**League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and Bucks County**

**Citizen Education Fund**

**NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE**

**2015 Municipal Election November 3, 2015**

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**Polls open 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.**

*This Voters Guide may be taken into the voting booth.*

**FOR ELECTION INFORMATION**

Contact your county Board of Elections. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen

Information Center also provides election information. CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-692-7281

**ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

The material in this Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund. This material may not be altered or reprinted without the permission of the League. Each candidate's reply has been printed as submitted, except to use standard abbreviations and by editing from the bottom when a candidate's reply exceeded the word limit. The candidates listed are those whose names appear on the ballot as of September 14, 2015. They are listed according to their ballot order. Additional information about judicial candidates and voter information including “Polling Place Lookup” can be found by going to www.vote411.org and typing in your address and zip code.

Also at [www.lwvbucks.org](http://www.lwvbucks.org)

**PURPOSE AND POLICY OF THE LEAGUE**

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan: it neither supports nor opposes any political parties or candidates. Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement of any candidate by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania-Citizen Education Fund.

**ABSENTEE VOTING**

Registered voters who are ill, disabled, or will be absent from the municipality on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot. Completed applications for civilian absentee ballots must be received by the county Board of Elections by 5 P.M., Tuesday, October 27, 2015. Completed civilian absentee ballots must be received back at the Board of Elections by 5 P.M. on Friday, October 30, 2015. If an emergency arises (unexpected illness or business trip) after the Tuesday application deadline, call your county Board of Elections for information on emergency absentee voting. Proof of emergency may be required.

An emergency application and ballot can be obtained and voted by 5 P.M. on Friday, October 30,

2015. Any disabled voter having questions regarding the accessibility of a polling place should consult the county Board of Elections.

**WRITE-IN VOTING**

Information for write-in voting will be available at the polling place.

**ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS**

If your right to vote is challenged at the polls on Election Day and the problem cannot be resolved at the polling place, the judge of elections at the polling place should telephone the county Board of Elections. The problem could be resolved by phone if your name appears on the county records. If it does not and you want to try to resolve the problem, then you can go in person to the county Board of Elections where a judge from the Court of Common Pleas will be on duty to resolve election problems. Alternatively, you can ask for and vote by provisional ballot. If it is later determined that you were eligible to vote, your ballot will be counted. You will be given instructions on how to determine if your vote was counted.

**IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW VOTERS**

If you are a new voter or if you are voting at a polling place for the first time then you must bring your voter ID card or a photo ID such as a driver's license, student ID or some other form of Federal or State government issued ID. Some forms of non-photo ID are also acceptable such as a firearm permit, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government check. If you do not have any acceptable ID then you must be allowed to vote by provisional ballot.

**ON-LINE VOTERS GUIDE**

The Voters Guide and other useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania homepage: www.palwv.org. It is also posted on the League of Women Voters of Bucks County website, [www.lwvbucks.org](http://www.lwvbucks.org) (go to the Voters Guide Page)

**Judicial elections** occur in odd-numbered years. Justices and judges may serve an unlimited number of terms until they reach the mandatory retirement age of 70. At the end of a term, a Judge can be retained (or not) by the voters. Vacancies that exist before an election may be filed by gubernatorial appointment until an election is held. These selections are subject to Senate confirmation.

**10-Year Term**

Appellate Court jurists

Courts of Common Pleas judges

**6-Year Term**

Magisterial District judges

Philadelphia Municipal Court judges

**QUESTIONS ASKED OF ALL JUDICIAL CANDIDATES:**

**1. What is the most pressing reform needed in the Judicial System? How will you work to achieve these reforms?**

**2. What are your top three priorities if elected?**

**\*CERTIFICATION NOTE\***

*As of the publication date of this guide, the slate of candidates listed below is accurate based upon the*

*Pennsylvania Department of State’s Bureau of Elections unofficial ballot.*

**JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the Commonwealth and the oldest appellate court in the nation. The Supreme Court’s administrative powers and jurisdictional responsibilities are vested with the seven-member court by the Pennsylvania State Constitution and a collection of statutes known as the Judicial Code. Administratively, the courts within the Unified Judicial System are largely responsible for organizing their own staff and dockets; however, the Supreme Court has several committees and boards responsible for writing and enforcing rules for judges, attorneys, and litigants to ensure an efficient and fair judicial review. Annually, the seven justices receive over 3,000 requests for appellate review.

**Term: 10 years—Salary $203,409—Vote for not more than 3**

**Democratic**

**David Wecht—Pittsburgh, PA Indiana Township**

Web Address: http://www.wecht2015.com

D.O.B.: 5/20/1962.

Education: 1984, Yale University, B.A., summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa; 1987 Yale Law School, J.D.

