

# Voters Guide

## Candidates for Centre County commissioner, judge, more



Jason Moser

This is a major undertaking, and something I promised to do in 2019, that will provide better access to county data for residents, increasing accountability and transparency.

### CENTRE COUNTY CONTROLLER

**Jason Moser**  
Party: Dem  
Campaign website: [friendsofjasonmoser.com](http://friendsofjasonmoser.com)  
Education: Bachelor's from Penn State; certificate in public budgeting and financial man-

### agement

Facebook: Jason Moser for Centre County Controller  
Twitter: @JasonMoserCC  
Email: [info@friendsofjasonmoser.com](mailto:info@friendsofjasonmoser.com)  
Q: Why did you choose to run for this office and what are your qualifications for the job?

A: I am running for reelection because I believe the Controller's Office is the foundation to county government operations. From vendor payments and payroll to auditing and pensions, we provide the support and expertise that allows every department and office at the coun-

ty to seamlessly provide the crucial resources and services that county residents rely upon. Today, we do this well and we're currently in the midst of an overhaul of the software systems that maintain the county's general ledger and human resource data to do it better.

### CENTRE COUNTY CORONER

**Scott A. Sayers**  
Party: Dem  
Education: 1985 Graduate of Bald Eagle Area, attended Lock Haven University, 1988 gradu-

SEE JUDGE, 4B



Penn State students enter Alumni Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.



### KEY INFO

#### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The material in this guide was compiled by the candidates and the League of Women Voters of Centre County (LWVCC) with assistance from the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. This material may not be altered or reprinted without the permission of the LWVCC. Each candidate's reply has been printed as submitted by the candidate. Candidates were invited to participate in the Vote411 online voters guide via email. All reasonable efforts were made to encourage candidates to participate. The candidates listed are those whose names appear on the ballot as of when the ballot was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of State. Candidates are listed according to their party and then alphabetically. Nothing in this guide should be construed as an endorsement or non-endorsement of any candidate, party, or initiative by the League of Women Voters.

#### KEY INFORMATION

- To vote in Centre County, you must be registered in Centre County.
- Check your registration status at [lwvcentrecounty.org](http://lwvcentrecounty.org)
- Register to vote, make changes to name, address or party by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 1.
- Apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9.
- Election Day is Tuesday, May 16.
- Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for in-person voting
- This Voters Guide may be taken into the voting booth
- Mail-in ballot applications and ballots can be tracked at [lwvcentrecounty.org](http://lwvcentrecounty.org)

#### ELECTION INFORMATION

ONLINE:  
[Go to centrecountyvotes.gov](http://Go to centrecountyvotes.gov)  
Use resources at [lwvcentrecounty.org](http://lwvcentrecounty.org)

SEE KEY INFO, 3B

## Candidates for supervisor, council races in Centre County

### BELLEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL-WARD 1 (4-YEAR TERM)

**Douglas A. Johnson**  
Party: Dem  
Education: Bellefonte Area High School, U.S. Army Signal School, course work job related at Penn State University  
Email: [djohnson@bellefontepa.gov](mailto:djohnson@bellefontepa.gov)  
Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?  
A: 1. Downtown Bellefonte pedestrian safety by adding crossing signs with rapid flashing beacon at critical crosswalks within the borough. Along with safety, more due diligence regarding enforce-



Douglas A. Johnson

ment of sidewalk repairs.  
2. Renovations to the recently purchased Armory building at the corner of North Spring Street and West Lamb Street. Funds for the purchase and renovation were generously provided by recently retired Sen. Jake Corman. The goal is to renovate the existing Bellefonte police space and move the borough staff to the Armory building. Armory renovations include installation of an elevator, fire protection and accessibility entrances to the building.

3. Installation of traffic signal at Parkview Boulevard and Route 550 East Bishop Street. This project now needs to be coordinated with the Bellefonte Area School District and the new owner of the former National Guard property. Council and borough staff will continue to work with all stakeholders, including PennDOT.

### BELLEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL-WARD 2

**Randy Brachbill**  
Party: Rep  
Email: [rbrachbill@bellefontepa.gov](mailto:rbrachbill@bellefontepa.gov)  
Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: 1. 2022 Bellefonte Borough Council collaborated on the development of an annual Goals Action Plan. Council members are able to add/remove goals at any time. Residents are welcome to submit goals they feel are important. Selected goals move to work sessions for discussion then to the next business meeting. The process is monitored. Goals not completed roll over to the following year.  
2. 2022 Bellefonte Borough adopted Priority Based Budgeting using the General Budget. This process requires the Council's review of the information

SEE CANDIDATES, 5B

## Candidates for school board in State College and Bellefonte

### BELLEVILLE AREA BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

**Jennifer Barnhart**  
Party: Dem, Rep  
Campaign website: [win4bellefonte.com](http://win4bellefonte.com)  
Education: B.A. communication arts and sciences Pennsylvania State University  
Facebook: [Win4bellefonte](https://www.facebook.com/Win4bellefonte)  
Email: [jbarnhart.w4b@gmail.com](mailto:jbarnhart.w4b@gmail.com)  
Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?  
A: Ensuring students are exposed to all paths of success, educating the whole student, and teaching HOW over WHAT to think are my focus. All are important and start with redefining success whether it's through careers, postsecondary education or volunteer work. As



Jennifer Barnhart

a public school district, it's important to realize the values of each student and support their strengths and interests to help shape our community's character.  
The policies and personnel that we surround our children with are examples of what we hope for them to become and surpass. We empower administrators, teachers and staff to advocate for courses, field trips, speakers, college visits, job shadowing and extracurricular activities to educate the whole student.  
As a board member, I will continue to serve our communi-

ty to inspire personality, ethics, positivity and individual success. I encourage my community to get involved and make an impact on the continued success of our district.  
**Patrick Vincent Buck**  
Party: Dem, Rep  
Campaign website: [win4bellefonte.com](http://win4bellefonte.com)  
Education: B.S. in mechanical engineering  
Email: [pbuck.w4b@gmail.com](mailto:pbuck.w4b@gmail.com)  
Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?  
A: 1. Ensure the district is focused on the safety and security of the students and staff with a goal of one SRO per building. The district should be evaluating how to leverage tech-



Voters enter the Oakwood Presbyterian Church for the Patton South 2 precinct on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022.

nology, as well as allocating the necessary funds with safety as a top priority.  
2. Focus on preparing students for life after graduation. Ensure students have the necessary life skills to be successful as adults. This includes providing them with multiple paths to

success, including postsecondary education, technical skills and exposure to opportunities in the trades. Work with local businesses to foster relationships with the students prior to graduation that can be used as a

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, 7B

# These are the candidates running for Pennsylvania courts

## PENNSYLVANIA JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

**Description of office:** The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania 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. The justice with the longest continuous service on the Supreme Court automatically becomes chief justice. 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:** \$244,793  
**Vote for ONE.**

**Candidates (choose 1):**  
**Daniel McCaffery**  
**Party:** Dem  
**County:** Philadelphia  
**Occupation:** Judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court

**Education:** Temple University School of Law, J.D., 1991 Temple University, SCAT, B.A., 1988 Father Judge High School, 1982



Daniel McCaffery

over more litigation than any other candidate. Highly recommended by the Pennsylvania Bar, the only veteran on Pennsylvania's appellate courts. Judge, Court of Judicial Discipline, supervising judge for Pennsylvania wiretap applications.

**Campaign website:** [judgemccaffery.com](http://judgemccaffery.com)

**Campaign Facebook URL:** [facebook.com/McCafferyforSupremecourt](http://facebook.com/McCafferyforSupremecourt)

**Twitter handle:** @JudgeMcCaffery

**Campaign Instagram URL:** [instagram.com/judgemccaffery/](http://instagram.com/judgemccaffery/)

**Q: Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?**

**A:** In its most general terms, as it pertains to the question, the court has a duty to ensure the constitutional rights of the people are appropriately applied and protected. I would describe my approach to constitutional interpretation as "living constitution" — meaning that the constitution was intentionally drafted using broad language to allow its concepts to evolve with changing societal conditions. As to my approach to interpreting rules, legislation and statutes, I would describe myself as a textualist in that I attempt to give a common sense meaning and will give the intent to apply a reasonable analysis to interpret any ambiguous word or provision.

**Q: What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?**

**A:** Every case must be considered based on the facts of the individual case, the laws pertaining to the case and were the

appropriate constitutional rights and protections fairly applied to the people and case in question.

**Debbie Kunselman**  
**Party:** Dem  
**County:** Beaver

**Occupation:** Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania

**Education:** J.D. Notre Dame Law School; B.A. Penn State

**Qualifications:** 17 years of judicial experience; 12 years as a trial court judge in Beaver County and 5 years as a state appellate court judge. Experience handling civil, criminal, family and juvenile cases; 8 years as chief county solicitor



Debbie Kunselman

**Campaign website:** [kunselmanforpa.com](http://kunselmanforpa.com)

**Campaign Facebook URL:** [facebook.com/JudgeDebbie17](http://facebook.com/JudgeDebbie17)

**Q: Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?**

**A:** The relationship of checks and balances between the three branches of government means that each branch must respect the authority of the other branches and act within the authority given to them. For example, the legislature has the authority to enact laws. However, those laws cannot infringe upon the rights guaranteed by the federal or state constitutions. If they pass such a law, the judicial branch can strike it down as unconstitutional. However, if the law comports with the constitution, judges are obligated to apply the law as it is written. Likewise, absent emergencies, the executive branch needs probable cause and a warrant from a judge before conducting a search. In this way, judges protect the right to privacy.

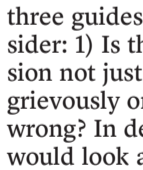
**Q: What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?**

**A:** Usually, overruling long-standing precedent is warranted when (and only when) a precedent is "manifestly absurd or unjust" as in *Brown v. Board of Education*. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Ramos v. Louisiana* gives three guides I would consider: 1) Is the prior decision not just wrong, but grievously or egregiously wrong? In deciding this, I would look at the quality of the precedent's reasoning, consistency and coherence with other decisions, changed law or facts, and workability. 2) Has the prior decision caused significant negative jurisprudential or real-world consequences? 3) Would overruling the prior decision unduly upset reliance interests? These considerations set a high standard and require much deliberation before changing precedent.

**Patricia A. McCullough**  
**Party:** Rep  
**County:** Allegheny  
**Occupation:** Statewide appellate court judge-Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania

**Education:** B.A. University of Pittsburgh, magna cum laude; J.D. University of Pittsburgh School of Law

**Qualifications:** Judge, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court 12+ years



Patricia A. McCullough

appropriate constitutional rights and protections fairly applied to the people and case in question.

