Voters Guide

State College, **Bellefonte council** and mayor races

CDT staff reports

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL WARD 1

Candidates (choose 2): **MELISSA HOMBOSKY** Party: Dem **Date of Birth**: Oct. 19, 1978 Education: 2002, Penn College of Technology, BS

Qualifications: Bellefonte Borough Council, five years; board member and event chair, Downtown Bellefonte Inc.; Board member, Springboard



Melissa Hombosky

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

A: First, I wish to continue to support our local merchants. We

are lucky to have a strong business community that has continued to grow despite a global pandemic. As a small business owner myself, I understand the unique challenges that face

businesses daily. Second, continue to keep our community safe while we enter the recovery phase of COVID-19. I'm so appreciative of the sacrifices that our friends and neighbors have made to stop the spread. Third, I am chair of our parks committee. Over the past year, our parks system has seen an uptick in resident use and I hope that we can continue that trend. There are so many outdoor recreation activities in our region and some of them start

right in our parks. How can we

continue to grow these amen-

JON EATON Party: Dem Education: High School: Bald

Eagle Nittany - 1977, College: Penn State Mechanical Engi-

Jon Eaton

neering - BS (1981), MS (1991) Qualifications: 1) Borough resident since 1985, 2) Council member since 2017, 3) Project Manager for sev-

eral R&D programs (external funding) at ARL-Penn State, 4) Department Head - ARL Penn

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

A: As a member of Council's Finance and Human Resources committees; I consider 1) budget & taxes, 2) Regional Integration,

SEE BOROUGHS, 4B

KEY INFO

- Register to vote by May 3.
- Apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot by 5 p.m. May 11.

1B

- The election is May 18.
- Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. This Voters Guide may be taken into
- the voting booth. Mail-in ballot applications and ballots can be tracked at www.centrecountyvotes.com.

FOR ELECTION INFORMATION

Contact the Centre County Board of Flections with all questions: Elections@centrecountypa.gov or 814-355-6703 or go to www.Centre-CountyVotes.com

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The material in this guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters of Centre County with assistance from the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. This material may not be altered or reprinted without the permission of the League. Each candidate's reply has been printed as submitted. 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.

They 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

ABSENTEE VOTING

Pennsylvania registered voters who are ill, disabled or will be absent from the municipality on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot. Completed applications for civilian absentee ballots must be received by the county Board of Elections by 5 p.m. May 11. 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 VotesPA.com. If you are registered in another county, you must request your application from that

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

MAIL-IN VOTING

Pennsylvania registered voters may vote using a mail-in ballot. Completed applications for mail-in ballots must be received by the Centre County Office of Elections by 5 p.m. on May 11. 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 VotesPA.com.

WRITE-IN VOTING

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

COMPLETING YOUR MAIL-IN OR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Upon receiving your mail-in or absentee ballot, please follow all directions, blackening circles of the candidates you selected. The completed ballot must be placed, first, in the white secrecy envelope, marked "Official Election Ballot" and sealed. This envelope, then, must be placed in the outer envelope addressed to the Centre County Elections Office in Bellefonte. Seal this envelope and complete the declaration on the back of the envelope, being sure to sign your name. No postage is necessary. You may then place your ballot in the U.S. Mail, drop it in one of the secure drop boxes throughout the county, or take your completed ballot in person to the Centre County Elections Office at the Willowbank Building in Bellefonte.

Completed ballots should be submitted so as to be received by the Elections Office no later than 8 p.m. on May 18.

If you have not used the secrecy envelope before submitting your ballot or you have damaged your ballot, please contact the Centre County **Elections Office**

ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS

If your right to vote is challenged at the polls on Election Day and the problem cannot be resolved at the polling place, the judge of elections at the polling place should telephone the county Board of Elections. The problem could be resolved by phone if your name appears on the county records. If it does not and you want to try to resolve the problem, then you can go in person to the county Board of Elections where a judge from the Court of Common Pleas will be on duty to resolve election problems. Alternatively, you can ask for and vote by provisional ballot. If it is later determined that you were eligible to vote, your ballot will be counted. You will be given instructions on how to determine if your vote was counted. If you have any questions or need to report any problems, call 866-OUR-VOTE for assistance in English or Spanish or 888-API-VOTE for assistance in Asian languages



Penn State student Coulter Robb deposits his ballot in a Centre Conty ballot box outside the State College borough building Oct. 29. Ballot drop boxes will be used again for the May 18 primary election.