Occupation: Judge, Pennsylvania Superior Court (elected January 2011)

Qualifications: Judge, Allegheny Common Pleas (2003-2011) Family Division

Administrator; Allegheny Register of Wills (1998-2003); Vice Chair, Pennsylvania

Democratic Party (1998-2001); “Highly Recommended,” Pennsylvania Bar Association

**Answers to Questions:**

**Question 1** I am the only candidate for the Supreme Court of PA who has proposed a comprehensive ethics and transparency, recommending: 1) an end to all judicial gifts – It is high time that all such gifts (from trinkets to golf outings) be banned to promote confidence in our judiciary. 2) An end to judicial nepotism – Not withstanding recent actions by our Supreme Court, my proposal would end nepotism in this generation, not future ones. 3) Requiring judges to respond to all recusal requests. Judges should act with an abundance of caution. To that end, I recommend that all PA judges be required to state their reasons on the record for granting or denying such requests. 4) Place cameras in all PA Courtrooms: such monitoring would permit citizens to see what judges are doing in their name and on their dime. 5) Mandatory ethics training for judicial candidates: There is a need to instruct prospective judges in the ethical requirements that they must uphold**.**

**Question 2** If elected to the PA Supreme Court, my top priorities are 1) Working diligently and daily to safeguard the rights of Pennsylvanians guaranteed by the Constitution. I am dedicated to ensuring that the privileges and protection of our society are made equally available to all of our Commonwealth citizens.

**Christine Donohue, Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co.**

Web Address: http://donohueforjustice.com

D.O.B.: 12.24.1952

Education: 1974, East Stroudsburg University, B.A.; 1980, Duquesne University School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: Superior Court Judge

Qualifications: 27 years practicing law; Superior Court Judge, 2008-present;

Highly recommended, Pennsylvania Bar Association. Served Pennsylvania Court of Judicial

Discipline, Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania, Lawyer Disciplinary Board of Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.

**Answers to Questions:**

**Question 1** Improve the quality of representation for indigent defendants in the criminal justice system. There are too few public defenders and conflict counsel to meet the needs of indigent citizens accused of crimes. Too often a defendant first meets his attorney right before trial or hearing, which is the same time the attorney first sees the defendant’s case files. Justice cannot be served under these circumstances. Court administrators should be required to transmit the case file to appointed counsel in a timely way and note this on the docket. In those cases where the file has not been transmitted in time for a meaningful consultation with the client, continuance of the proceedings should be granted as a matter of right. Public defenders and conflict counsel should be required to take at least six credits of continuing legal education credits in courses designed by the Supreme Court for the defense bar. 4

**Question 2 A.** Restore integrity and dignity to the Supreme Court. **B**. Write opinions that are clear and concise in their analysis and holdings so that lawyers, judges and the public can readily understand the impact of the decision and the rules to follow in future cases. **C.** With the goal of depoliticizing the internal workings of the Court, collaborate with other Justices and develop and publish operating procedures on the administrative functions of the Supreme Court. For example, develop and publish guidelines for the Supreme Court appointments of administrative judges in Allegheny and Philadelphia counties. Currently there are no such published guidelines.

**Kevin M. Dougherty, Newtown, Philadelphia, PA**

Web Address: http://www.doughertyforpa.com

D.O.B.: 5/19/1963

Education: 1985, Temple University, B.A.; 1987, Antioch School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: Administrative Judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Trial Div.

Qualifications: Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia (6 years); Partner, Marino &

Dougherty LLP (6 years); Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Please (13 years)

**Reply to Questions not received.**

**Republican**

**Anne Covey, New Hope, PA—Upper Makefield**

Web Address: http://www.coveyforjustice.com

D.O.B. 11/04/1959

Education: 1984, Widener University School of Law, J.D.; 1981, University of Delaware, B.A.

Occupation: Judge of the Commonwealth Court Qualifications: Judge of the Commonwealth Court, 3 years; Board Member, Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board (first woman to serve on the board), 9 years; Attorney in private practice, 27 years.

**Answers to Questions: Question 1** I see the greatest challenge as restoring public confidence in

the Law and our Courts, and ensuring equal access to the Courts. I believe the entire legal profession, judges and lawyers, needs to rededicate itself to acting with integrity, ethics and professionalism. I believe lawyers and judges need to more faithfully follow the laws we have and forcefully punish those who violate the law. When judges and lawyers see they are not above the law, they will take care to act ethically. I believe we need to review access to our Courts and ensure equal access for all individuals.

**Question 2**. A. Protect our fundamental Constitutional rights guaranteed to all Americans. B. Work to restore integrity and a high standard of ethics in our entire legal system. C. Promote access to and transparency in the Courts.

