Legal Counsel for State Senator Anthony H. Williams and as the Democratic Executive Director for the Pennsylvania State Senate State Government Committee. In this role, she was on the front lines challenging Pennsylvania's restrictive Photo ID law, organizing rallies and drafting legislation to counter its disparate impact on seniors, minorities, LGBTQ+ and the poor.

Additionally, she assessed the constitutionality of proposed and existing legislation, and provided legal advice and guidance regarding the legal implications of legislation, regulations, and administrative policies. She also served as an Arbitra-

tor and member of the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations.

In January 2013, after much soul searching and consultation with her family and Pastor, she decided to pursue a seat on the Court of Common Pleas. To accomplish this goal, she left her position and sold her car because she knew the challenges she would face. Despite seemingly insurmountable odds, she forged ahead walking by faith. Her tireless and dedicated approach was met with success when she was officially elected to the Court of the Common Pleas in November 2013. Judge Lane received a rating of "Recommended" for Superior Court by the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 2021.

CANDIDATES IN JUDICIAL RACES

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Decisions of the Judges on the Court of Common Pleas deeply affect the freedom, family, home, and business of every person under their jurisdiction. That’s why it’s important to have judges who are experienced, impartial, fair, and compassionate.

Out of 20 judges on the Court of Common Pleas, only four are Democrats. We can increase public confidence in our judiciary by making sure it is balanced and reflects the diversity of our county.

Deb Krull and Tinu Moss are committed to ensuring equal justice under law, as they each have done throughout their legal careers.

Deb Krull

Deb Krull has served the last seven years as a Magisterial District Judge for Media, Swarthmore, and Nether Providence. She is a sole practitioner and staff attorney with over 27 years of litigation experience. During her tenure as a Magisterial District Judge she created a restorative justice program for youthful offenders.

Deb’s public service includes two elected terms on Media Borough Council and leadership roles in numerous community organizations, including the PA Veterans Museum and the Delaware County Arts Consortium. She is a graduate of Fairfield University and Widener School of Law.



Tinu Moss

Tinu Moss has over 10 years of experience representing Delaware County residents in matters of family, criminal, and civil law. She has clerked for Judges Sandy L.V. Byrd and Lydia Kirkland and has served as a court-appointed attorney for numerous juvenile criminal cases in Delaware County.

Tinu’s public service has included serving as Yeadon’s Borough Manager and involvement in numerous community and civic organizations, including Board Member of the PA Institute of Technology, and serving on Delaware County’s Substance Abuse and Recovery Task Force. She is a graduate of Duke University and Temple University Beasley School of Law.



Judicial Retention Elections

All judges in Pennsylvania except those of the magisterial districts face retention elections following their initial term. After a judge has won an initial partisan election, subsequent terms are attained through retention elections. In retention elections, judges do not compete against another candidate, but voters are given a "yes" or "no" choice whether to keep the justice in office for another term.

If the candidate receives more yes votes than no votes, he or she is successfully retained. If not, the candidate is not retained, and there will be a vacancy in that court upon the expiration of that term. This applies to all judges except magisterial district judges, who are always elected in partisan elections.

The following judges are on the ballot for retention this election:

- John T. Bender** — Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Mary Jane Bowes** — Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Anne Covey** — Judge of the Commonwealth Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Renee Cohn Jubelirer** — Judge of the Commonwealth Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Spiros E. Angelos** — Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 32nd Judicial District, Delaware County
- John P. Capuzzi, Sr.** — Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 32nd Judicial District, Delaware County
- Kathrynann Durham** — Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 32nd Judicial District, Delaware County
- G. Michael Green** — Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 32nd Judicial District, Delaware County
- Kevin F. Kelly** — Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 32nd Judicial District, Delaware County

PRO-ACT

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the Senate, seeks to equalize the playing field and allow workers the ability to unionize in the workplace. The AFL-CIO reports that “In more than 40% of all union organizing elections, employers are charged with breaking the law.” Companies regularly mandate that employees attend meetings designed to discourage employees from joining unions and even threaten termination if the employees advocate for or vote for the Unions. The PRO-ACT seeks to give more teeth to the National Labor Relations Act and penalize corporations for interference in Union elections.

Why do we need unions?

- According to labor statistics, Union workers make on average \$200 more a week than non-Union workers. [bls.gov/opub/ted/2020/nonunion-workers-had-weekly-earnings-81-percent-of-union-members-in-2019.htm](https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2020/nonunion-workers-had-weekly-earnings-81-percent-of-union-members-in-2019.htm)
- According to the Economic Policy Institute, Unions help narrow the gender wage gap. [epi.org/blog/unions-help-narrow-the-gender-wage-gap](https://www.epi.org/blog/unions-help-narrow-the-gender-wage-gap)

- According to the Economic Policy Institute, Unions help to end economic inequality. [epi.org/publication/ceo-pay-in-2020](https://www.epi.org/publication/ceo-pay-in-2020)

How can you help?