Candidates for township council, supervisor races in Centre County

CDT staff reports

BENNER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Candidates (choose 1): RANDALL MOYER Party: Rep Did not respond

BENNER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR TERM Candidates (choose 1):

THOMAS MOYER

Did not respond

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Candidates (choose no more

than 2): L. ERIC BERNIER Party: Dem Campaign Website:

www.linkedin.com/in/l-eric-

bernier-88a14772

Date of Birth: Oct. 19, 1957 **Education:** • State College High School (1975) • Penn State



Bernier

(1975-1979) • **United States** Army Reserve (1979-1985)

Qualifications: · College Township Councilman (January 2013-present) • College Township

Planning Commission-15 years (1997-2012) • 35 years working in a high profile, community service public sector career integrating access equity into

community planning and developing public/private partnerships that enhanced community mobility options

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

A: As an existing council member, my priorities are already integrated into the township's budget, Capital Improvement Plan, vision, and mission statement. This Council has

SEE VOTERS GUIDE, 5B

how will you

address them?

gaps — I look

forward to en-

couraging the

administration to

A: 1. Learning

SCHOOL BOARD

BELLEFONTE AREA BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Candidates (choose 4): RODNEY E. MUSSER Party: Dem, Rep **Date of Birth**: 11/28/51 Education: Bellefonte 1969; Michigan State University, B.S.

Qualifications: Current board member; Former: Peace Corps Volunteer VISTA volunteer Spring Township Planning Commission Agland Preservation Committee

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

A: Funding the needs of the district while respecting the community's pocketbook. This process of managing our annual budget is difficult given the annual last-minute unknowns from the state and federal governments. Fortunately, we have an exceptionally good budget office. We have been able to upgrade our facilities on a regular schedule but we need to remain within our borrowing capacity and maintain our AAA bond rating which allows us to borrow at a favorable rate and save money for the community. Our graduates will enter a global economy and we need to provide them with a broad perspective of the world. We must

continue to focus on inclusion, diversity and equity education if we are to grow as a community and give our staff and students a better understanding of issues both here and abroad. The board of directors must be willing to lead the way in this discussion.

JON GUIZAR Party: Dem, Rep Date of Birth: 1966 Education: B.S. Civil Engi-

neering, Penn State University **Qualifications**: Served for six years as school director. Served as board president for three years. Served as volunteer on many boards over the last 20

Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and



Jon Guizar

explore alternate methods of identifying the learning gaps now deepened by the pandemic and supporting/voting to allocate the resources needed to address these gaps. 2. Aging buildings — Our elementary project has been put on hold due to the events of the past year. As a civil engineer and senior project manager in construction, I believe I am well

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, 6B

SEE KEY INFO, 7B

STATE JUDICIAL RACES

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: \$215,037 Vote for ONE. Candidates: **MARIA MCLAUGH-**LIN

Party: Dem County: Philadelphia Education: Penn State 1988. Delaware Law School at Widener University 1992

Qualifications: Current judge on Pa.



Maria McLaughlin

Served 6 years as judge, Court of Common Pleas; Chief and ADA, Philadel-

Superior

Court;

phia District Attorneys Office; Rated Highly Recommended for the Supreme Court by the PBA

Campaign website: judgemclaughlin.com

Facebook: @Maria4PASC Twitter:

@McLaughlin4PASC

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to iustice?

A: Along with being our highest appellate court, The Supreme Court oversees our statewide court system and legal community. As such we have the opportunity to set rules, educate the legal community and create special court programs dealing with human services issues like substance abuse & mental health challenges, veterans issues and initiatives focused on autism. All geared toward providing fair treatment and equal access for people with unique circum-

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: As a lawyer and a judge I have always worked to ensure everyone who comes into a courtroom has an opportunity to be heard and the law applied without bias. This is the cornerstone of our legal system. As a Justice I will not waver from that driving principle. My work on the bench and in my life will always reflect my dedication to fairness and equality.

PAULA PATRICK Party: Rep County: Philadelphia **Education**: Bennett



Patrick

Greensboro, NC Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law Houston, TX

College

Oualifications: 18 years trial judge experience; Legal teaching experience; Frequent presenter/lecturer on legal topics; Highly Recommended by the Pa Bar Assoc.

Campaign website: Votepaulapatrick.com Facebook: @Judge Paula Patrick

Twitter: @JudgePatrickPA

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?

A: On the bench -Ajudge should ensure that people have access to our courts and adequate legal representation. A judge should also be patient with pro se litigants during court proceedings. A judge must also ensure that any and all available resources provided within the court system (be) distributed to all people equally. Off the bench — A judge should get involved in assisting with community, social, professional and/or religious groups to help assist with programs that provided equal access to justice.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: On the bench - I think the best thing that a judge can do to ensure a fair and equitable court is to follow the law. Our rule of law and our Constitutions are important because they are the foundation of our democracy. If a nation fails to honor its own laws, then we fail as a society. Off the bench — Ajudge should be involved in community service and willing to educate people about their rights and responsibilities under the law when appropriate.