**Carolyn Carluccio**  
**Party:** Rep  
**County:** Montgomery  
**Occupation:** Court of Common Pleas judge

**Education:** Dickinson College, Widener University School of Law

**Qualifications:** First female president judge of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas serving in the criminal, family and civil court benches. Montgomery County chief deputy solicitor, director of human resources, chief public defender, assistant United States attorney.

**Campaign website:** [judgearcarluccio.com](http://judgearcarluccio.com)

**Campaign Facebook URL:** [facebook.com/judgearcarluccioforSupremecourt](http://facebook.com/judgearcarluccioforSupremecourt)

**Twitter handle:** @JudgeCarluccio

**Campaign Instagram URL:** [instagram.com/judgearcarluccioforSupremecourt/](http://instagram.com/judgearcarluccioforSupremecourt/)



Carolyn Carluccio

ruling on cases that go directly to Pennsylvania Supreme Court; trial judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas; assistant general counsel, University of Pittsburgh.; private practice attorney; director Catholic Charities; chair Allegheny County Board of Property Appeals; chair Appellate Court Procedural Rules Committee

**Campaign website:** [judgemccullough4supremecourt.com](http://judgemccullough4supremecourt.com)

**Q: Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?**

**A:** These separate but equal branches of government have distinct powers. The legislative branch makes the law, the executive branch enforces the law and the judiciary is to interpret the law. This means that courts are not to "legislate from the bench." Judges should apply the rule of law and interpret the law and the constitutions of the United States and Pennsylvania as written, and reign in the other branches of government if they overstep their constitutional bounds. Thomas Jefferson warned that if judges interpret the law to be what they want, the Constitution would be a "mere thing of wax in the hands of the Judiciary, which they may twist and shape into any form they please." Constitutional rights are protected with proper separation of powers.

**Q: What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?**

**A:** While the concept of stare decisis is traditionally applied by judges in assessing cases, courts are at times confronted with whether to overrule prior precedent. Criteria to be carefully considered includes inconsistency with related decisions, erroneous or incomplete facts, misinterpretation of law or the unconstitutionality of prior precedent. *Brown v. Board of Education* is a long-standing example of the U.S. Supreme Court overruling prior precedent on the basis that it violated the Constitution, specifically the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. *Brown* ended the unconstitutional precedent of "separate but equal" in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The U.S. Supreme Court focused on constitutional reasons in other cases.

**Timika Lane**  
**Party:** Dem  
**County:** Philadelphia  
**Occupation:** Judge

**Education:** Howard University - Bachelor of Arts, Rutgers Law School - Doctor of Law (J.D.)

**Qualifications:** Elected in 2013 to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and immediately assigned to one of the busiest trial divisions in Pennsylvania. Judge Lane has presided over thousands of jury and bench trials and authored over 100 judicial opinions. She currently serves in the civil division.

**Campaign website:** [judgelaneforpa.com](http://judgelaneforpa.com)

**Campaign Facebook URL:** [facebook.com/LaneforSuperiorCourt](http://facebook.com/LaneforSuperiorCourt)

**Campaign Instagram URL:** [instagram.com/laneforsuperiorcourt/](http://instagram.com/laneforsuperiorcourt/)

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**A:** Checks and balances are an integral part of our government, essential to ensuring that no one branch can overpower its boundaries. The role of the judicial branch ensures that the legislative and executive branches maintain constitutional rights within the law, furthering that justice be equally, effectively and lawfully maintained and upheld. In short, checks and balances are critical to a functioning government and must be maintained.

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**Pat Dugan**  
**Party:** Dem  
**County:** Philadelphia  
**Occupation:** President judge and Veterans Court judge

**Education:** Juris Doctorate Rutgers School of Law

**Qualifications:** Judge 16 years, 4 years president judge (elected by a vote of 27 judges), 13 years attorney focused on criminal defense and child advocacy, 23 years Army (and Reserves) infantry paratrooper, Civil Affairs, JAG with 5 years overseas, started a Veterans Court 2010, married father of 6

**Campaign website:** [judgepatdugan.com](http://judgepatdugan.com)

**Campaign Facebook URL:** [facebook.com/judgepatdugan](http://facebook.com/judgepatdugan)

**Q: Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?**

**A:** Our system of checks and balances is vital to our democracy and should be carefully guarded. We must ensure one branch does not overstep its authority. For the executive branch, it could be excessive executive orders which can circumvent legislative powers. For the judiciary, it is legislating from the bench which can also circumvent legislative powers. The judiciary also has the duty of ensuring that legislative and executive actions do not overstep their constitutional roles. It's critical that the judiciary only applies the law as it is written in the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions. Inappropriate actions taken by the executive branch and even the judiciary takes power from our legislature which is closest to the people.

**Q: What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?**

**A:** In deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent, just as in any case that comes before me, I will apply the law as it is written in the constitution. Justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court must not allow themselves to be swayed by the media, executive or legislative branches, and certainly not by the popular opinion of the day. Even our own personal beliefs must be tempered to ensure that the judiciary remains unbiased and only make rulings based on the law.

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**URL:** [facebook.com/judgepatdugan](http://facebook.com/judgepatdugan)

**Q: Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?**

**A:** The concept of the three branches of government is the foundation for our republic and our commonwealth, as the separation of powers assures a fair and equal system of checks and balances, as it prevents overreach by any one branch over the other two. It is the court's obligation to interpret the laws and acts of the executive and legislative branches. It is the court's obligation to interpret laws, and not legislate from the bench, but to umpire and call balls and strikes fairly and independently.

**Q: What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?**

**A:** I believe that a prior court's precedent should be given serious consideration to remain in place and in effect, however that is not set in stone. Before a court reverses any previous decisions, the reviewing court must take into account whether the decision was poorly reasoned, whether there has been a change in the statutory law, review of any intervening events or circumstances, and there is legal justification to overrule prior precedent. It is not a decision to be taken lightly and any change in the law must not undermine the public's confidence in the judicial system and must maintain the integrity of the judicial system.

**Timika Lane**  
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**County:** Philadelphia  
**Occupation:** Judge

**Education:** Howard University - Bachelor of Arts, Rutgers Law School - Doctor of Law (J.D.)

**Qualifications:** Elected in 2013 to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and immediately assigned to one of the busiest trial divisions in Pennsylvania. Judge Lane has presided over thousands of jury and bench trials and authored over 100 judicial opinions. She currently serves in the civil division.

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long-standing precedents for better and for worse. It is through this evolution, as society changes and laws are adapted to those changes that consideration of both the changes in the legal system and society should be considered, as well as aforementioned respect to the long-standing precedent and whether its reasoning still stands solid within the judicial and societal systems.

**Jill Beck**  
**Party:** Dem  
**County:** Allegheny  
**Occupation:** Commercial litigator and appellate attorney

**Education:** B.A. in criminal justice - The George Washington University (cum laude graduate);

J.D. - Duquesne University School of Law (cum laude graduate)

**Qualifications:** Jill has practiced in every area the Superior Court hears, has practiced in the Superior Court and appellate courts across the country, and spent 10 years on the other side of the bench as a law clerk — 6 on the Superior Court, 4 on the Supreme Court — where she drafted over 500 decisions.

**Campaign website:** [JillBeck.com](http://JillBeck.com)

**Campaign Facebook URL:** [facebook.com/electjillbeck](http://facebook.com/electjillbeck)

**Twitter handle:** @ElectJillBeck

**Campaign Instagram URL:** [instagram.com/electjillbeck](http://instagram.com/electjillbeck)

**Q: Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?**

**A:** The judiciary is a separate but coequal branch of government. It is not the role of the court to legislate, but neither is it permissible for the court to serve as a rubber stamp for the legislative and executive branches of government (or the courts below). Appropriate deference to these bodies must be given when reviewing and interpreting their work, but it is solely in the court's purview to determine the constitutionality of the measures taken and the legal correctness of their actions. The court serves a critical role of interpreting our statutes and our constitutions (federal and state), which must be viewed in terms of the intent of the drafters at the time of their passage as well as the evolving standards of decency of our society.

**Q: What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?**

**A:** The decision to overrule precedent, particularly long-standing precedent, should not be taken lightly. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to, the correctness of the prior reasoning, its consistency with related precedent, changes in the law and society subsequent to the decision, and the level of reliance on the precedent by the legal system and the public.

**Maria Battista**  
**Party:** Rep  
**County:** Clarion  
**Occupation:** Attorney/executive

**Education:** Clarion University, B.S.; Westminster College, M.Ed.; Ohio Northern University, J.D.; University of Pittsburgh, Ed.D.

**Qualifications:** 15+ years experience in civil, criminal and administrative law; former assistant district attorney; former attorney with the

SEE VOTERS GUIDE, 3B

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# VOTERS GUIDE

Gov. Corbett administration; served as an administrative hearing officer where I presided over hundreds of hearings and issued hundreds of administrative decisions.

**Campaign website:** BattistaForJudge.com

**Campaign Facebook URL:** facebook.com/BattistaForJudge

**Q:** Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?

**A:** The Framers' purpose in dividing power between the three branches of government was to ensure that no branch of government became too powerful. James Madison's wisdom in Federalist 51 was to create a check against the authority of a single branch of government, sharing the decision-making power of the new federal government. For Pennsylvania, this model of separation of powers has created its own form of checks and balances between our three coequal branches. In practical terms, this has empowered the courts, particularly the appellate courts, to better protect the rights of the people of this commonwealth. By serving as a check against the executive and legislative branches, the judiciary serves to safeguard against abuses by either.

**Q:** What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?

**A:** Stare decisis, a Latin term which means "let the decision stand," or "to stand by things decided," is a central tenet of the American legal system. This doctrine highlights the importance of precedent in our legal tradition. Applying precedent to the particular facts of a case is a way to provide predictability and consistency in the law. While I cannot speak directly about how I would rule in any case that may appear before me, precedent may be used as a guide, as well as the law as it has been written and the particular facts of a case. In some instances, the issue of constitutionality may be raised by the parties.