**Michael George, Gettysburg, PA—Cumberland Township**

Web Address: http://www.judgemikegeorge.com

D.O.B.: 2/25/1959

Education: 1981, Washington & Jefferson, B.A.; 1985, Dickinson School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: President Judge, 51st Judicial District Court of Common Pleas (Adams Co.)

Qualifications: 10 years general practice; 6 years District Attorney; 15+ years as trial judge; Recognized by the PA Conference of State Trial Judges for significant contribution to the legal system.

**Reply to Questions not received.**

**Judith Olson, Wexford, PA—Franklin Park**

Web Address: http://electjudgejudy.com

D.O.B.: 10/1957

Education: 1979, St. Francis University, B.A. Magna Cum Laude; 1982, Duquesne

University School of Law, J.D. (Class Rank-2/91)

Occupation: Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania 5

Qualifications: Judge of Superior Court, 5 years; Judge of Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, 1 year;

Practicing Attorney, 26 years; Highly Recommended by Pennsylvania Bar Association .

**Answer to Questions:**

**Question 1** The most important task for our judicial system is to restore faith in the judiciary. Our judiciary has been rocked by scandal in the past few years, and members of the bench must make sure that our Courts are open, transparent and above reproach. Judges must always act with respect –respect for the rule of law, the lawyers who appear before them and other members of the judiciary. As a sitting judge, I am personally accountable for my own behavior and I strive to serve with honesty and integrity. I also believe that common sense reforms must be enacted including a ban on gifts, strong anti-nepotism policies openness as to how the judicial discipline system functions and transparency as to the manner in which people are appointed to Supreme Court committees. As a justice on the Supreme Court, I will work to enact such reforms and do all that I can to bring our judiciary back to high esteem.

**Question 2** If elected my top three priorities will be 1) to serve with honesty to decide each case solely on the law and facts and to interpret the law and not legislate from the bench. 2) to promote transparency in our Court and enact reforms that will restore our citizens faith in the Courts and 3) to implement procedures that our citizens have equal access to justice.

**Independent**

**Paul P. Panepinto—Philadelphia, PA**

Web Address: http://www.judgepanepinto.com/

D.O.B.: 6/25/1949.

Education: 1971, Villanova University, B.A.; 1979 Villanova University, M.A.in

Political Science; 1976, Widener University Law School of Delaware

Occupation: Judge, Court of Common Pleas

Qualifications: I spent 10 years in Family Court with 5 years of Administrative experience as the Administrative Judge of Family Court. 10 years in the Trial Division as a team leader in Motions Court, Complex litigation and Mass Torts Program, and trial judge for numerous jury and non-jury trials. I also spent overall 5 years doing Criminal case trials for juvenile delinquency and adult criminal felony waiver trials where I now preside. I have worked in Family Court to promote transparency and offer solutions to problems in the system—attacking truancy, promoting permanent placement for kids and uniting families.

In the Civil area I resolved thousands of cases, settling disputes and eliminating frivolous lawsuits. For Criminal court I am tough on crime—commit the crime—do the time!—But I am fair and understanding when it comes to allowing defendants a chance to rehabilitate their lives from minor convictions.

**Answers to Questions:**

**Question 1**

* We need the Supreme Court to decide cases in a more timely matter
* Publish how each Justice votes for all voting issues
* More involvement by Supreme Court in working for a more unified judicial system
* Supreme Court Justices should be more responsive and work to listen to the people, as well be more accessible to promote solutions to problems that the court system can resolve throughout the Commonwealth.

As I did in a leadership capacity I will work to come up with solutions to the problems and to fight for reform and transparency amicably with my fellow Justices. Costs can be reduced by assessing the work product of every department and change those practices and re-negotiate contracts in which costs are too high. I did this in one area specifically. Kids languished in foster care and had no permanents home. The city/state was spending money for foster care when I knew we had plenty of prospective adoptive parents who would adopt these children and cut the entire costs for foster care because after adoption these children were being taken care of by their new parents. We developed a process to move adoptions through the system quickly as a court. Adoptions increased by 43%. Savings were huge. As a justice of PA I’m sure we can revisit the whole court system throughout PA and can reduce costs for every county.

**Question 2**

* Ethics training for new judges
* Working for problem solving courts and to increase productivity
* Increase access to justice and more transparency in the court system

**JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Superior Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, which was established in 1895, reviews most of the civil and criminal cases that are appealed from the Courts of Common Pleas in the Commonwealth's 67 counties. The Superior Court consists of 15 judges who serve 10-year terms. The president judge of Superior Court is elected to a five-year term by his or her colleagues. A huge volume of appeals flow to Superior Court from the trial courts. Generally, appeals are heard by panels of three judges sitting in Philadelphia, Harrisburg or Pittsburgh. The court often is the final arbiter of legal disputes. Although the Supreme Court may grant a petition for review of a Superior Court decision, most such petitions are denied and the ruling of the Superior Court stands.