KEVIN BROBSON Party: Rep County: Dauphin **Education**: Widener Commonwealth Law School, summa cum laude (2nd in class), Managing Editor Law Review; Lycoming College (B.A.,



Kevin **Brobson** ing/Economics), magna cum laude Qual-

Account-

ifications: President Judge of the Pa. Commonwealth

Court; over 11 years as statewide appellate court judge (elected 2009, retained 2019); Pa. Judicial Conduct Board, 2015-19 (Chair); 14 years' private practice; former federal judicial clerk; "Highly Recommended" by Pa. **Bar Association**

Campaign website: www.brobsonforpa.com Facebook:

@KevinBrobsonforPA Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to

justice? A: I would work cooperatively with the governor and the legislature to increase funding for legal aid programs. While in private practice, I created a program in Dauphin County to expand pro bono opportunities for lawyers to provide services to nonprofit organizations. I would encourage county bar associations to think creatively about expanding pro bono service to small and minorityowned businesses and nonprofits. I want to ensure our courts have access to interpreters for parties with limited English proficiency. I would build upon the excellent work of Philadelphia Legal Assistance with respect to the representation of lowwage workers and the unemployed by engaging law schools and other legal aid associations throughout the state.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and

fair court? A: I believe I have earned a reputation as a fair and impartial arbiter of the law. I treat everyone who enters my courtroom, or has a matter before me, with equal respect and dignity. I strive to appreciate the

perspectives and points of view of all parties. It is important to me that every litigant, represented and unrepresented, be given every opportunity, within the rules and the law, to present their case. Moreover, as a former Chair of the Pa. Judicial Conduct Board, I am keenly aware of how important it is to Pennsylvanians that our judges observe the highest ethical standards on and off the bench. I hold myself to this high standard. All Pennsylvanians deserve to have faith in a fair and impartial judiciary.

PATRICIA A. **MCCULLOUGH**

Party: Rep County: Allegheny **Education**: University of Pittsburgh — BA; University of Pittsburgh School of Law — JD

Qualifications: Currently judge — PA Commonwealth Court over 11 vears.



Patricia A. McCullough

ACPRC.

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 Assessment Ap-

where I rule

on issues

that are

brought

before PA

Court; trial

Supreme

Campaign website: Patriciaforjustice.com

peals and Reviews; chair,

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?

A: As judge and in career, I work with programs that promote restorative and equal justice. The foundational precepts of One Nation under God,"... with liberty and justice for all" must be ensured. I have volunteered: as instructor/faith-based jail program which reduces recidivism to 8-12%; with at-risk youth programs; to help implement residential drug addiction center; to help implement free legal speaker series for those released from incarceration; Chr./App. Ct Proc. Rules Committee/ system more user friendly; cmte. law students to represent pro se parties in UC; educate public to process; cmte./Human trafficking diversion court. I will fight for openness of all courts for those in need or wronged by the justice system.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and

fair court? **A:** I abide by oath to be fair and impartial and uphold rule of law and Constitutions of Pennsylvania and USA. To ensure impartiality I did not take money donations from attorneys or PACs when I ran for judge of Commonwealth Court of PA and I am not taking them for Supreme Court of PA. I did not take controversial 2005 pay raise and for first 10-year term on Commonwealth Court gave monthly checks to state treasurer due to pay raise totaling over \$10,000 dollars of after tax money returned to treasurer. Sentencing practices must be fair and transparent, not disproportionate; victims treated with dignity; implement faith-based programs that holistically address underlying issues (e.g. addiction, abuse, anger). I will uphold justice and oppose partisanship or abuse in system.

PENNSYLVANIA JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR **COURT**

Description of office: The Superior Court is one of Pennsylvania's two statewide intermediate appellate courts. This court, established in 1895, reviews most of the civil and criminal cases that are appealed from the Courts of Common Pleas in the

Commonwealth's 67 counties. The Superior Court consists of 15 judges. The president judge is elected to a five-year term by his/her colleagues. A large number of appeals flow to the Superior Court from the trial courts. Generally, appeals are heard by panels of three judges sitting in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, or Pittsburgh. The court often is the final arbiter of legal disputes. Although the Supreme Court may grant a petition for review of a Superior Court decision, most petitions are denied, and the ruling of the Superior Court stands.

Term: 10 years Salary: \$202,898 Vote for ONE. Candidates: JILL BECK Party: Dem

County: Allegheny Education: I graduated cum laude from The George Washington University with my bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a minor in psychology. I then graduated cum

laude from

Duquesne

University

School of

I was an

Law, where

editor of the

Law Review

and a mem-

Moot Court

ber of the



Jill Beck

Board. **Qualifications**: Spent 10 years in the Superior & Supreme Court chambers of Christine Donohue, where I drafted over 500 decisions; represented clients in every area of the law that the Superior Court hears and in that Court itself; highly recommended by the ACBA and recommended by the PBA

for the Superior Court. Campaign website: www.JillBeck.com **Facebook:**

www.Facebook.com/ electiillbeck Twitter:

www.Twitter.com/ electjillbeck Q: What can you do,

both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to iustice?

A: On the bench, a Superior Court Judge must provide a full, fair and thorough review of every case that comes before her. The role requires a careful balancing of error correction through the appropriate lens and deference to the court below, without serving as a rubber stamp for any interest. A judge must also be decisive and efficient — litigants should not be required to wait years for a decision on whether they will be free from incarceration. able to continue in their livelihood, or able to obtain custody of their children. Off the bench, a judge can educate the public about Pennsylvania's judicial system, their rights and responsibilities when coming before the courts, & the courts' reciprocal responsibilities to

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench. to ensure an equitable and fair court?

the public.