**Harry F. Smail Jr.**  
**Party:** Rep  
**County:** Westmoreland  
**Occupation:** Judge  
**Education:** Grove City College Class of 1988



Duquesne School of Law Night School Class of 1997  
**Qualifications:** 14 years as a practicing attorney and nearly 9 years as sitting judge in Westmoreland County  
**Campaign website:**

VoteJudgeSmail.com

**Q:** Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?

**A:** The Founders in their wisdom established a system of checks and balances as an attempt to ensure that no branch of our government could have unbounded power. Our system is based on the freedom of our people and these checks and balances ensure that is difficult to pass laws or regulations that can curtail that freedom. Our constitution is our guiding light and any branch that strays from that document can be quickly put in line with it by another branch. It is the judiciary's role, as the only branch to not face regular election, to ensure that the constitution is being adhered to by intermediary courts and by the legislative and executive branches.

**Q:** What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?

**A:** My guiding principle when deciding a case is the text of the constitution and the intent of a statute when applying that statute in the course of a case. Precedent or stare decisis is critical in this review. Stare decisis is critical in providing predictability and stability to the courts. I leave open the possibility that a court must at times correct previous encroachments by the judiciary relative to constitutional review and deviation of the facts. I believe it is a heavy burden to demonstrate such encroachments when weighing prior precedents.

## PENNSYLVANIA JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT

**Description of office:** The Commonwealth Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, 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 subjects such as banking, insurance, utility regulation and laws affecting taxation, land use, elections, labor practices and workers' compensation. The 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. The president judge is elected to a five-year term by his/her colleagues. Generally, appeals are heard by panels of three judges sitting in Philadelphia, Harrisburg or Pittsburgh.

**Term:** 10 years  
**Salary:** \$230,974  
**Vote for ONE.**  
**Candidates (choose 1):**  
**Matt Wolf**  
**Party:** Dem  
**County:** Philadelphia  
**Occupation:** Judge  
**Education:** B.S. political science, LeMoyn College, J.D., Loyola University School of Law, numerous judicial education training courses.



Matt Wolf

**Qualifications:** The only sitting judge in the race. 25 years of civil rights trial experience. 5 years plus of judicial experience, with a majority of that as a supervising judge. 20 years of military experience, 17 as an Army JAG, awarded Bronze Star Medal, service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Campaign website:** judgemattwolf.com

**Twitter handle:** @JudgeMattWolf

**Q:** Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?

**A:** The rule of law. Each branch of government serves as a check on the others. Legislatures pass laws, sometimes in reaction to judicial decisions and executive actions. Courts interpret the law and the facts and the executive essentially carries out the functions of the government, subject to the laws as interpreted by the courts. People who serve as elected officials usually take an oath of office to uphold the laws and the state and federal constitutions. I take such oaths seriously and would commit to upholding the law, as should each member of the other branches of government.

**Q:** What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?

**A:** It depends on the case, the facts and the law. This question cannot be answered in vacuum. There are antiquated decisions in common law that are long-standing precedent which call to be overturned such as the Supreme Court's 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision which upheld the legality of racial segregation in America. It took 58 years for that case to be overturned in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Some long-standing precedent should be overturned such as the "separate but equal" line of cases as an example. Other long-standing precedent should be respected, particularly as it relates to the preservation and recognition of fundamental constitutional rights.

**Bryan Neft**  
**Party:** Dem  
**County:** Allegheny  
**Occupation:** Attorney

**Education:** B.A., political science, University of Pennsylvania 1986; J.D. Boston University School of Law, 1989



Bryan Neft

**Qualifications:** I have practiced law for 33 years. I was a law clerk for the Honorable William F. Cercone of the Pennsylvania Superior Court. I have practiced in 30 Pennsylvania counties and all of the Pennsylvania appellate courts including the Commonwealth Court.

**Campaign website:** bryanneft.com

**Campaign Facebook URL:** facebook.com/bryanneft

**Twitter handle:** @BryanNeft

**Campaign Instagram URL:** instagram.com/votebryanneft

**Q:** Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?

**A:** Each branch of government has a role in limiting overreach by a coequal branch of government. In order for the judiciary to serve as a check on the legislative and executive branches, the judiciary must be independent and allowed to decide cases brought to it without fear of reprisal or retribution. Courts have authority within their jurisdiction to interpret laws and the constitution. It is within the province of the the Legislature and the executive branches to change the law if a court ruling creates an unintended result.

**Q:** What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?

**A:** The Commonwealth Court may not alter long-standing precedent of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. However, it can revisit its own decisions, and it can review decisions of a Commonwealth Court judge sitting as the trial judge hearing a case in the court's original jurisdiction. Such a review would require a thorough understanding of the history of the precedent, why it came into being and why it is being challenged as unsound.

**Josh Prince**  
**Party:** Rep  
**County:** Berks  
**Occupation:** Attorney at Prince Law Offices PC and Civil Rights Defense Firm PC

**Education:** Graduated with honors from McGill University in 2004 - Bachelor of Arts, double major in political science and world religions; Widener Law School 2006-2009 - Juris Doctorate, graduated cum laude and as a member of



Josh Prince

Law Review  
**Qualifications:** I've spent my 13-year career defending our civil rights in the state and federal courts. Beyond having successfully litigated numerous appeals in the Pennsylvania courts, including before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, in just the past 4 years, I've successfully litigated 8 cases before the Commonwealth Court.

**Campaign website:** PrinceForJustice.com  
**Campaign Facebook URL:** facebook.com/PrinceForPA  
**Twitter handle:** @PrinceForPA  
**Campaign Instagram URL:** instagram.com/princeforpa/

**Q:** Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?

**A:** It is the constitutionally mandated and necessary separation of powers to ensure that no one branch of government becomes too powerful or usurps the power of the people. We have, unfortunately, in recent times seen the harmful effects of when branches of government overstep their constitutionally limited boundaries. For example, when a judge legislates from the bench — thereby usurping the powers of the executive and legislative branches — the constitutionally mandated separation of powers is violated and the people's confidence in the judiciary is eroded. This is why it is imperative that we only elect judges who will uphold the law as written and constitution as intended, without consideration for one's personal views or beliefs.

**Q:** What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?

**A:** As litigants and the legal community must be able to rely on precedent to understand their rights and obligations, it is imperative that precedent only be overturned where a manifest justice has occurred and necessitates correction, such as the abhorrent decision in the Dred Scott case, and not where the overturning of precedent would be for political or other reasons. Where appropriate, the criteria I would consider are the quality of the reasoning for the past decision, consistency of the the existing precedent with related decisions, legal developments since the past decision that shed new light on the existing precedent and what is the reasonable implementation of the new precedent within the legal system and its impact moving forward.

**Megan Martin**  
**Party:** Rep  
**County:** Cumberland  
**Occupation:** Attorney  
**Education:** Juris Doctor, May 1994, Widener University School of Law,



Megan Martin

Harrisburg; Bachelor of Arts, June 1991, University of Delaware, Newark, DE  
**Qualifications:** I am honored to be endorsed by the Pennsylvania Republican Party and recommended by the Pennsylvania Bar Association. I also have the unique distinction of having served in all 3 branches of our state government and as an attorney for the U.S. Navy. My qualifications stand alone in the race for Commonwealth Court.

**Campaign website:** meganmartinforpa.com

**Campaign Facebook URL:** facebook.com/MeganMartinforPA/

**Campaign Instagram URL:** instagram.com/meganmartinforpa/

**Q:** Pennsylvania's three coequal branches of government — executive, legislative and judicial — each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?

**A:** I respect the very different yet equally important roles of the three branches. When it comes to our judges, the people deserve to have judges who are fair and impartial, respect and defend the rule of law, protect our constitutional rights and freedoms, apply the law as it was written by our General Assembly, and who hold government accountable because government must follow the law, too. Our judges must be exemplary public servants who act in the public's interest, not to further any political agenda or their own personal agenda. Judges must not make policy decisions from the bench that are reserved for our elected representatives to make. We need our judges to be independent as our constitution created them to be. I will be that judge.

**Q:** What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent?

**A:** Judges should approach every case keeping in mind their oath to support, obey and defend the constitution. The constitution should be their North Star. Judges should apply the law as it was written by the General Assembly. Judges should not be influenced by public opinion or pressure; they should follow the law. Precedent exists to maintain the rule of law. Defending the rule of law helps promote a world without chaos. It gives consistency to our judicial decision-making process. It ensures that individuals in similar situations are treated alike rather than being subject to the personal views of a particular judge. I respect the constitution and rule of law. I respect precedent. I will continue to do so as a judge on our Commonwealth Court.

FROM PAGE 1B

# KEY INFO

county.org

**IN PERSON:**

Contact the Centre County Elections Office: Elections@centrecountypa.gov; 814-355-6703

420 Holmes St., Bellefonte, PA 16823

**APPLYING FOR ABSENTEE OR MAIL-IN VOTING**

Centre County registered voters who are ill, disabled or will be absent from the municipality on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot. In addition, any Centre County registered voter may choose to vote using the no-excuse mail-in ballot. You can request an application be mailed to you by calling the Centre County

Elections office at 814-355-6703 or you can apply online at "Vote by Mail" at centrecountyvotes.gov. Completed applications for absentee or mail-in ballots must be received by the Centre County Elections Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9. If you are registered in another county, you must request your application from that county.

**COMPLETING YOUR MAIL-IN OR ABSENTEE BALLOT**

When you receive your mail-in or absentee ballot, carefully follow the accompanying directions. Completed ballots must be received by the Elections Office no later than 8 p.m. on May 16.

If you did not use the secrecy envelope before submitting your ballot or you damaged your ballot, please contact the Centre County Elections Office for instructions, 814-355-6703.

**POLLING LOCATIONS**

You can identify or confirm your polling place on www.centrecountyvotes.gov. If you have questions about the accessibility of a polling place, consult the Centre County Elections Office, 814-355-6703.

**WRITE-IN VOTING**

Information for write-in voting will be available at your 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 Centre County Elections Office, 814-355-6703. The problem can be resolved by phone if your name appears on the county records. If it does not and you want to resolve the problem, then you can go in person to the Centre County Elections Office, 420 Holmes St., Bellefonte, 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 the Elections Office determines 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. If you have any questions or need to report any problems, call 866-OUR-VOTE for as-

sistance in English or Spanish or 888-API-VOTE for assistance in Asian languages.

**VOTER IDENTIFICATION**

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 that contains your current address. If you do not have any acceptable ID, then you will be allowed to vote by provisional ballot.

If you are not a new voter and are not voting at your polling place for the

first time, you are not at this time required to provide identification.

**ONLINE VOTERS GUIDE**

VOTE411.org provides voters with a personalized ballot that includes candidate information from this Voters Guide as well as important election information. Links to this guide as well as other useful information for voters can be found on the LWVCC's website at lwvcentrecounty.org

Membership in the League is open to all genders 16 years of age or older, and inquiries are welcome. Contributions to support this activity are greatly appreciated. Visit lwvcentrecounty.org to make a tax-deductible contribution to LWVCC Education Fund or mail to LWVCC, P.O. Box 962, State College, PA 16804.