The PRO-ACT bill is currently in the Senate. Please call your Senator. To learn more, please visit proact.aflcio.org.

How Did We Get Here?

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candidates were provided an opportunity to state their case to these voters and answer questions. At the conclusion of the forum a ranked-choice straw poll was available online to all eligible voters for a period of 24 hours. We are happy to announce that the winning candidate from that poll was Gina Hackett Curry of Upper Darby Township. Her name was approved by the Delco Dems’ leadership council and provided to the state for inclusion on the special election ballot. The PA State Committee Executive Board voted unanimously to nominate her for the position.

LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Charlotte K. Hummel, Chair	610-626-7086
Suzanne K. McElroy, First Vice Chair	610-213-1172
Clare Hughes, Vice Chair for Engagement	610-613-3997
Kate Schleigh, Secretary	610-284-0411
William T. Smith, Treasurer	610-213-2022

■ COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1st Precinct

William Horton.....	267-240-6747
Sinoe Naji-Taylor	267-716-1867

2nd Precinct

Michael Schleigh	215-740-7047
Kate Schleigh	610-406-3660

3rd Precinct

Elliot Borgman	610-715-6803
William Hodgson	610-259-0884

4th Precinct

Craig Horle	215-823-9607
Susan Corbin	610-284-0411

5th Precinct

Michael McElroy	610-284-5503
Desmondé Pringle	610-202-2743

6th Precinct

Bill Smith	610-213-2022
(one vacancy)	

7th Precinct

Bernadette Domenick.....	610-585-2353
(one vacancy)	

8th Precinct

(two vacancies)

9th Precinct

Louis Govinden	610-213-3789
Jan Tong.....	215-518-3605

10th Precinct

Peggie McCormack.....	610-772-3947
(one vacancy)	

11th Precinct

Kellie Bowker	484-410-9209
Kristin Bellafante	703-597-5857

At-Large

Kate Bechtold.....	610-308-3645
Magda Byrne	484-362-3351
Tony Campuzano	610-259-0543
Caryl Carpenter	610-623-6449
Catherine Coll	202-669-7933
Andy Farquhar	610-626-7086
Wardell Holt II.....	215-704-3869
Benjamin Hover	610-357-3731
Clare Hughes	610-613-3997
Charlotte K. Hummel	610-626-7086
Suzanne McElroy	610-213-1172
Charles L Royal	610-284-9338
Joe Stevenson	610-623-3487
Laurie Wolfe	215-823-9407

GINA HACKETT CURRY

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Affordable and Secure Housing, Fair Funding for Public Education. She will stand for All of the Voices in the 164th District, “...we can’t touch everyone, but we’re inviting everyone. And that’s the key.” Details of her platform as well as information on connecting with Gina and her campaign can be found on her website www.ginahcurry.com

Gina Hackett Curry is a proven leader with proven results. We urge you to vote for Gina, the New Voice for the 164th.

NO, MAYOR TONY IS NOT RETIRING...

Anthony Campuzano: A Lifetime of Service

By Charlotte Hummel

At the center of an interview with outgoing Mayor Anthony “Tony” Campuzano, he wanted it made crystal clear that he is NOT RETIRING. Having built and maintained a highly-reputable construction business – Campuzano Construction – over the last 30+ years, Tony wants it to be clear that he is not retiring from business or from community life. He is however retiring from public service as he comes to the end of serving eight years as Mayor and, before that, an additional 24 years in various positions in the Borough of Lansdowne.

Tony and his wife Marie are life-long residents of Lansdowne and have raised their four children – TC, Michael, Melissa and Christopher – here. They also have three grandchildren who are, in part, one of the reasons for making more time away from civic obligations.

Tony began his political career when he joined the Lansdowne Democratic Committee in 1977 as committee person in the 8th precinct and ran for school board in 1986. Even though he ran against the then president of the school board, he lost by only 23 votes. In 1989, he ran for and won a seat on the Lansdowne Borough Council, only the second Democrat in nearly 100 years, a seat he held for the next eight years (1990-1997). During this time in office, Tony was particularly proud of coordinating the donation of over 30 truckloads of clean fill from the construction of the new Blue Route to revitalize the playing fields of Hoffman Park, which had subsided over the years. He not only coordinated the donation, but along with friends, family and other volunteers, he helped to spread the soil and arranged a donation of reseeded from a local nursery. During his first term, he was also responsible for bringing the prestigious Hershey Track and Field event to Lansdowne for three years. Also during this time, Tony was part of the borough group who over saw the purchase of the land to create Sycamore Park in order to preserve the iconic tree, a symbol of the Borough. This was only the beginning of Tony’s enormous impact on the borough over the years.