**Term: 10 years—Salary: $191,926-(Vote for 1)**

**Democratic**

**Alice Beck Dubow, Philadelphia, PA—Philadelphia**

Web Address: http://www.judgealicedubow.com

D.O.B.: 3/25/1959

Education: University of Pennsylvania, B.S.1981; University of Pennsylvania School of Law, J.D. 1984

Occupation: Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County

Qualifications: Trial Court Judge, 8 years; Lawyer, 2 years

**Answer to Questions:**

**Question 1** The most pressing reform needed in the judicial system are (1) instituting mandatory education for judges on ethics and addressing implicit bias in the Court. (2) ensuring that litigants receive equal access to justice through Civil Gideon, a movement to ensure that every citizen has access to an attorney for critical legal matters (3) increasing resources for judges handling cases of abused and neglected children as well as custody cases. I would implement these reforms by creating a task force to devise specific recommendations preparing a report for the PA Supreme Court.

**Question 2** Please see my answer above.

**Republican**

**Emil Giordano, Bethlehem, PA—Hanover Township**

Web Address: http://www.emilgiordanoforjudge.com

D.O.B.: 11/08/1959

Education: 1982 Moravian College, B.A.; 1985, Villanova University School of Law, J.D.

Occupation: Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County

Qualifications: Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, 2003-present

**Reply to Questions not received.**

**JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Commonwealth Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, which was established in 1968, is unlike any other state court in the nation. Its jurisdiction generally is limited to legal matters involving state and local government and regulatory agencies. Litigation typically focuses on such subjects as banking, insurance and utility regulation and laws affecting taxation, land use, elections, labor practices and workers compensation. Commonwealth Court also acts as a court of original jurisdiction, or a trial court, when lawsuits are filed by or against the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Court is made up of nine judges who serve 10-year terms. The president judge is chosen by his or her colleagues for a five-year term. The court generally decides cases in three-judge panels and sits in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

**Term: 10 years—Salary $191,926-(Vote for 1)**

**Democratic**

**Michael Wojcik, Pittsburgh, PA—Fox Chapel Borough**

Web Address: www.wojcikforjudge.com

D.O.B.: 9/24/1964

Education: 1986, Juniata College; 1989, Pitt Law School, cum laude

Occupation: Senior Counsel, Clark Hill PLC

Qualifications: Municipal practice; Member, University of Pittsburgh Law Review, Vols.

49 and 50; Solicitorships: Allegheny County Controller (2000-2003); Allegheny County

Airport Authority (2012-present); Bar Ratings: “Recommended” (PBA); “Highly Recommended” (ACBA).

**Answers to Questions:**

**Question 1** The most pressing reform needed in the PA judicial system is in the area of judicial ethics. The Courts in our Commonwealth suffer from regular periodic breakdowns where jurist at all levels from the Supreme Court to the Magisterial District Court commit very serious ethical lapses. The result is a lack of confidence in the Court. Citizens deserve better and they are entitled to know that all who come before the Court will receive a fair and impartial hearing regardless of their status. The facts and the law are the only things that should matter to a justice or a judge when deciding a case. Because the ethical rules are set by the Supreme Court, a Commonwealth Court judge would have very little ability to effect change. For my part I will lead by example and hold myself to the highest ethical standards. I will work within the system to improve standards and to ensure compliance with them.

**Question 2**

 1) Resolve case in the most efficient and expeditious manner possible.

 2) Develop collegial relationships with other judges and staff of the Commonwealth Court.

 3) Reduce the number of non-precedential opinions issued by the Commonwealth Court.

**Republican**

**Paul Lalley, Pittsburgh, PA—Upper St. Clair Twp.**

Campaign Website: http://www.lalley4judge.com

D.O.B.: 9/22/1970

Education: 1993; B.A. University of Pennsylvania; 1996 Dickinson School of Law of the PA State University, J.D.

Occupation: Senior Associate Attorney-Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo & Miller, P.C. Pittsburgh, PA

Qualifications: District Attorney, 8 years; awarded for leadership by PA Bar Association—

Recommended rating; Allegheny County Bar Association—Highly Recommended Rating.

**Answers to Questions:**

**Question 1** I believe that the important reform needed in the judicial system is mandatory ethics training for all judges, including judges of the minor judicial with a required number of hours of course work every year. This training would review the Code of Judicial Conduct and would include lectures and presentations by leading legal ethicists that address specific situations involving the Code. If elected to the Commonwealth Court, I would advocate for mandatory annual judicial ethics training to my colleagues and to the Justices of the PA Supreme Court.

**Question 2** My top policy priority if elected would be to support the AOPC’s efforts towards expanding the electronic filings of Commonwealth Court documents so that the public can have better access to the record, and therefore hopefully have a better understanding of the parties’ arguments and issues. My top personal priority, if elected, is to serve the public with fairness, impartiality,8 intellectual honesty and diligence as a Commonwealth Court judge so that the parties receive the careful attention they deserve.

**JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

**7th Judicial District (Bucks County)**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**: Common Pleas Court hears civil and criminal cases in the county. Divisions also include Orphans Court, Juvenile Court, Family Court and Dependency Court.

**Term: 10 years – Salary $178,111**

**(Vote for two)**

**Republican/Democratic**

**RAYMOND F. MCHUGH, Southampton, PA - Upper Southampton Township**

**BRIAN T. MCGUFFIN, Langhorne, PA - Middletown Township**

**BUCKS COUNTY OFFICES**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**: Three County Commissioners (no more than two elected from the same political party) supervise: voter registration and elections; assessment of real estate property; human services; veterans affairs/juvenile detention facilities and prisons; and land use planning. The can establish housing and redevelopment authorities and conduct community development programs. They maintain homes for the aged, and may support libraries and community colleges. They set county tax rates and adopt budgets for county offices and local Courts of Common Pleas.

**Term: 4 years – Salary: $89,072.72**

**(Vote for two)**

**QUESTION:** One of the principal jobs of the county commissioner is managing the county’s budget and finances. How would you ensure we are able to pay for all the county’s programs and services?

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Diane Ellis-Marseglia** (Levittown)

**WEBSITE:** www.bucksvictory.com

**D.O.B.:** 12/1960

**EDUCATION:** University Delaware: B.A. Sociology and Criminal Justice

University Pennsylvania: MSW Master Social Work

**OCCUPATION:** Bucks County Commissioner

**QUALIFICATIONS:** 31-year career in human services

Former member Neshaminy School Board and Middletown Supervisor

Volunteer /Board member (past/present): CONTACT, Youth Aid Panel, and Neshaminy Suicide Task Force

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** As County Commissioner for 8 years, I have fought to prevent unnecessary projects. I advocate there be a cost-benefit analysis and outcome measurement of all county actions. Brian Galloway, my running mate, and I must make sure that all programs run on budget, as well as efficiently. Any bureaucracy leads to inflated budgets. It is critical that Commissioners advocate to the State and Federal government to maintain their financial support for programs they have mandated.

**Brian Galloway** (Fairless Hills) 9

**WEBSITE:** www.bucksvictory.com

**D.O.B.:** 10/1961

**EDUCATION:** Bucks County Community College; Temple University B.A.; Temple University M.Ed.

**OCCUPATION:** Educator

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Falls Township Supervisor; Administrator, Bristol Township School District

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** I have worked diligently with my fellow Falls Township Supervisors to ensure the tax burden for our residents is among the lowest in the county. In addition, I am constantly gauging the cost effectiveness of every department and the services they deliver. I will replicate, at the county level, these systematic procedures that have made Falls Township a model of responsible municipal government and sound fiscal practices.

**REPUBLICAN**

**Robert G. Loughery** (Perkasie)

**WEBSITE:** www.friendsofrobloughery.com

**D.O.B.:** 11/1969

**EDUCATION:** Dickinson College, B.A.

**OCCUPATION:** County Commissioner, Real Estate Investor

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Small business experience economic development expertise; 5 year service as County Commissioner, 4 years Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** We have worked hard to maintain and improve the quality services and programs that Bucks County provides its residents. To ensure the core services of county government continue to be delivered effectively, working collaboratively with my colleagues, we would continue to keep the size of county government from growing, work to maintain our two AAA bond ratings and the county’s 99% funded pension and adopt balanced budgets that produce surpluses like the past 3 budgets.

**Charles H. Martin** (Southampton)

**D.O.B.:** 4/1942

**EDUCATION:** BA, Lebanon Valley College

**OCCUPATION:** 30-year utility industry career; 20 years as County Commissioner

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Serving community for 32 consecutive years: 12 years as Upper Southampton Supervisor then County Commissioner. Currently serve on SEPTA Board of Directors (Since 2001) and State Transportation Commission (Governor’s appointment). Past Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Chairman.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** We will continue to scrutinize expenditures to ensure we are within budget and simultaneously review program outcomes to evaluate if they are meeting or exceeding expectations. This approach has resulted in no tax increases in 8 of the last 9 years, while maintaining quality services. We will protect our AAA bond rating by balancing budgets, funding our pension plan and creating a lean workforce. It is also important to maintain an adequate fund balance.

**SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** The School Directors shall equip and maintain the public schools in the district. Principal duties include appointing and/or dismissing superintendents, principals and teachers; levying school taxes; purchasing land; locating new buildings; adopting textbooks and courses of study; fixing salaries of teachers and other appointees of the Board.