FROM PAGE 1B

# JUDGE



Scott A. Sayers

ate of Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science

**Q:** Why did you choose to run for this office and

what are your qualifications for the job?

**A:** With having a background in funeral service, I just felt the need to assist people at the worst times in their life when dealing with loss of a loved one.

I'm in my 26 year as coroner. Achieved Diplomatic status with the American Board on Medicolegal Death Investigators, active member of the Pennsylvania Coroners Association and serves as a regional vice president on the PSCA executive board.

## CENTRE COUNTY PROTHONOTARY

**Jeremy S. Breon**  
Party: Dem  
**Campaign website:** friendsofjeremybreon.com



Jeremy S. Breon

**Educa-** Penn State University, Duke University

**Q:** Why did you choose to run for this office and

what are your qualifications for the job?

**A:** I am running for reelection as Centre County prothonotary to serve our community. In my second term I want to continue implementing the most cutting edge technology to serve our community now and in the future.

I am a lifelong resident of Centre County and reside on my family farm in Haines Township. With 12 years of experience working in the Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts office, I am prepared to resolve concerns from our community. I hold a degree from Penn State University and a paralegal certificate for Duke University.

For more information please visit my website [www.friendsofjeremybreon.com](http://www.friendsofjeremybreon.com). Please vote May 16, 2023.

## CENTRE COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS

**Joseph L. Davidson**  
Party: Rep  
**Campaign Website:** votejoedavidson.com



Joseph L. Davidson

**Educa-** Penn State University - business administration

**Face-** Re-Elect Joe Davidson

Centre County Recorder of Deeds  
**Email:** ccrod@com-cast.net

**Q:** Why did you choose to run for this office and what are your qualifications for the job?

**A:** I have had the honor of serving Centre County as recorder of deeds for nearly 24 years. It has been a privilege to serve Centre County residents and ensure that tax dollars are being used effectively and efficiently. As recorder of deeds, I have modernized the office and improved customer service measures directly benefiting the users of the office, making it easier to access and utilize the services of the office. I am running for reelection to continue to provide this high quality service to the people of Centre County. I will continue to explore new technology, seek out more efficient practices and will never lose sight of the basic function of government: public service.

**Robert Zeigler**  
Party: Dem  
**Campaign website:** zeiglerforpa.com



Robert Zeigler

**Educa-** B.A. in political science, MBA, MPA (Public Administration)

**Face-** Zeigler For A Better Tomorrow

**Twitter:** @ZeiglerForPA

**Email:** robert@zeiglerforpa.com

**Q:** Why did you choose to run for this office and what are your qualifications for the job?

**A:** The reason I am running for recorder of deeds in Centre County is to better serve my community at a higher level. While leading the Millheim Borough Council, we improved our fiscal flexibility, invested in solar to save taxpayer funds, gotten almost \$1.5 million in grant funds for projects and economic development, improved infrastructure, improved transparency, gotten broadband speeds faster than Penn State in the Penns Valley region and cut taxes. I have over 20 years of management and customer service experience with a history of finding solutions to problems. I believe that this office can be a stronger leader in innovation and should be utilized to proactively address affordable housing and blighted properties in the county.

## CENTRE COUNTY REGISTER OF WILLS

**Christine Millinder**  
Party: Rep  
**Education:** High school diploma

**Email:** christine68.cm@gmail.com



Christine Millinder

**Q:** Why did you choose to run for this office and what are your qualifications for the job?

**A:** I am running for reelection for register of wills and clerk of Orphans' Court because I enjoy helping people. My 36 years of experience in this office provides me with the qualifications to assist the public and legal professionals with the day to day operations relative the probate and estate administration. As clerk of Orphans' Court I am responsible for performing the administrative duties for the Court of Common Pleas. This consists of issuing and maintaining marriage licenses, maintaining all guardianship records and adoption cases. I am committed to serve the citizens of Centre County with the knowledge that I have gained with my years of experience.

## CENTRE COUNTY SHERIFF

**Bryan Sampsel**  
Party: Rep



Bryan Sampsel

**Educa-** Bellefonte Area High School, attended Pennsylvania State University in criminal justice, Act 2 PA Sheriff's Academy at PSU

**Facebook:** Bryan Sampsel for Centre County Sheriff  
**Email:** blsampsel@yahoo.com

**Q:** Why did you choose to run for this office and what are your qualifications for the job?

**A:** As a two-term elected sheriff with over seven years of experience in the role, I am running for reelection to continue serving the people of Centre County. My qualifications include serving as a deputy sheriff and sheriff now for over 20 year and

extensive training at the Deputy Sheriff Academy Act 2 among other individual trainings throughout my career.

Throughout my tenure, I have demonstrated a commitment to public safety, providing security for public buildings and participating in community events. I am also involved in initiatives aimed at addressing important issues such as drug abuse, veteran suicide and domestic violence.

I believe that my experience and qualifications make me the best candidate for sheriff of Centre County.

## CENTRE COUNTY TREASURER

**Justin Behrens**  
Party: Rep  
**Campaign website:** behrensforcentre



Justin Behrens

**Educa-** MSW Temple University in social work

**Face-** Justin Behrens for

Centre County Treasurer  
**Email:** justin@behrensforcentrecounty.com

**Q:** Why did you choose to run for this office and what are your qualifications for the job?

**A:** The Centre County Treasurer's Office is meant to represent all taxpayers, regardless of political affiliation. For the long-term benefit of our community, this office needs a new, committed, full-time public servant to ensure the financial security of our county. As an Iraqi War veteran and former CEO of a successful nonprofit, I understand the complexity of managing budgets while also supporting public needs. As treasurer, I will work tirelessly to be a good steward of your hard-earned money. I will work to maximize the safety, legality and liquidity of county investments to help offset your future tax contributions. I will use my experience to improve county processes such as those used to secure dog and hunting licenses.

**Colleen Kennedy**  
Party: Dem



Colleen Kennedy

**Educa-** B.A. in music, UCLA; Master of Education (M.Ed.), UCLA; accounting, Cal State Los Angeles

**Facebook:** Colleen Kennedy for Centre County Treasurer  
**Email:** info@kennedyforcentre.com

**Q:** Why did you choose to run for this office and what are your qualifications for the job?

**A:** I have been an accounting professional for almost 20 years, and I greatly appreciate that in 2019 the Centre County community entrusted me to serve as treasurer. During my tenure, I implemented online dog licensing and introduced credit card and eCheck payments. Also, with improved technology, I am in continual contact with my office.

I facilitated moving the employees' retirement fund to a different institution, saving the county hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual fees. And as interest rates rose, I moved county investments into safe, higher-yield instruments, which increased interest earnings by nearly 600%.

There is always more to be done, and I look forward to the opportunity to expand on these improvements further.

## CENTRE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Amber Cistaro Concepcion**  
Party: Dem  
**Campaign website:** amberconcepcion.com  
**Education:** State Col-



Amber Cistaro Concepcion

lege Area High School alum, B.A. political science, Penn State University, 2001, M.A. Georgetown

University, 2007  
**Facebook:** Amber Concepcion, Centre County Commissioner  
**Email:** aconcepcion@centrecountypa.gov

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** My priorities include: excellence in providing human services to our citizens, strong public safety and emergency management across the county, and supporting small businesses/farms to revitalize local communities. I will work to strengthen the mental health services provided in our county, and ensure that mental and behavioral health care continues to be provided for returning citizens in our corrections facility. I will prioritize working with municipal partners to ensure strong emergency services across the county, including pursuing grant funding in this area. As a small business owner, I know how important collaborative local economic development is. I will work on economic development and revitalization efforts, including partnerships with nonprofit organizations in our communities, to support entrepreneurs, small businesses and farms in our county. Prudent and frugal long-term financial planning is key to the county achieving its most important goals within our financial means



Steven Dershem

**Steven Dershem**  
Party: Rep  
**Educa-** Graduate Bellefonte Area High School and B.A. labor studies Penn State Uni-

versity  
**Facebook:** Steve Dershem Commissioner  
**Email:** votedershem@hotmail.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** The greatest challenge that any county commissioner will face is effectively managing the financial health of county government. The prudent day to day fiscal management of programs and being able to make tough funding choices are essential to the continued health of county government. Making those tough calls have enabled me to pass 13 budgets in a row without a tax increase. I am proud of our county team and our administrators for working together so well for the taxpayers of Centre County. I look forward to our continued success.

Increased broadband access in the underserved regions of Centre County is a crucial component for schools, residents and businesses to be successful in our digital age. Leveraging federal infrastructure dollars and working with willing internet providers will be crucial.

The completion of the Centre Crest transformation to a human services complex will also be a priority of the next board.

**Mark Higgins**  
Party: Dem  
**Campaign website:** friendsofmarkhiggins.com  
**Education:** 2014 graduate of Leadership Centre County. Graduate of Mi-



Mark Higgins

chigan State University with majors in marketing, general business and personnel

**Face-** book: Mark Higgins - Centre County Commissioner  
**Twitter:** @CCMarkHiggins  
**Email:** mark@centrecountypa.gov

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** I will work hard to continue improving the quality of life throughout all of Centre County. We have reduced the number of Centre County residents in the county correctional facility by 50% over the last 10 years and will add another specialty court and more services. Centre County government will make significant investments in human services including mental health, libraries, homelessness and housing people can afford. My team will engage with over 100 nonprofits in their efforts to make Centre County a better place.

I have reduced the cost to run Centre County government by many millions of dollars over the last eight years. We have not increased Centre County government property taxes in 13 years and I will continue to find additional savings inside county government that will allow us to increase services.

I distributed over \$10,500,000 in funding to support small businesses and will continue to support them.

**Marie Librizzi**  
Party: Rep  
**Campaign website:** marie2023.com  
**Education:** College  
**Facebook:** Marie2023  
**Email:** oldmaidnart@aol.com



Marie Librizzi

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** Ensuring prosperity and opportunities for future generations are my driving factors to run for public office. I will solve our county's rural broadband issue once and for all. If there are electric lines, there will be broadband lines. No exceptions. No excuses. I have already started building relationships and conducting research to make this happen. This is not a funding issue — there are more than enough state and federal funds to make this happen. This is a leadership issue. Our rural residents deserve a commissioner who can effectively manage this initiative and won't stop until all of our homes and businesses have access to the digital infrastructure they deserve. Additionally, I will vote to repeal the vehicle registration tax. Centre County does not own any roads or bridges — it's that simple. Finally, I will manage county funds — your taxpayer dollars — with sincere responsibility and transparent accountability.