A: When providing a full and thorough review of every case, the judge must treat all litigants fairly and equally, regardless of the parties' race, religion, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual preference, disability, or wealth. All persons are entitled to a fair consideration of their case, no matter who they are or what they are alleged to have done and the writing deciding the appeal should reflect this. A judge should not be impatient or impertinent in her written decision, as this is indicative of a failure to treat those involved & the issues raised with the dignity and respect they deserve. All judges should also participate in implicit bias training to learn what it is, the role it plays in decision

TIMIKA LANE Party: Dem

bat it.

making and tools to com-



Lane

Timika

on to graduate Howard University in Washington DC & received my law degree in 2002 from Rutgers University School of

County:

Educa-

tion: West

High School

Catholic

and went

Philadel-

phia

Law in NJ. Qualifications: Major Trials Judge presiding over thousands of trials, authoring hundreds of opinions. I handle all human trafficking cases and many of the most serious criminal cases and Grand Jury matters. Certified Child Advocate and as former Executive Director of the Senate Government Committee advised on the constitutionality of legisla-

Campaign website: www.judgelane.com Facebook: @LaneforSuperiorCourt

Twitter: @JudgeTimikaLane

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?

A: As a sitting Judge, I ensure everyone in my courtroom is treated with dignity and respect regardless of race, gender, creed, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. As a member of the Access to Justice Committee, we address this issue by looking at possible barriers and how to remove those barriers to ensure everyone has equal access. As co-chair of the Local Criminal Rules Committee we recommend the qualifications for court appointed attorneys to make sure that indigent people have capable legal representation. We ensure that the local criminal rules are fair and applied equally to all who all who come before our courts.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: The Superior Court is an error correcting court and often the last line of defense for the parties involved in a case. When reviewing an appeal It is vital the appellate judge have strong courtroom experience on both sides of the bench to best determine the if the proceedings in the lower court were fair, all parties were heard and the law has been applied fairly regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or economic status. I will ensure equity and fairness in all cases before me, just as I do for all who appear in my current courtroom. Off the bench, I believe judges should be visible in the community. We are public servants and it is our duty to make sure the public understands how the court system functions.

BRYAN NEFT Party: Dem County: Allegheny **Education**: Boston University School of Law



Bryan Neft

J.D., May 1989 Note, Debt-Equity Exchange Programs in Developing Nations. University Of Pennsylvania B.A., May

1986 Major: Political Science Shady Side Academy

H.S., June 1982 **Qualifications**: Bryan has spent more than 30 years litigating and trying cases, and counseling clients throughout Pennsylvania. Bryan also served for nearly 15 years in leadership roles with the Allegheny County Bar Association and Supreme court IOLTA board.

Campaign website: bryanneft.com Facebook:

facebook.com/bryanneft Twitter: twitter.com/bryanneft **Q:** What can you do,

both on and off the bench,

to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?

A: Access to Justice, to me, means ensuring that everyone who needs to utilize the courts has the ability to do so through legal services and other means designed to help them pursue claims or defenses. My leadership and hard work in the Allegheny County Bar Association and Allegheny **County Bar Foundation** led The Pennsylvania Supreme Court to appoint me to The Pennsylvania IOLTA Board, its charitable arm that oversees state funding of legal services to those who cannot afford them. I was appointed chair of the board in 2014-15. In that role, we stretched every dollar to maximize the number of people who received free legal services because they could not afford them.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: As a leader in the Bar Association I have championed changes to the rules to prohibit judicial officers from engaging in bias and discrimination. The rules must be reviewed continuously to accommodate changing norms and existing loopholes. Rules governing equity and fairness, however, are ineffective if the judiciary is not educated or educated sufficiently on what those rules mean and how they should be implemented. I am a strong proponent of continuing education programs, particularly on bias, implicit bias and discrimination to ensure that courts are fair for all. I have and will continue to serve on the ACBA Gender Bias subcommittee. I, as a judge would be just as accessible to the practitioners and bar associations across the state.

MEGAN SULLIVAN Party: Rep **County:** Chester **Education**: Temple University Beasley School of Law, Juris Doctorate



Megan Sullivan

(cum laude) Saint Joseph's University (B.A.)

Qualifications: 20 years criminal and civil

law experi-

ence. Deputy Attorney General in PA Attorney General's Office and Supervisory District Attorney, protected victims including the most vulnerable members of our society as a child abuse prosecutor. Assistant General Counsel at West Chester University and

civil litigator. Campaign website: www.megsullivanfor judge.com

Facebook: @megforjudge

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?