**Term: 4 years**

**QUESTION:** What concerns or issues prompted you to run for School Board? How would you address your issues and/or concerns?

**Neshaminy School District - Region 1 School Director**

**4-year term (Vote for 2)**

**DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN**

**Cross Filed**

**Tina Hollenbach**

**HOMETOWN:** Trevose

**DOB**: 8/1970

**EDUCATION:** Penn State University

**OCCUPATION:** Bank Branch Manager, VP

**QUALIFICATIONS:** With 20 years of experience, I have balanced multiple people's interests while staying within budget. I make difficult decisions that have the most impact for all. I work on task forces and focus groups in a collaborative effort to foster positive results.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** I decided to run for school board to help ensure all children of the district have the best education possible. This is done by fiscal responsibility, and forward thinking. If as a district we are prudent with our limited dollars, and provide innovative programs we can make this a district that parents will want to have their children educated in. We can be a top rated district in the State, while keeping taxes in check.

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Karen Lowry**

(No response received)

**REPUBLICAN**

**Stephen Steve Pirritano**

**HOMETOWN:** Feasterville

**DOB**: 8/1964

**EDUCATION:** Jules E. Mastbaum Vocational Technical High School

**OCCUPATION:** President, C & G Auto Repair Inc.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Current School Board member. Neshaminy Citizen Contract Advisory

Committee 2011 thru June 2013. Citizen Advisory for Superintendent Selection 2012 Citizen Advisor for NESPA Cost Containment Committee, 2013. Chairman of the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee. Chairman Administrators Contract Committee

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** Teachers impasse lit my fire originally. As a Board member, I want to offer our children more opportunities, a 21st century education and environment is crucial. I want to provide the best for the next generation as the generation before did for me. Revenue is key. We must consolidated and operate efficiently before we ask taxpayers for more. I believe the Roadmap is the bridge to the future. No need to raise taxes.

**Neshaminy School District - Region 2 School Director**

**4-year term (Vote for 2)**

**DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN**

**Cross Filed**

**Bob Feather**

**HOMETOWN:** Levittown

**DOB**: 11/1962

**EDUCATION:** High school graduate.

**OCCUPATION:** Self Employed Home Inspector

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Being self-employed provides responsibilities regarding communication with people through customer service, bookkeeping, budgeting and time management. I am a former Board Member for Bucks County Habitat for Humanity as well as the Tri-State chapter of the American Society for Home Inspectors.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** The Neshaminy "Road Map" is an irresponsible game being played out in our schools, with our children, will close 3 schools, cause students to be jockeyed from one end of the district to the other, extend the current bond 10 years costing us “up to” $116 Million. Improve open dialog with residents and implement a plan that has the least impact on our students, schools, community, and taxpayers while addressing our future infrastructure needs.

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Robert J. Sanna, Jr.**

**HOMETOWN:** Levittown

**DOB**: 5/1975

**EDUCATION:**

**OCCUPATION:**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** I’m a High School graduate and I have been a Financial Management Analyst for 20 years. I’m also a parent with children who will attend schools in Neshaminy. It’s an advantage for me because it allows me to see, firsthand, how decisions made by the board and the administration affect students.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** I hope to shift gears and to be a part of the resolution to bring 5th graders back to Elementary School and to invest in our current assets thus protecting our neighborhoods and property value. Also my plan will include bringing superior customer service, to you, the taxpayer. I will seek your opinion and input on decisions that I have to make and include you in the process.

**REPUBLICAN**

**Robert “Bob” Tull**

**HOMETOWN:** Levittown

**DOB**: 9/52

**EDUCATION:** Neshaminy High school diploma, and some college

**OCCUPATION:** Independent consultant to governments, asset managers, stock exchanges and trust banks

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Served on the Neshaminy School Board from 1990 to 1999

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** In 1990s the Board was making poor decisions about a second high school causing future harm to taxpayers and students. I see the current Board repeating this mistake under similar conditions. I would reverse the current plan to move 5th graders to the middle schools, suspend new construction, increase renovations and resolve the excess student capacity at the middle schools where it is occurring. I wouldn’t resolve complex middle school problems with poor elementary school decisions.

**Neshaminy School District - Region 3 School Director**

**4-year term (Vote for 1)**

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Staci J. O’Brien**

**HOMETOWN:** Langhorne

**DOB:** 03/1977

**EDUCATION:** Graduate-Neshaminy High School, class of 1995; Graduate-Pennsylvania State

University, class of 1999

**OCCUPATION:** Self-employed insurance sales associate

**QUALIFICATIONS:** There is no specific training relevant to being voted in for the Neshaminy School Board.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** My top priority is the students of Neshaminy. I want to make sure that they receive the education they deserve. As a district I want us to work together--students, teachers and taxpayers, to enhance the education that our children receive. I want to implement a more sound Academic Enrichment program back into our elementary schools. I want to return our 5th graders back to elementary school where I feel they belong. I want our children to feel safe with the people they encounter on a daily basis and be confident that they too have their best interests at heart. The current situation we are in did not happen overnight, and we will not get out of it overnight either. I would like the opportunity to guide us through the beginning of our upcoming changes and stay for as long as our community sees fit.