## CENTRE COUNTY JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

**Gopal Balachandran**  
Party: Rep, Dem  
**Campaign website:** gopalforjudge.com  
**Education:** B.S. UNC-Chapel Hill; M.A. University of Chicago; J.D., with honors, George Washington University

**Facebook:** Gopal For Judge

**Twitter:** @GopalForJudge

**Email:** gopal@gopalforjudge.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** I am running because I believe Centre County residents deserve a more balanced bench with at least one judge who has a comprehensive background in criminal law. As a former public defender, I have worked in all phases of the criminal process — trials, appeals and post-conviction cases — over a span of nearly 20 years. I also have significant experience working with individuals battling addiction, poverty and mental health issues.

My first priority would be to ensure fairness and equality for all, by properly balancing public safety with the rehabilitative needs of our fellow residents.

My second priority is to make sure our problem-solving courts work to their full potential in reaching the maximum number of people needing this help.

Finally, having handled a heavy felony case-load, I recognize the administrative issues that cause delay. My goal would be to make sure cases run smoothly and efficiently through the court.

**Julia Rater**  
Party: Rep, Dem  
**Campaign website:** Juliaforjudge.com

**Education:** The Dickinson School of Law, J.D. 1995 (Order of the Barriers); St. Vincent College, B.S. 1992 (highest honors)

**Facebook:** Julia For Judge  
**Email:** julia@juliaforjudge.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** As judge, above all, I want everyone to know their case will be treated with importance. I will listen attentively and patiently to the evidence. I will decide the matter based on the unique facts of the case and the written law. Second, I want people to be respected. I will treat all people kindly, fairly and equitably, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual preference, wealth or disability. Third, I want the parties to receive a resolution within a reasonable amount of time. I know from experience, with clients involved in many different types of matters, that the wait is hard — sometimes excruciating. I will be decisive and efficient in rendering decisions. I will use my mediation and collaborative law background to move cases to completion, as resolving matters by agreement saves time, can eliminate criminal records and opens the courtroom to those who need a decision by a judge.

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE DISTRICT 49-03-03

**Allen W. Sinclair**  
Party: Dem, Rep  
Did not respond

## MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE DISTRICT 49-02-01

**Casey McClain**  
Party: Rep, Dem  
Did not respond

## CENTRE DAILY TIMES

### Looking for a side hustle? Deliver the news and more

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FROM PAGE 1B

# CANDIDATES

provided by department heads.

3. 2022 Bellefonte Borough approved dropping committees in order to work as a whole council. This change has worked well for holding discussions of various items/issues.

My personal goal is to support our residents and the borough. I respectfully ask South Ward VOTERS to reelect me as your representative to the Bellefonte Borough Council, thank you.

**Deborah Cleeton**  
**Party:** Dem

**Education:** Graduate of State College Area High School

**Email:** dcleeton@bellefontepa.gov

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) currently provides three unique yet integrated levels of service to/from Bellefonte. Continued access to these services is vital for our community as it is the most cost-effective means of transportation for access to work, school, medical facilities and food resources. Our residents need reliable access to the many services and retail locations located outside the borough. Funding for borough operations is always a challenge. After property taxes, the earned income tax provided by our working residents is a primary source of revenue. Bellefonte is a delightful community to live in. Whether a resident is a home owner or tenant, for our community to thrive we need to ensure that residential housing is available. One of my responsibilities as a council representative is to make informed recommendations to the borough. I will continue to make use of the multiple opportunities available to improve my knowledge of borough operations.

2. We need people on the council who believe in equity for all and treat everyone with respect. My 30+ years as a community organizer and advocate for equity would help ensure that the council considers these issues when making decisions affecting the lives of our community members.

3. I want to continue representing the West Ward to address historic preservation and sustainability. Sustainability includes environmental sustainability; creating a vibrant economic community; improving the infrastructure for the well-being and safety of all; quality educational opportunities; gender and racial equity; and reducing poverty, hunger, etc.

1. I'll serve ALL residents and ALL businesses by ensuring any matter that comes before the council fairly serves our entire community, by scrutinizing requests to ensure they benefit all and that the cost, if any, can be incurred without raising taxes. If a request doesn't meet those requirements, I will vote NO.

2. I will support all initiatives that best serve the safety of our police and emergency responders and that allow them to efficiently and effectively perform their duties.

3. I will work to remove borough government overreach due diligence and actions for any and all unnecessary ordinances, or exclusionary programs, especially those that were created and implemented to only benefit specific individuals in our community. One such program is the free electric vehicle (EV) chargers that the borough (taxpayers) now pays the electric bill for. I will work to fix this elitist abomination day one.

**Joanne Tosti-Vasey**  
**Party:** Dem

**Education:** B.S., clothing and textiles, Virginia Tech; M.S., family counseling, Virginia Tech; Ph.D., human develop-

ment and family studies, PSU

**Facebook:** Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Bellefonte Borough Council

**Twitter:** @TostiVasey

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** 1. I believe in transparency and open communication between the council and our community members. Ensuring our representatives honor this transparency and act on the community's wishes while balancing all community concerns is critical for a vibrant and welcoming community. Community surveys, like Bellefonte's current Sustainability Survey, are very helpful here.

2. We need people on the council who believe in equity for all and treat everyone with respect. My 30+ years as a community organizer and advocate for equity would help ensure that the council considers these issues when making decisions affecting the lives of our community members.

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**Kevin Kassab**  
**Party:** Dem

**Education:** Mercer County College and Temple University

**Email:** VoteKassab@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** If elected, I have my priorities; To ensure the quality of our neighborhoods as a safe and peaceful environment for long-term and student residents. To continue my support for affordable housing; not only to support the First-Time Home Buyer program, from which I personally benefited, but to find more ways to make the borough affordable for families and employees, and even students who are struggling financially. To continue to work with borough staff on enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging within the State College community. To diversify downtown businesses: The borough must resolve a way to retain diverse shops within our downtown, which all residents and visitors can enjoy, and to improve sustainability practices. My promise is: I have spent my career as a listener and problem solver, with a voice to serve in an advisory capacity to Borough Council and the borough manager, and that is the strength I will be bringing to this elected position.

**Evan Myers**  
**Party:** Dem

**Campaign website:** statecollege.com/pages/politics/evan-myers/

**Education:** Penn State Class of 1971

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** #1 - Promote a strong and sustainable community by providing more affordable and inclusionary housing through incentives and creative zoning. Respect and enhance renter's rights. Strengthen neighborhoods by increasing home ownership through support of the Community Land Trust and Homestead Investment program. Improve bicycle and pedestrian connections, protect and enhance neighborhood parks and shopping. Establish a functional relationship with Penn State.

#2 - Treat all members of the community with equity and respect by encouraging diversity and inclusiveness. Protect minority and workers' rights and engage students. #3 - Create a more vibrant downtown and gain more community input in planning and development by working to establish more

affordable and inclusionary commercial space for local businesses. A complete and thorough review of zoning including building size and height. Improve communications with neighboring municipalities to discuss impacts of new development.

**Josh Portney**  
**Party:** Dem

**Campaign website:** portneyforcouncil.com

**Education:** B.A. in political science, broadcast journalism; Pennsylvania State University, '22

**Facebook:** Josh Portney

**Twitter:** @jdp2008

**Email:** joshportney1@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** If elected, my first priority while on council is to pass a revised zoning code that protects our downtown while facilitating growth through controlled development for working families in the West End and in other parts of the borough. I also see transportation as a main issue that we need to tackle, as we ought to reshape our town to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, which would reduce the reliance on traditional car traffic. Finally, I will fight for a complete review of our budget so we can stabilize taxes and refocus our spending to match our priorities, like affordable housing, delivering quality municipal services and DEIB efforts.

**Tony Sapia**  
**Party:** Dem

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** 1. Housing with special emphasis on affordability and equity/sustainability.

--- work with Zoning and with the budgeted housing specialist to implement the Tenant Bill of Rights. Work with Code Enforcement to ensure safe housing for all residents. Incorporate better biking infrastructure with the addition of more on-street bike lanes. Continue expansion of the Bicycle Ambassador's Program education efforts. When we increase the bikeability and walkability of our neighborhoods, we make housing more sustainable.

2. Build transparency --- create "open office hours" for residents to meet casually in person with council persons. Communicate by newsletter specific happenings in the borough and issues that directly impact our neighborhoods.

3. Increase local business --- Coordinate the borough's Masterplan with the Downtown Improvement District's vision to make Calder Way the "Community Hall" that is inclusive and engages positive relationships in all of our neighborhoods.

**Kathy Evey**  
**Party:** Rep

**Did not respond**

**Thomas Moyer**  
**Party:** Rep

**Did not respond**

**David Thomas Roberts**  
**Party:** Dem

**Education:** Bachelor of Science biology, Pennsylvania State University 1975 and graduate classes environmental biology, Hood College

**Email:** dtroberts52@icloud.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** Benner Township residents need safe, clean drinking water. Benner residents currently face existing and imminent health threats from water contaminated with per and polyfluoralkyl substances, PFAS chemicals. I will work with local water authorities, state and federal agencies

Herndon for Borough Council

**Email:** matt4statecollege@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** My top three priorities are sustainability, affordability and inclusivity. I will work to create more affordable and sustainable housing by updating the borough's antiquated, exclusionary zoning laws to legalize denser housing close to jobs, bike lanes and CATA transportation. That will also spur inclusion by allowing more people who want to live in the borough to realize that dream. Inclusion also means making our town safe for everyone. Last summer the father of a 3-year-old was killed here while riding his bike to work — we must not accept that. I will fight for raised crossings that slow car traffic, and separated bike paths which keep cyclists safe from cars and pedestrians safe from cyclists. I will use the power of Borough Council to make our town more affordable and help our neighbors be less dependent on cars, making State College more inclusive and a better place for everyone.

**Kevin Kassab**  
**Party:** Dem

**Education:** Mercer County College and Temple University

**Email:** VoteKassab@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

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**Evan Myers**  
**Party:** Dem

**Campaign website:** statecollege.com/pages/politics/evan-myers/

**Education:** Penn State Class of 1971

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**Twitter:** @jdp2008

**Email:** joshportney1@gmail.com

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**A:** Benner Township residents need safe, clean drinking water. Benner residents currently face existing and imminent health threats from water contaminated with per and polyfluoralkyl substances, PFAS chemicals. I will work with local water authorities, state and federal agencies

to procure grant money for the installation of public water supplies to all affected residents and businesses and the mitigation of PFAS in Benner's aquifers through active participation in a regional water management plan to preserve water quality and quantity. I will work to provide necessary and essential services to residents and businesses in a cost effective manner including roads, schools, water, sewer, stormwater management and other infrastructure by using science based best management practices. I will assure transparency concerning actions of Benner Township through implementation of permanent recordings of township meetings and through more open channels of communication with all residents.