A: I believe equal access to justice is essential to maintaining trust in our courts and our justice system's legitimacy. I am committed to providing all individuals in my courtroom with equal access to justice by ensuring their voice is heard, their rights are protected and that they are never subject to discrimination. I support efforts to enhance equal access to justice through legal aid programs that provide individuals with access to qualified attorneys. Providing interpreters for those individuals for whom English is a second language is also important. It is also important to give Individuals with disabilities full access to the courtroom. Everyone that comes before a judge should fully understand their constitutional rights.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench,

SEE JUDICIAL RACES, 3B

BALLOT QUESTIONS

Ballot Question 1: PROPOSED CONSTI-**TUTIONAL AMEND-MENT - ARTICLE III, SECTION 9**

RELATING TO TER-**MINATION OR EX-TENSION OF DISAS-**TER EMERGENCY **DECLARATIONS**

Ballot Ouestion Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law and increase the power of the General Assembly to unilaterally terminate or

extend a disaster emergency declaration - and the powers of Commonwealth agencies to address the disaster regardless of its severity pursuant to that declaration through passing a concurrent resolution by simple majority, thereby removing the existing check and balance of presenting a resolution to the Governor for approval or disapproval?

Ballot Question 2: PROPOSED CONSTI-**TUTIONAL AMEND-MENT - ARTICLE IV DISASTER EMER-**

GENCY DECLARA-TION AND MANAGE- MENT **Ballot Question**

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law so that: a disaster emergency declaration will expire automatically after 21 days, regardless of the severity of the emergency, unless the General Assembly takes action to extend the disaster emergency: the Governor may not declare a new disaster emergency to respond to the dangers facing the Commonwealth unless the General Assembly passes a concurrent resolution; the General Assembly enacts new laws

Ballot Question 3: PROPOSED CONSTI-TUTIONAL AMEND-**MENT - ARTICLE I PROHIBITION** AGAINST DENIAL OR

for disaster management?

ABRIDGEMENT OF EQUALITY OF RIGHTS BECAUSE OF RACE OR ETHNICITY **Ballot Question**

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended by adding a new section providing that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of an individual's race or ethnicity?

Ballot Question 4: STATEWIDE REFER- **ENDUM - ACT 2020-91 MAKING MUNICI-**PAL FIRE AND EMER-**GENCY MEDICAL** SERVICES COMPA-NIES ELIGIBLE FOR **LOANS Ballot Ouestion**

Do you favor expanding the use of the indebtedness authorized under the referendum for loans to volunteer fire companies, volunteer ambulance services and volunteer rescue squads under 35 PA.C.S. §7378.1 (related to referendum for additional indebtedness) to include loans to municipal fire departments or companies that provide

services through paid personnel and emergency medical services companies for the purpose of establishing and modernizing facilities to house apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue vehicles, and for purchasing apparatus equipment, ambulances and rescue vehicles, protective and communications equipment and any other accessory equipment necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the fire companies and emergency medical services companies?

FROM PAGE 2B

JUDICIAL RACES

to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: I have a deep respect for our Constitution and our system of justice. I have spent a large part of my 20-year career as an attorney helping others to navigate both the criminal and civil judicial system. I respect the system but understand why some fear it. Individuals who serve in the role of a judge must recognize that they are the arbiter of the rules and the process. This is a great power that requires objectivity, an innate sense of fairness, and humility. I possess these traits and am committed to delivering to all citizens a justice system that shows respect and fairness, as well as knowledgeable decisionmaking that takes into account the parties' perspectives and applies the law objectively.

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:** \$202,898 Vote for not more than TWO.

Candidates: DAVID LEE SPURGE-

Party: Dem County: Allegheny **Education**: McKeesport Area Senior High, Duquesne University — B.A.,

School of

Doctor



Qualifications:

"Highly David Lee Recommended" Spurgeon by the

Pennsylvania Bar Association; Endorsed by the PA Dem; Serving as a judge since 2016; Appointed by the Governor and unanimously confirmed by the PA Senate; Adjunct Law Professor; National Judicial Fellow; Domestic Violence National Expert; former prosecutor family violence

Campaign website: www.judgespurgeon4 commonwealth.com

Facebook: @judgespurgeon4 commonwealthcourt

Twitter: @davidspurgeon4J

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench. to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?

A: As a judge, I use my position to promote systems change that ensure that all people have more accessibility to the courts. As a Judicial Fellow, I am using those resources to study the statistics over the year of the pandemic to understand whether the use of advanced technology communications increased participation in the court process. Often times, people with limited resources face additional obstacles inherent with our established court processes. Further, we can ensure that everyone in our community has equal access to the court regardless of how you look, who you love, the language you speak and your socioeconomic status. Off the bench, judges should participate in the community as a stakeholder to promote the above mat-

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: Judges must continue to be active members of the community. In order to understand how the court is perceived, one must be accessible and engage in intentional dialogue to understand all the people that we serve. **Judges** must continue to be trained in explicit and implicit bias as it relates to all aspect of the existing court system, and be open to discussing and participating in the changes identified to make the courts more equitable and fair. I recently participated in a national panel to address the racial disparities that exist in the child welfare system. On the bench, we must continue to serve as a servant leader and hold ourselves as well as our colleagues accountable for inequities.