In 1997, Tony worked to elect an entire slate to local offices and for the first time in 105 years, the Borough was led by Democrats. Beginning in 1998, and for the following six months, Tony served as interim Borough Manager and kept the administration running smoothly while a search process for a new manager took place. While Borough Manager, you might see Tony helping out on the back of a trash truck or riding shotgun in the Penn DOT plow truck during a heavy snow storm that paralyzed the borough.

In 1998, Tony was appointed to replace a council mem-

ber who resigned due to relocation and at the end of 1999, he ran for and won a four year term (2000-2003) during which he also served as Council President. During this time, Tony worked to secure funds from the EPA to repair the damaged sewers in the area of Union Avenue during work on the land reclamation in the EPA project, oversaw the complete renovation of the public Library, and established the annual Halloween celebration which drew over 1000 residents to the haunted house located in the Lansdowne Theater.

From 2004 to 2013 Tony was elected to serve as Borough Constable. Always keen on working to ensure public safety, he made the rounds on elections days, maintained a firearms license and participated in the training programs designed for constables. During this period he also served 10 of his 11 years as Lansdowne Democratic Committee Chair.

In 2014, Tony began his eight years of service as Mayor of Lansdowne. In this role, he not only enjoyed the ceremonial aspects – opening new businesses, performing marriage ceremonies, and establishing the Sycamore Award to recognize organizations, businesses and people who have made significant contributions to the life of the borough – but also concentrated on public safety as head of the Police and Fire Departments. In that role, he led the efforts to establish a K-9 corps, institute a policy of body cams, supported the acquisition of a new ladder truck for the fire company and swore in a new police chief and at least five new officers. Other public safety initiatives accomplished under the Mayor’s leadership and in collaboration with many others include, the crosswalks at Wildman Arms and in front of the Theater, strategic establishment of one way streets and other traffic patterns to reduce accidents including areas around local schools and at the intersection of Owen Avenue and Marshall Road.

One of the few people in office for both the 100th and 125th Anniversaries of the Borough, Tony was part of the efforts to establish the Borough Green in 1993 and install a mural on a wall adjacent to the Green in 2018. Tony was proud to be part of bringing the two Simpson Gardens fa-

cilities for our seniors to Lansdowne. The first one during his term as President of Council and the second in his last year as Mayor.

When asked about his biggest challenge as Mayor, Tony quickly cited the COVID crises as one of the biggest of his political career. Trying to keep everyone safe and yet still

conduct the business of the borough has been difficult. Tony is very proud of all the elected officials and borough employees who went above and beyond to help Lansdowne through the worst of the crisis and to keep the resurgence of the virus at bay as much as possible.

Tony wants to thank all his colleagues on Council over the years, the chiefs and departments of the police and fire companies, all of our sanitation

and highway departments, borough staff, library staff and all the boards and organizations that have worked so hard and supported him over the years. As he put it, “A lot of people made my job easier and more enjoyable and are a big part of why Lansdowne is the town we all love. I want to thank all the residents for their support over the years; it’s been an honor and a pleasure serving you.”

So what will Mayor Tony do once his term is up at the end of this year? He will spend time with his family – especially his grandchildren and his supportive and loving wife – at home, down the shore and traveling to long awaited destinations.

Mayor Tony has served in public life – both as an elected official and a volunteer for many other organizations because he simply and sincerely loves to help people. He loves to be able to attend the important events in people’s lives whether to celebrate marriages or offer words of comfort at funerals. He takes pride in returning phone calls, following up on any issues or suggestions and in taking his role as a leader in Lansdowne very seriously.

So no, Mayor Tony is not retiring. But his public service in local government will be long remembered, deeply appreciated and sorely missed.



Mayor Tony Campuzano and his wife Marie enjoying time with their grandchildren (l to r) Colin, Wyatt and Meadow.

POLLING LOCATIONS & PRECINCTS

- 1st Precinct: Twentieth Century Club
- 2nd Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 3rd Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 4th Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 5th Precinct: Ardmore Avenue Elementary School
- 6th Precinct: Ardmore Avenue Elementary School
- 7th Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 8th Precinct: Penn Wood High School
- 9th Precinct: Pepper’s Pharmacy
- 10th Precinct: Twentieth Century Club
- 11th Precinct: Ardmore Avenue Elementary School

DROP BOX FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS:

Lansdowne Fire Station
26 N. Highland Avenue