**D. Richard Francke**  
**Party:** Rep

**Education:** Bachelor of Science, operations management with minor in business logistics, Pennsylvania State University

**Email:** rfrancke@collegetownship.org

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** Transparent and accountable government, locally and regionally — seek to make information easily accessible while always being personally available to our residents; goal of positive experiences in all our interactions; encourage opportunities to participate in our processes; and ingrain being accountable for our actions, good or bad. Effect and efficient delivery of services — maintain and improve, where possible, the township's top-notch staff and their culture of providing great service; maximize the value formula to provide the most for our resident's money and time; avoid complacency; and continually seek better ways, the job is never done. Sustainable community and infrastructure — balance our many, sometimes opposing, human needs to the benefit of all, exclusion of none; manage our human, natural and financial capital to meet current needs and protect our resources for our future residents; and ensure a safe, healthy and affordable community via good planning and investment.

**Tracey Mariner**  
**Party:** Dem

**Email:** tracymariner@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** If I am elected my top three priorities will be to first be open-minded about the systems set in place that allow us to

make effective change. Secondly, I will grow in my knowledge, insight, understanding and respect for the process of getting the concerns of the community addressed. Lastly, I will give the time and energy needed to positively affect change. I do not want to make the mistake of providing empty promises, believing I can come in and affect positive change without knowing the systems that are set in place already. I think far too often well-intentioned change agents take the approach of placing a demand for change without learning about the current systems, being a part of the process, and evaluating what is needed

to truly develop a culture and mindset of change. I believe effective change can not be obtained without accountability, dedication, longevity and respect for what was, what is and what's to come.

**Susan Trainor**  
**Party:** Dem

**Education:** B.A. Wells College, ASN Tompkins Cortland Community College, MSN Bloomsburg University

**Facebook:** Susan Trainor

**Email:** suetraior7@icloud.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** If elected to the College Township Council seat to which I am currently appointed, my top three priorities are supporting sustainable development, responsible stewardship of township resources and improving health equity for all. Supporting sustainable development and responsibly stewarding finances, I'll focus on developing policies and infrastructure projects aligned with the 7 milestones of planning outlined in our regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and the College Township Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan including working towards a more walkable township. I'll develop smart budgets mindful of township's long-term financial health, working collaboratively with council and township's expert staff. Leveraging three decades as a nurse and health care provider I'll support work increasing access to affordable health care and housing. Preparing the township for development of a casino I'll build partnerships and fund work improving access to mental health services for all.

**Ferguson Township Supervisor-At Large**  
**Omari Patterson**  
**Party:** Dem

**Campaign website:** omariforpa.com

**Education:** Bachelor's - engineering, master's - telecommunications systems management, master's - real estate

**Facebook:** Omari Patterson for PA

**Twitter:** @OmariForPA

**Email:** friendsofomari@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** As a new board member, not only is one faced with ongoing projects and initiatives, but new problems and issues that impact our fellow township residents. From day one, I will bring my business experience, thorough research and planning skills, and ability to work collaboratively to find the best solutions. I will proactively meet with and listen to my fellow township residents to process the most pressing issues affecting our community. I believe we should have a fair tax structure -- Keep taxes fair for all (e.g. homeowners and businesses) -- Maintain an efficient budget with excellent services -- Revisit the policy associated with the Stormwater Impact Fee Let's open Ferguson Township for more business! -- Maintain the unique character of Ferguson Township -- Find thoughtful ways to address diversity while preserving agriculture -- Encourage workforce

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**D. Richard Francke**  
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**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** Transparent and accountable government, locally and regionally — seek to make information easily accessible while always being personally available to our residents; goal of positive experiences in all our interactions; encourage opportunities to participate in our processes; and ingrain being accountable for our actions, good or bad. Effect and efficient delivery of services — maintain and improve, where possible, the township's top-notch staff and their culture of providing great service; maximize the value formula to provide the most for our resident's money and time; avoid complacency; and continually seek better ways, the job is never done. Sustainable community and infrastructure — balance our many, sometimes opposing, human needs to the benefit of all, exclusion of none; manage our human, natural and financial capital to meet current needs and protect our resources for our future residents; and ensure a safe, healthy and affordable community via good planning and investment.

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## BOOK REVIEW

# Writer reflects on inequity of health care amid her grief

BY QIAN JULIE WANG  
Special to The Washington Post

In “What the Living Do,” poet Marie Howe reflects on death and mourning with the words, “Even grief provides a living remedy.” Nicole Chung’s memoir “A Living Remedy” draws its title – and heart – from that line. In this moving book, Chung explores the idea that mourning the deceased is a way of keeping them alive. In her 30s, Chung was suddenly hit hard by loss: Both of her adoptive parents died within two years of each other. In this intimate memoir, she explores this difficult emotional terrain while also delivering a powerful social commentary that poses vital questions about access to medical care and the meaning of home and family.

Chung loses her father first, and from afar. Chung is a young mother of two children, living across the country when her dad declines into kidney disease and diabetes. She is unable to offer much financial or practical assistance, and he dies in his sleep with no opportunity for her to say goodbye. The pain of this abruptness is searing: “We don’t know the moment he took his last breath. ... The time of death I read on the certificate is not the moment his life ended but the moment the paramedics had to give up. I will

never know what really happened.” What closure Chung does receive is afforded through the ritual of the funeral, a small mercy.

There is but a brief respite before Chung’s mother receives a cancer diagnosis. Before long, the coronavirus descends, cleaving Chung’s world in half: her husband and two young children on the East Coast; her dying mother on the West. Torn between her duties to her children and those to her mother, and assessing the risks of flying across the country in the height of the pandemic, Chung remains at home. Like her father, Chung’s mother dies before Chung has the chance to say goodbye, and it feels all too familiar: “I can’t tell you about her death, because I didn’t witness it.” This time, though, Chung cannot even attend the funeral in person. She reflects, “I had not realized that mourning in the known or expected way could also be a luxury, a privilege, one that might disappear in a moment.”

Chung’s grief is complicated by the realities of her adoption, of which she wrote poignantly in her first memoir, “All You Can Ever Know” (2018). Raised by white parents in largely white southern Oregon, Chung, who is Korean American, was accustomed to feeling different. But the loss of her parents drives home

## A Living Remedy: A Memoir

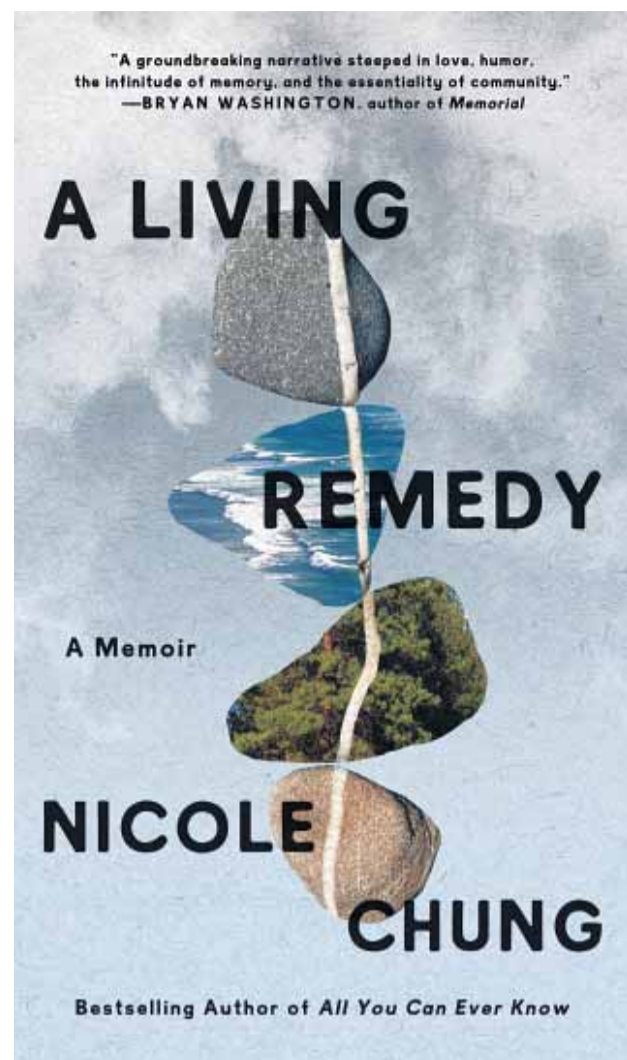
By Nicole Chung, Ecco, 256 pages, \$29.99

the idea that this is the end of their bloodline, because they have no biological children, and Chung’s own children are biologically connected to the birth parents who gave her up for adoption. “At some point you learn that the purpose of life, for most creatures on the planet, is to pass on their genes before they die,” she observes, “that this was the only form of immortality accessible to most of the living: we would die, but if we had children, and they had children, our genes, the essence of who we are and everything that makes us, would live on.” Then, the clincher: “Even back then, I remember thinking about how that wasn’t going to work out for my parents.”

Chung’s deeply personal story also highlights the shortcomings of health care in America. Her parents’ paychecks from myriad sequential jobs – from restaurant manager and respiratory therapist when she was growing up to, later, warehouse stocker and part-time bookkeeper – were only enough

**OUT OF HEALTH INSURANCE, HER FATHER WAS LIMITED TO MEDICAL CARE FROM UNDER-RESOURCED COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS WITH SLIDING SCALES AND LONG WAITING LISTS. IT IS STILL HARD FOR ME NOT TO THINK OF MY FATHER’S DEATH AS A KIND OF NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE FACILITATED AND SPED BY THE STATE’S FAILURE TO FULFILL ITS MOST BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIM AND OTHERS LIKE HIM,’ CHUNG WRITES.**

to carry them from health crisis to health crisis. Chung later finds out that they had to declare bankruptcy during her college years because of their earlier medical needs. Just before his death, Chung’s father was too sick to work, and her mother had been laid off. Out of health insurance, he was limited to medical care from under-resourced community health centers with sliding scales and long waiting lists. “It is still hard for me not to think of my father’s death as a kind of negligent homicide facilitated and sped by the state’s failure to fulfill its most basic responsibilities to him and others like him,” Chung writes.