LORI A. DUMAS Party: Dem County: Philadelphia **Education**: North Carolina Central School of Law; Duke University;



Lori A.

from Cornell University, (D&I); University of Pennsylvania, Fels Institute of Govern-

ment

Dumas

Qualifications: Trial court judge since 2002; jury and non-jury experience; presided in family, criminal and civil divisions; former corporate executive, nonprofit leader; adjunct professor; national Leader in trauma informed courts; led the creation of victim centered juvenile human trafficking court in

Philadelphia. **Campaign website:** www.judgedumas2021. com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ Judgedumas2021 Twitter:

Twitter.com/JudgeDumas Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to iustice?

A: As a judge, I must ensure that every person that comes before the court has the opportunity to be heard. I must rule according to the law without losing sight of the ultimate goal of dispensing justice. I must remove any obstacle which prevents equal access to justice by any means necessary. As a citizen, I can involve myself with organizations and in activities which seek to educate people about the court, its processes and procedures and to equip them with the knowledge and power to to be able to use the legal system as an advocate for themselves and their interests.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: Judges set the tone in their courtrooms. They must model fairness, civility, patience and impartiality and demand it from those in their presence. In my courtroom, every voice will be heard and my decisions will be rooted in the law and cloaked in compassion and the urgency to do what is right. I must conduct a daily heart check to ensure that I am not bringing any biases with me that may interfere with my ability to render impartial decisions. I must call out iniustice when it occurs ... every time. In the community, I can educate others about their rights and the status of the law. I should regularly attend implicit bias trainings and require my staff to do the same, to ensure that fairness is not just a mantra but embed-

ded in my core. SIERRA STREET Party: Dem County: Philadelphia **Education**: Howard University B.A., 1995 Temple University Beasley School of Law J.D.,

1999 **Qualifications**: Civil Division Complex Litigation Center Criminal Division Major Jury Trial Pro-



Sierra Street

Program former staff attorney, Defender Association of Philadel-

gram Form-

Supervising

Judge, Phi-

ladelphia

Indicting

Grand Jury

er Lead

phia Former Chief Counsel, Friends Rehabilitation **Program** Campaign website: www.judgesierrastreet

Facebook: @Judge Street for Commonwealth

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to iustice?

A: The greatest obstacle to justice is access to adequate representation for the indigent population and moderate to low income families. In my previous roles as an assistant public defender, family court hearing officer and chief counsel at a

nonprofit organization, I witnessed firsthand the lack of access to justice for many individuals and did my best to help fill in the gaps. As a judge, I can now make sure all parties have competent counsel/ representation regardless of socio-economic status before proceeding in any matter that comes before me. Defendants should be able to participate in their own defense and pro se litigants should be provided proper guidance as they navigate the legal system.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: Additionally, I can make sure that everyone is treated fairly in court regardless of race, gender, orientation, etc. I am certainly sensitive to and keenly aware of unique issues faced by marginalized populations. As stewards of justice, judges should adhere to and apply the strictest rule of law while also championing inclusion and diversity. This will only strengthen our institutions.

AMANDA GREEN HAWKINS

Party: Dem County: Allegheny Education: Duke University, BA Northeastern University Law School,

Qualifications: 20 years of legal experience. I was elected and served two terms on Allegheny County Council.

Campaign website: www.amandagreen hawkins.com

Facebook: Facebook.com/votea mandagreenhawkins

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?

A: I am running for



Amanda Green Hawkins

Commonwealth Court because I know the importance of checks and balances, and judicial integrity. I

have the compassion and the experience to join the court providing a dedicated work ethic and clear comprehension of judicial process. "There should never be an attitude of 'less important' cases, each case deserves a complete meritorious review." I am one of 2000 nationally recognized labor attorneys. My career is not based on being a "rainmaker" for profits, but to guarantee workers' safety and (dignity). When individuals enter a courtroom they should feel confident the judges reflect their values and believe they have been heard. As a civil and Human Rights manager, this is what I do every day.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: You must immerse yourself in service to your community. In 2020, I was selected by Mayor Peduto to serve on the Pittsburgh Community Task Force for Police Reform. I served on the board of the Women's

Law Project, and Pittsburgh United. When elected to Allegheny County Council, I was chair of the Committee on Economic Development and Housing, I also served on the **Budget and Finance Com**mittee, and Committee on Government Reform, I understand the value of volunteer time. My experiences have prepared me to be fair and impartial. Everyday at work I fight for human rights and civil rights. Judges have an obligation to their community to be a humble and thoughtful judge. Equal justice for all requires an understanding of all citizens.