**REPUBLICAN**

**Marty Sullivan**

**HOMETOWN:** Langhorne

**DOB:** 09/1958

**EDUCATION:** B.S. in Business Administration from LaSalle University

**OCCUPATION:** Certified Public Accountant

**QUALIFICATIONS:** My experience running my certified public accounting practice has afforded me the experience to assist in the balancing of budgets, managing personnel and working with private sector and union leaders.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** I was prompted to run due to the school consolidation process in the district, the 5 to 8 transition and the talks regarding school closures and the ongoing contention within the district surrounding these issues. I will use my experience as a Certified Public Accountant and father of three school-aged children to assist in making fiscally responsible decisions that protect our children and taxpayers and restore pride in the Neshaminy School District.

**MUNICIPAL OFFICES**

**QUESTION:** What do you consider the most important issues facing your community, and how would you address them?

**HULMEVILLE BOROUGH - BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**4-year term (Vote for 3)**

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Daniel N. Mandolesi**

(No response received)

**REPUBLICAN**

**Raymond R. Johnson**

(No response received)

**INDEPENDENT**

**Debbie Mason**

(No response received)

**HULMEVILLE BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR**

**2-year term (Vote for 1)**

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Nancy Mitchell**

(No response received)

**HULMEVILLE BOROUGH CONSTABLE**

**6-year term (Vote for 1)**

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Michael J. Wasson**

**HOMETOWN:** Hulmeville

**DOB:** 8/61

**EDUCATION:** Bishop Egan, Fairless Hills; **Training** and Education -2011-2015

**OCCUPATION:** PA State Constable – 2011 to present.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** I work together with local law enforcement officials, the District

Courts in Hulmeville Borough, as a Pennsylvania State Constable. As a Constable, I am a locally elected official who provides vital services to Bucks County and my community. These services include prisoner transport, warrant service and civil process service.

**LANGHORNE BOROUGH - BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**4-year term (Vote for 3)**

**DEMOCRATIC**

**William Gilmore**

 (No response received)

**REPUBLICAN**

**Kathleen Horwatt**

**HOMETOWN:** Langhorne Borough

**DOB:** Aug-1949

**EDUCATION:** B.A. Allegheny College- 1971; Temple University, M.Ed on Counseling, 1988 and M.Ed in Curriculum & instruction, 1973; C.A.G.S, Administration

**OCCUPATION:** Grandmother, Volunteer, Retired Counseling Psychologist

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Council Secretary, President, and grant writer: 10 million dollars plus in grant funding to the Borough of Langhorne

**ANSWER TO QUESTION: [**A depleted] funding source is the most important issue: The Borough of Langhorne operates on a budget that is one third or less of local boroughs due to the current property tax structure. Langhorne has maintained a high quality of life due to the commitment of volunteers. The Neshaminy School District’s movement to close community schools is NOT in the best interest of our Boroughs.

**John Scheetz**

(No response received)

**LANGHORNE BOROUGH CONSTABLE**

**6-year term (Vote for 1)**

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Vince Della Vella**

(No response received)

**LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH - BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**4-year term (Vote for 3)**

**REPUBLICAN**

**Nicholas Pizzola**

(No response received)

**Sharon Gimpel**

**HOMETOWN:** Langhorne Manor Borough

**DOB:**

**EDUCATION:** BS Accounting, LaSalle University; MBA, Widener University

**OCCUPATION:** Accountant

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:**

**Jay Ferraro**

(No response received)

**LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH CONSTABLE**

**6-year term (Vote for 1)**

**REPUBLICAN**

**James A. McMeeking**

(No response received)

**LOWER SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

**6-year term (Vote for 2)**

**DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN**

**Kim Koutsouradis**

(No response received)

**Edward Shannon**

**Hometown:** Feasterville

**DOB:** June 1938

**Education:** High School

**Occupation:** Township Supervisor

**Qualifications:** 27 years owner of printing and mailing business with 40 employees.

**Answer to Question:** Working to run government like a business with emphasis on budgets and long term planning along with keeping taxes as low as possible.