Ecco

Though terminal illness and death – like the pandemic – are often described as pat “equalizers,” Chung refuses to let society off that easily: “Sickness and grief throw wealthy and poor families alike into upheaval, but they do not transcend the gulfs between us, as some claim – if anything, they often magnify them. Who has the ability to make choices that others lack? Who is left to scramble for piecemeal solutions in an emergency?”

Chung knows the answer all too well, and her call to action is particularly powerful because of it. The book begins and ends with chapters about Chung’s memories of her mother and their special connection. She reflects on leaving for college:

“We would still belong to each other, but we would come to know one another differently in separation, in parting after parting.” This sense of belonging prevails even in the parting of death: “As long as I am here, I am still with her, keeping my vigil in the only way I can.” In this way, Chung offers comfort to the living – herself included – by reminding us that in our continued memory and love, the deceased can find a semblance of immortality even without genetic connection. In Marie Howe’s words: “I am living. I remember you.”

*Qian Julie Wang is the author of the memoir “Beautiful Country” and a lawyer in New York.*

## FROM PAGE 5B

## CANDIDATES

## housing

We will mitigate risks associated with critical services

-- Help maintain services for all of Ferguson Township

### FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-WARD 1

**Matthew Heller**  
Party: Dem  
Education: MPS enterprise architecture, The Pennsylvania State University; B.S. Earth sciences, The Pennsylvania State University  
Facebook: Heller For Ferguson  
Email: HellerForFerguson@outlook.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** Improved inclusivity: Ferguson Township has rolling farmlands, suburban residential areas and small villages with residents from various backgrounds and nationalities. With township staff, I will establish outreach programs and effective communication channels to build a stronger and more connected community that celebrates our unique differences. Responsible stewardship: As a community we can reduce our impacts on the land, air and water, in a fiscally responsible way. I am committed to being a responsible steward of our planet and finances and will seek environmentally friendly opportunities to improve our public infrastructure. Empowering entrepreneurs: Small businesses are the backbone of our community, providing

jobs and economic opportunities. I will work with entrepreneurs, and local agencies, to promote the smart and sustainable growth of small businesses within our township, providing resources and support to help them thrive and create more opportunities for our community.

**Kenneth Raney**  
Party: Rep  
Education: Penn State University - B.S. in agricultural education  
Facebook: Ken Raney  
Email: kiraney@comcast.net

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** 1. Ferguson Township has a history of being fiscally conservative in both spending and how our residents are taxed. In more recent times spending has increased more than what the tax base has grown. The current and upcoming operating budget and the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan needs reviewed with attention paid to spending given the current economic and inflationary conditions we are all experiencing.

2. Supervisors need to be sensitive to constituency issues while at the same time not propose regulations and ordinances, then go look for the problem or issue that pertain to the created ordinance.

3. Ferguson Township needs to continue to be a cooperative member of COG programs and services. As a township we need to encourage business development, both small and large. Our reg-

ulations and ordinances should not hinder business development, but should be encouraging and business friendly for entrepreneurial development.

### FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-WARD 2

**Jeremie Thompson**  
Party: Dem  
Campaign website: jeremithompson.com  
Education: Penn State - labor and employment relations  
Facebook: Jeremie Thompson  
Twitter: @JeremieFTWP  
Email: info@jeremithompson.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** I believe local government should be transparent, accessible and responsive. Residents should have a voice in the decision making, which is something I stood by during my time as Planning Commission chair. Our advisory committees are

one of the many ways our residents can collaborate with elected officials, staff and each other. I support the preservation of our regional growth boundary and our agricultural farmlands. We should prioritize the strategic planning and long-term sustainability of our parks and recreational facilities. Fiscal management should promote efficiency in township operations and build value to our services. Through enhancement in our operations, we can provide better service to our residents while bringing valuable added time for the township to focus on other strategic initiatives. Investments that we make today whether in adminis-

tration, services, infrastructure, planning and development, or other areas of the township will better us for the future.

### FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-WARD 3

**Patricia Stephens**  
Party: Dem  
Did not respond

### HARRIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Charles Bud Graham**  
Party: Rep  
Did not respond  
**Tracey Moriarty**  
Party: Dem  
Did not respond  
**Nigel Wilson**  
Party: Dem  
Did not respond

### PATTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Susan Chyczewski**  
Party: Dem  
Education: Ph.D. agricultural and extension education from Penn State, B.S. animal science; B.S. agricultural education from University of Delaware

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** My first priority is sustainable economic development that works for both residents and businesses. As proposals come before the township,

I will seek out information from experts and endeavor to find opposing points of view to inform decisions.

My second priority is to maintain fiscally responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars by considering the long-term consequences of township decisions focusing on both fiscally responsible and sustainable investments in our community.

Lastly, Patton Township is “A Place for All.” It’s important that these are not just words or a motto, but also are reflected in our budget, zoning, public safety and development decisions.

I have been impressed with the current board’s efforts on behalf of the township and their willingness to go above and beyond to address concerns brought to them. I hope to continue that effort.

**Betsy Whitman**  
Party: Dem  
Education: B.A. Mary Washington College; master’s program, environmental sciences, University of Virginia  
Email: bbwhitman@gmail.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** My priorities for Patton township are 1) health and safety, 2) diversity, equity and inclusion, and 3) fiscal responsibility. To these ends, I will pursue, promote and support: public parks, trails and open space; carbon reduction (eg., electrical vehicles and charging network, creative public transit, multi-use paths); road/trail upkeep and good design (eg; crosswalks, signs/signals; bike lanes; proactive resurfacing); regular communication and respectful and responsible interactions between the public, staff and elected officials (eg., DEI training and hiring practices; citizen input/outreach through public meetings, written and social media; periodic open houses with staff and elected officials); responsible development (eg., affordable and attainable housing; growth with

public transit in mind); short-term and long-range planning for repair, replacement and purchase of facilities and equipment; and a thorough and transparent annual budget process.

### SPRING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Matthew Deibler**  
Party: Rep  
Did not respond  
**Terry M. Perryman**  
Party: Dem  
Did not respond

### WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Zane Sherman**  
Party: Rep  
**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** As a lifelong member of Walker Township I have experienced firsthand the changes that have occurred within the township. If elected, I would listen to, as well as understand, the residents’ concerns as the township continues to face additional change that require supervisor action. I will support development of new, and maintenance of existing, ordinances to address those concerns. I would engage in discussions to ensure infrastructure service/product capacity aligns with proposed township residential and business growth. I will support our township employees and elected/appointed officials to maintain our township traditions. I would work with the Walker Township Fire Company to ensure fire/emergency services are funded at a level required to support our residents changing needs. I’d reach out, as needed, to other Centre Region officials to better understand the lessons they have learned as they apply to our township. I look forward to serving the residents of Walker Township.

FROM PAGE 1B

# SCHOOL BOARD



Patrick Vincent Buck

jump off for future opportunities (co-ops).  
3. Prioritize improved academics by using data analysis to drive results and track progress. Ensure the district is using clear and defined metrics to drive success and allocating the resources necessary to achieve those goals. Prioritize critical thinking and STEM initiatives.

**Nate Campbell**  
**Party:** Dem, Rep  
**Education:** Pittsburgh Technical College  
**Facebook:** Nate Campbell for Bellefonte School Board  
**Email:** nccampbell01@aol.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** My top priorities will be to continue the work that I have been involved with while on the board.

New Bellefonte elementary: While serving on the building committee I have been involved in working to get to the design phase of the project that we are now in. It has taken many meetings and lots of consideration to get to this point and will take even more to get to the finish line. This is such a needed project that I want to see it to the finish.



Nate Campbell

Test scores: While on the board for only a year I have been part of the push to use all of the testing data that we have to identify where the districts strengths and weaknesses are. Using this data will help the board decide where to spend resources for the best education possible.

Students: As a board member it is my duty to make sure that all students have the same opportunities and support that they need. I will continue to listen to students, parents and district employees to help direct my decisions.

**Paul Dombrowski**  
**Party:** Dem, Rep  
**Education:** Ph.D. communication and rhetoric, RPI; M.Ed. counselor education; M.A. English; B.A. mathematics  
**Facebook:** Paul Dombrowski  
**Email:** pdombrowski@bellsouth.net

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** 1. Student safety – Students must feel safe in order to learn. Seek state and national best practices and funding; offer anonymous, open reporting of threats and concerns by students and parents; foster sense of safety and peace rather than a fortress mentality. Cultivate cooperative activities. Train trauma identification and intervention for teachers and staff.



Paul Dombrowski

2. Funding equity, state and federal – Deploy existing advocacy mechanisms, public service messages; flyers and emails to parents and civic organizations. Grow teacher salaries for happier teachers. Make equity a theme throughout the school system including interpersonally.

3. Curricular truthfulness and honesty – Require non-selective, fact-based, science-based history, civics, sciences, reading and library, and other courses. Screen curricular changes to ensure curricu-

lum and instructional materials are not conditional on individual or local preferences, but on established facts.

**Julie Fitzgerald**  
**Party:** Rep, Dem  
**Education:** B.S. psychology, Ursinus College; M.S. educational leadership, Central Connecticut State University

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** 1) Continue to focus on student learning by setting high standards for achievement that prepare students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Provide the necessary staffing, curriculum and technologies for all levels and types of learners.

2) Ensure healthy educational environments by providing the staffing, training, resources, technologies and mental

health supports that enable the district to maintain safety and security in school buildings. Address the aging elementary schools to ensure that facilities are conducive to learning. Promote a positive school climate through policies that effectively address bullying and harassment.

3) Engage, communicate and seek input from the community on district priorities while maintaining fiscal accountability and transparency. Develop long term budget plans that address facility needs, building maintenance and other major expenditures to preclude spikes in property taxes.

**Timothy D. Kessling**  
**Party:** Rep, Dem

Did not respond  
**Denelle Korin**  
**Party:** Rep, Dem  
Did not respond  
**Darrell Sharp**  
**Party:** Rep, Dem  
**Campaign website:** win4bellefonte.com

**Education:** B.S. electro-mechanical engineering, Penn State  
**Facebook:** Win4bellefonte  
**Email:** dsharp.w4b@gmail.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** A successful completion of the new Bellefonte elementary school building is essential. This will occur through very open communication with the community and ensuring the new building meets the educational needs for many generations of BASD students. Equally important is ensuring students are taught how to think and not what to think. We must keep indoctrination and ideologies out of our schools. Teach our students critical thinking skills so that as adults they can form their own opinions and values. This in turn leads to good citizens and strong communities. Lastly, ensure students are exposed to the various paths of post-graduation success available to them. Too much emphasis tends to be placed on attending college. That is the correct path for some, but not all of our students. The military might be the best option for some while others should seek certification in a skilled trade field. Discuss all of those options fairly and informed families can make the best decision.