DREW CROMPTON Party: Rep

County: Cumberland **Education**: Phil-mont Christian Academy Dickinson College Widener School of Law

Qualifications: Currently a sitting Judge on the Commonwealth



Drew Crompton

Court, I have authored over 100 opinions. They are balanced, well-reasoned and

thoughtful. I am recom-

mended by the Pa. Bar. I also serve on the Supreme **Court Appellate Rules** Committee. I have extensive Constitutional, statutory and regulatory expe-

Campaign website: JudgeCrompton.com

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure that all individuals have equal access to

justice? **A:** As a sitting judge I have done all in my power to treat every person that comes before me with respect and fairness. Judges must ensure those with modest means have equal access to justice. We are all created equal but as judges we must insist that all are treated equally or justice is being unfairly denied. Filing fees and other court costs must be waived for those who cannot afford them. Also, quality lawyers must be available to low income individuals free of cost for civil and criminal matters. Further as judges we must ensure that no one perceives that race or wealth or political connections are weighed when a decision is rendered. High ethical standards are vital to instill confidence in the Judiciary.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: Litigants must be convinced that the Judge's personal philosophy does not impede justice. I have also defended the powers of each branch of government since citizens want to be assured that the legislative, executive and judicial branches are not overstepping their constitutional boundaries. Further I try to be a judge that has common sense and treats every person with common decency. Judges must also remain connected to their communities and not be overly isolated. People have more confidence in the Judiciary when they know Judges care about our the

same things in our commonwealth as they do. Judges must have a heightened sense of their words and actions in the courtroom. Both must be beyond reproach.

STACY MARIE WAL-LACE

Party: Rep County: McKean Education: B.A. Communications, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford ('01)



quesne University School of Law ('04) Qualifications: More than

16 years

experience

& Owner of

J.D., Du-

Stacy Marie Wallace

Stacy Wallace Law, LLC Specially Appointed Family Law Master & SORNA **Counsel Adjunct Profes**sor, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford Clerkships at McKean County Court & PA Superior Court Certified Mediator-Conflict Resolution McKean County Bar Assoc., president

Campaign website: stacyforpa.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ StacyforPA

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench. to ensure that all individuals have equal access to justice?

A: Throughout my career, my purpose has been to always seek justice. I was first inspired to enter the legal field by a pamphlet for Northwestern Legal Services, a legal aid organization of which I now serve on the board of directors. I've worked tirelessly to ensure that our state's most vulnerable individuals, including at-risk children and those with disabilities, have equal access to justice, and have done much of this work pro bono. If elected, I will continue to advocate for and engage with underserved communities. On the bench, I will be a steadfast defender of equal justice under the law in all matters and safeguard the rights of all citizens regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or financial status.

Q: What can you do, both on and off the bench, to ensure an equitable and fair court?

A: The makeup of the Commonwealth Court should be a true reflection of Pennsylvania and the broad perspectives and values of our residents. I will use my grassroots upbringing from McKean County, diverse experience, and values to guide informed and thoughtful opinions that produce more equitable outcomes. Off the bench, I will continue to engage our citizens, restore their trust in our courts, and raise awareness of our judiciary's role and its moral and ethical foundations. Equitable courts start with having judges who value equality, fairness and a desire to serve others. As just one example of how I've done that in my personal life, I co-founded "Blessing Boxes of Bradford" which serves as small sidewalk food banks throughout McKean County.

CENTRE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND DISTRICT JUDGE RACES

CENTRE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Candidates (choose 1): **BERNIE CANTORNA** Party: Dem Date of Birth: Nov. 14,

Education: Juris Doctor **BA - Business Adminis** tration - Accounting

Qualifications: Attorney for 31 years; former clinical professor of law and public defender

Facebook: Bernie Cantorna Centre County

Q: If elected, what will



Bernie Cantorna

A: If elected to office I will continue to

be your top

serve and protect our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice. Our office will work hard to hold the guilty accountable, protect the innocent and preserve the dignity of victims and

is to aggressively prosecute crimes of violence including sexual violence, child abuse and domestic abuse. We work cooperatively with our partners in law enforcement, CYS, and the child access center to ensure victims are protected. Although the core function of a DA's office is prosecution it is equally important that the underlying issues that bring someone to court are addressed so they do not reoffend. If elected to office I will continue to

expand the behavioral

health diversionary pro-

gram which diverts indi-

viduals away from the

families. Our first priority

court system and into mental health treatment; implement a veterans treatment tract and increase alcohol and drug treatment options in lieu of prosecution.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE 49-03-04

Candidates (choose 1): **GREGORY KOEHLE** Party: Dem, Rep Campaign Website: www.gregkoehle.com Date of Birth: July 29,

Education: Ph.D. Criminology, M.S. Criminal Justice, B.S. Administration of Justice, Act 120 (Police Academy)

Qualifications: Profes-



Greaory Koehle

University (2011-present), Leadership Centre County (Class of 2020). Volunteer: Centre County Mental Health/ Intellectual Disability/ Early Intervention/Drug and Alcohol Board (2016present), College Township Industrial Development Authority (2017-2020).

sional: State

Police Offi-

cer (1999-

Criminal

Professor -

Lock Haven

College

2011),

Justice

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ Greg-Koehle-for-District-Judge-111567524101583 **Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: 1.) Be fair and impartial, 2.) serve the community, and 3.) work collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders. I will fulfill these priorities by drawing upon my experience, education, and community involvement. I will also bring the same level of professionalism and dedication as with my careers in law enforcement and higher education.