**LOWER SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP AUDITOR**

**6- year term (Vote for 1)**

**DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN**

**Daniel J. Walsh**

(No response received)

**LOWER SOUTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP CONSTABLE**

**6-year term (Vote for 1)**

**DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN**

**Jason R. McEwen**

(No response received)

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

**6-year term (Vote for 2)**

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Amy Strouse**

**HOMETOWN:** Langhorne

**DOB:** May-1980

**EDUCATION:** BA Economics and International Business, University of Oklahoma; MA International Relations and Finance, Johns Hopkins University SAIS

**OCCUPATION:** Principal Avascent

**QUALIFICATIONS:** As a management consultant I help businesses run more efficiently and strategically. I will apply my decade plus of business experience to making Middletown Township more effective and efficient.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** As a working mom, I know we need elected officials who represent all parts of their community. After years of kicking the can down the road and boasting they would not raise taxes, our supervisors created a new earned income tax (EIT) that has made things tougher on people in Middletown. As the only female supervisor candidate in 2015, I will bring the needed perspective of a working mother and businesswoman and hold leadership accountable

**Tom Tosti**

**HOMETOWN:** Middletown

**DOB:** May-1963

**EDUCATION/OCCUPATION/QUALIFICATIONS:** Following high school, completion of team building, benefits, negotiation, and management training classes, and years of hard work, I became Director of AFSCME District Council 88. My on-the-job experience has taught me to monitor budgets and work effectively with staff, legislators, seniors, and community members.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** Fiscal responsibility and lack of transparency are major issues our

Township faces. No-bid contracts and rising taxes are issues the Board has faced without public input. The Board needs to transition from a one-party monopoly to a bipartisan system, able to work together in a cooperative way to benefit all taxpayers. We deserve better. I will work toward fiscal responsibility and a Board more open to the needs of Middletown Township residents.

**REPUBLICAN**

**Patrick J. Mallon, Sr.**

**HOMETOWN:** Langhorne

**DOB:** Mar-1956

**EDUCATION:** BA in Organizational Management, Eastern University

**OCCUPATION:** Vice President of Sales and Account Management, Sykes Enterprises, Inc.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** 30+ years of management experience in the private sector, including balancing budgets and controlling expenses. Five+ years’ experience as a Township Supervisor with 4+ of those years spent as Chairman.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** The key role of local government is to provide quality services at a price residents can afford. As Chairman of the Board of supervisors, I’ve helped bring strong fiscal oversight by properly accounting for and funding our defined benefit pensions, by using state and county resources to improve aging infrastructure like roads, bridges, and storm water management systems, and by keeping our residents safe with increased police officers who are well trained and properly equipped.

**Drew Kreiling**

**HOMETOWN:** Middletown Township

**DOB:** Apr-1960

**EDUCATION:** Neshaminy Maple Point HS / LaSalle College

**OCCUPATION:** Master Scheduler / HR

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Human resources specialist and former union contractor who brings experience hiring, managing personnel, and overseeing yearly budgets.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** The most important thing we can do is make sure the township is strong financially while providing essential services to the working families and seniors who live here. We’ve made tough decisions that ensure the township’s fiscal stability, that address pension funding issues, and earned the township a AA+ bond rating – all while putting more police officers on the street, investing $6 million in road and infrastructure improvements, and renovating the senior center.

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP AUDITOR**

**6-year term (Vote for 1)**

**DEMOCRATIC**

**Jena Champion**

(No response received)

**REPUBLICAN**

**Jamie Waters**

**HOMETOWN:** Middletown Township

**DOB:** Aug-1978

**EDUCATION:** MBA Drexel University

**OCCUPATION:** Vice President Commercial Banking TD Bank

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Lifelong Bucks County resident and professional in the financial industry. My experience includes management, financial analysis, customer relationships, and audit and compliance. I have served on the Township’s Financial Advisory Committee (4 years) providing me with knowledge of the township’s financial investment accounts and overall structure.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** As a husband and father of 2 young children I believe our citizens’ want to live in a safe and interactive community, have nice neighbors, and a great school system. We need to be proud about our community which needs to be a place where people want to live. I will be accessible, and approach the job to serve all residents of the community with the goal to make this the best community possible.

**MIDDLETOWNTOWNSHIP CONSTABLE**

**6-year term (Vote for 1)**

**DEMOCRATIC/REPUBLICAN**

**Chuck Benhayon**

**HOMETOWN:** Levittown

**DOB:** Mar-1956

**EDUCATION:** Bucks County Community College, 2 years, Criminology

**OCCUPATION:** Constable, Middletown Township – 23 years**:**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** State Certified Act 49 and Firearms. I served 13 years on Pennsylvania

Commission on Crime and Delinquency to establish Pennsylvania State Constable Education and

Training program which is currently in effect and includes firearms certification and background checks.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** The high cost of government service has a major impact on taxpayers and our community. Our District Court system is an important piece of our community. By using elected constables, who are fee paid, we are able to hold the line on costs to our community. Our State Education and Training is paid for by defendants with fee charged per docket. This keeps the costs off [of] taxpayers. This is not the norm in government