**Donna Smith**  
**Party:** Rep, Dem  
**Campaign website:**

re-elect-donnasmith.org  
**Education:** B.S. education; master's equivalency  
**Facebook:** Donna Smith for Bellefonte School Board  
**Email:** dlsmith251@yahoo.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** As a school board member since 2015, one of my top priorities is to ensure the continued success of addressing learning gaps across the district. Constant review of assessments and the steps that we are taking for growth in all areas is a must. We need to continue to seek better strategies to help our students learn. The next priority is open and honest communication across the district. Transparency is critical when it comes to effective decision-making. Providing students, parents and teachers with available information regarding the topic at hand will instill trust in the board and the district. Last but not least, strengthening the district's partnership with CPI will provide our students with several options for success after graduation. CPI has proven itself to be a champion of student success after high school, and providing resources to continue this is of the utmost importance.

**Joe Yech**  
**Party:** Dem, Rep  
**Education:** Western Michigan University, Frostburg State University  
**Facebook:** Joseph Yech  
**Email:** jmyech@gmail.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** Our educational system should be focused on providing the best for all our students. Three of my focus areas are: Educators: Kids are the most important part of the educational system. Educators deliver that education, directly engaging our

students. I will always ask myself how decisions we make as a school board will affect educators. My personal objective will be to not make their jobs more difficult. I believe in our teachers and staff!  
Schools: We are building a new elementary school. I want to be involved in the decisions ensuring this is a viable school for our students and community for the long-term future.  
Fiscal responsibility: As a taxpayer in the school district, I will be cost conscious when decisions are made. Expenditures should benefit the students and community in a tangible way by helping our educators deliver the educational experience that ALL our children deserve.  
It's about KIDS!

**STATE COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**Amy Bader**  
**Party:** Dem, Rep  
**Campaign website:** slateforstate.com  
**Education:** B.A. in biology Temple University, M.A. biology Temple University, VMD School of Veterinary Medicine at University of Pennsylvania  
**Facebook:** Amy Bader, School Director SCASD  
**Email:** amybader.scasd@gmail.com

**Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

**A:** Given the opportunity to serve another term, my focus would be to support and expand upon SCASD's Strategic Plan. Stakeholders from throughout the community came together to set goals and a roadmap to achieve them in the com-

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, 8B

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FROM PAGE 7B

# SCHOOL BOARD

ing years. The most recent plan embeds equity work throughout and places it at the foundation of the district's work. Within this plan are other important issues to address, such as greater supports and improved outcomes for various groups, such as students receiving special education.

Additionally, I would continue my support of facility replacement and maintenance. The district has achieved tremendous gains in addressing deteriorating buildings, but has still to tackle Park Forest Middle School, which will be a major project to complete in the near future.

Finally, related to the strategic plan, I want to see SCASD continue to grow in its ability to support the WHOLE student and make each one feel a sense of safety and belonging.

## Nathan Bish

**Party:** Rep, Dem

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** These are not listed in any particular order but first I will start with school security. We need to ensure that our buildings and grounds are 100% secure. I will work with local law-enforcement to ensure options are available both at the school districts expense but more importantly at the expense of local law-enforcement, with taxes that have already been paid. Parent involvement is another issue. I will focus on. We need to get back to where school districts and parents are a 50-50 partnership. No decision should be made for a child unless a parent is aware of them we need to stop the secrets. Complete fiscal responsibility will be my last subject to focus on. We need to not only make sure that monies are being spent wisely, but also focus on ways to cut taxes and not just have a spend first attitude for every issue that arises.

## Gretchen Brandt

**Party:** Dem, Rep

**Campaign Website:** slateforstate.com

**Education:** B.A. University of Colorado, Boulder, international affairs and Germanic studies; M.A. Central Michigan University, public administration; Ph.D. (ABD), Penn State University, political science

**Facebook:** Gretchen Brandt SCASD Board Member

**Twitter:** @gsb125

**Email:** gsb125@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** I would like to continue to serve on the board and strive for equitable academic excellence for all students. I assess pri-

orities and votes based on my principles and the district's Strategic Plan. Second, to maintain trust and transparency so that all families in the district feel included and valued. This is achieved by prioritizing good process. I would like to continue my work with SCASD and the surrounding local governments through my work with the Council of Governments. Having served as the chair of the Solar Power Purchase Agreement Working Group, I have the knowledge and experience to help bring this consortium together to pool electricity and find a grid-tied utility solar project that can meet our current and future demand. Additionally, I would like to continue to champion the adoption of inclusive design, renewable energy, prioritize the sustainable design and construction of Park Forest Middle School, and to be a leader in the district's transition to electric school buses.

## Anne Demo

**Party:** Dem, Rep

**Campaign website:** slateforstate.com

**Education:** Ph.D. in speech communication, Pennsylvania State University (2000)

**Facebook:** Anne Demo for SCASD School Board

**Twitter:** @atDemolition

**Email:** annedemo4scasd@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** My first priority is supporting the well-being of all students as they pursue academic success and the foundation for fulfilling lives. Because I provided learning support in SCASD classrooms during the pandemic, I know what district policies feel like for teachers and learners. That experience well-prepares me to address relevant but overlooked stakeholders and issues.

My second priority is developing smart budgets that retain and support our expert teachers without overburdening taxpayers. Pennsylvania ranks 45th in educational spending nationally. I welcome the opportunity to support advocacy efforts for fair public education funding in Pennsylvania.

Finally, I will prioritize communication with the community. In my 25+ years teaching and supporting learners, I've developed a practice of deep listening. It's the difference between sharing information and finding the "just right" resource for a struggling student, overwhelmed parents or concerned community members.

## Barry Fenchak

**Party:** Rep, Dem

Did not respond

**Daniel Kolbe**

**Party:** Rep, Dem

**Campaign website:** slateforstate.com

**Education:** Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School, Penn State

**Facebook:** Dan Kolbe for SCASD School Board

**Email:** dwk5000@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** My primary focus is on promoting inclusivity, supporting the strategic plan and advancing the curriculum. Inclusive school environments are crucial for the academic and emotional well-being of all students, especially those who encounter identity-related barriers. Policies and curricula that prioritize inclusivity have positive effects on mental health, academic outcomes and reduce obstacles to success. To achieve district goals and priorities, it is essential to support SCASD's current strategic plan, which serves as a roadmap for the district's mission and ensures proper resource allocation. In addition, it is imperative to implement research-supported curricula that are relevant, engaging and aligned with the latest educational standards, preparing students for college and career success. These priorities will enable the SCASD board to ensure equitable access to a high-quality education in a safe, inclusive learning environment, empowering students to succeed.

## John Krajcovic

**Party:** Rep, Dem

Did not respond

**Megan Layng**

**Party:** Rep, Dem

**Campaign website:** layng4scasd.com

**Education:** M.A. applied linguistics/TESOL B.A. Spanish and English

**Email:** layng4scasd@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** 1. Parents. I would advocate for school board office hours where board members would be available for conversations with parents. For all the "listening" that happens in board meetings, many parents don't feel very heard. There is a kind of expertise that cannot be taught and cannot be replaced. It is positional authority, by virtue of being a parent. This domain must be respected.

2. Teachers. Teachers should be trusted to teach their subject matter according to their con-

science and their training, and in recognition of a common humanity. Teachers should not be burdened with the responsibility of creating group think in the arena of values. To build relationships, I would like to see the board having meaningful conversations with teachers.

3. Students. Students are individuals first, with individual value, needs and with common humanity. Cultivating mutual respect and civility is essential to a safe and trusted environment where kids can be kids again.

## Aaron Miller

**Party:** Dem, Rep

**Campaign website:** slateforstate.com

**Education:** Ph.D. in human development and family studies

**Facebook:** Slate for State

**Email:** ammm371@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** I will focus on academic success for all students, building trust and transparency with teachers and the community, and exercising good fiscal stewardship of district resources. As a member of the school board, I intend to work collaboratively to promote education and provide the necessary guidance for our administration to move forward. I will also emphasize the importance of social emotional learning in our schools, mental health, and promote new opportunities for students to succeed outside in our Career and Technical Center.

## Michelle Young

**Party:** Dem, Rep

**Campaign website:** united4scasd.org

**Education:** M.S. in systems technology, M.S. in military science and international relations, B.A. in political science

**Facebook:** Michelle

Young for SCASD School Director

**Email:** young4scasd2023@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** 1. Advocating for an environment, particularly among students, where our commonalities are celebrated and eliminate the "us vs them" mentality. Rather than approaching relationships between individuals or groups thinking about all the potential ways they are different; it is more beneficial to gravitate to similarities, building relationships that will often supersede our differences or make them irrelevant.

2. Increasing opportunities for formal partnerships between the school board and families, the community and teachers. Partnerships to resolve the inadequate communication and a lack of transparency contributing to an ongoing distrust between these entities.

3. Increasing viewpoint diversity. Though the board represents the viewpoints and opinions of much of the SCASD population, it is an ideologically homogenous group in danger of operating in an echo chamber and is lacking representation of the viewpoints of at least a third of the SCASD community.

## Laurel Zydney

**Party:** Rep, Dem

**Campaign website:** LaurelForSCASD.com

**Education:** Public schools K-12; 1978 Skyline HS, Dallas, Texas; 1982 B.A. in History, Yale.

**Facebook:** Re-elect Laurel for SCASD School Board

**Email:** LaurelForSCASD@gmail.com

**Q:** *If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?*

**A:** 1) SCASD must provide every child with an excellent foundation of academic experiences, skills and knowledge as well as opportunities in athletics, the arts, career education and leadership. This requires recognizing student needs, thoughtfully evaluating curriculum and programs, respecting staff and teacher experiences and expertise, and strengthening school/family partnerships.

2) The board should encourage community involvement and support by sharing timely, clear, easily accessible information about what's happening in SCASD; ensuring opportunities to ask questions and give input; and fully considering options before making decisions.

3) It's absolutely critical to maintain SCASD's financial stability while keeping the State College area affordable for young families and those on fixed incomes. Fiscal responsibility means budgeting based on identified needs and resources, monitoring and evaluating expenses, and strategic planning to determine and provide for future needs.

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