FROM PAGE 1B

BOROUGHS

and 3) the American Rescue Plan funds to be immediate challenges to Bellefonte. Bellefonte's Real Estate tax rates are 4 to 9-times higher than those of the surrounding townships. The 2021 Budget document initiates an effort to concisely explain the flow of tax revenue and expenditures. This educational focus must be expanded in the future Like the collaborative agreements between our water and sewage authorities, Integration of the safety and emergency services within Nittany Valley will minimize duplication and provide regional coverage of services. This is a direct solution to the regional imbalance in Real Estate taxes. Bellefonte will distribute \$617,000 in COVID relief funds in 2021. This will require maximum transparency and compliance with federal guidelines. It's a tremendous opportunity to fund deferred projects and provide relief to the community.

RITA PURNELL Party: Rep Date of Birth: Aug. 24,

Education: B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Engineering at Penn State



Purnell

Qualifications: Ways and Means Chairperson of the Junior Woman's Club of State College (1999-2000),

Treasurer of the Junior Woman's Club of State College (2000-2002), Office Assistant at AJ Fine & Co (2004-2006), Treasurer of the Bellefonte YMCA swim team parents group (2009-2011), President of Class of 2014 Parent's Group (2010-2014)

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

A: I believe that as an elected government official, it would be my duty and honor to listen to my constituents' concerns and make decisions on their behalf based on the best interests of the people and the borough. I will make myself available to hear their concerns. I believe that in order for the people to have faith in their government, information about issues to be discussed and decisions to be made needs to be freely available. I will make sure that this information is made available to the people in a timely manner and in as many areas as possible. I believe that as a Borough Council member, it would be my duty to be as careful with the budget of the borough as I would be with my own budget. I will be diligent in the quest to save the Borough money while still providing the best services pos-

KENT D. BERNIER Party: Rep Date of Birth: July 21,

Education: Bachelor Degree from PSU - 1993 Administration of Justice



Kent D. Bernier

in this community for almost 30 years. I have I feel I am qualified for Borough Council because I care about Bellefonte, have children and

Qual-

have lived

ifications: I

and worked

munity. Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you

a family here and want to

get involved in my com-

address them? A: 1. To bring the priorities of our residents to borough council. I want to represent the residents and be a voice for my neighbors. 2. To keep things simple and to apply common sense to our decisions. I have spent my career trying to apply common sense to some of the most difficult situations. I want to help do that on Borough Council. 3. I would like to better understand what goes into the decisions that are being made within council. To try and better understand, I'm running for office. My goal is to get elected and have a voice in the process.

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL WARD 2

Candidates (choose 1): RANDALL BRACH-

Party: Rep **Education**: Graduate of Bellefonte Area School District and Central Pennsvlvania Institute of Science and Technology **Qualifications**: Cur-

Randall

rently serving a second term on Bellefonte Borough Council as Council Vice President. Works

Brachbill well with other coun-

cil members and members of our neighboring communities. Sits on the Centre Region COG Public Safety Committee, Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission, chairs Bellefonte Council Safety Committee, sits on Streets and Building/Property Committees. Serves on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Over 30 years of experience in **Facility Management both** health care and businessrelated and extensive volunteer experiences. Has lived in Bellefonte for 42-plus years with wife Cathy, together they have one daughter, Lindsay. Q: If elected, what will

be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: 1. Pedestrian safety: I encouraged the hiring of an engineering firm to complete a study of downtown crosswalks and street lighting with the goal of applying for a PennDOT permit for crosswalk improvements. I support our Planning Commission working with the engineering firm for long-term street improvement. 2. Revenues and

expenses: I support: The 2021 budget of cutting expenses with no tax increase; Council avoiding the funding of nonbudgeted requests; The sale of 2 acres of Armory property to provide additional tax revenue; Approval of a strategic management plan for more effective local government. 3. Bringing Bellefonte back to normal: I support: Restaurants having assigned parking stalls for curbside pickup; Park activities where people gather while maintaining social distancing; Masking; People receiving COVID vaccines; Continuing current borough employee COVID 19 protocols; State CO-VID-19 guidelines that protect the health and safety of residents and businesses.

BARBARA DANN Party: Rep Campaign Website:

Bellefonte

Area High

Graduate -

CCVTS -

Practical

Nursing

Qual-

ifications:

Extensive

School

www.votebarbaradann. com Education: Graduate -



Barbara Dann

experience in all facets of small business operations with 21 years as owner/operator; Superb written and verbal communication skills acquired through years of public speaking and teaching; Wide-ranging background in operational budgets, product development, business contracts and customer relations; Ability to share ideas and thoughts in a concise and clear manner; Able to foster productive relationships by eliciting feedback and being responsive to

other's needs Facebook: Barbara Dann for Bellefonte **Borough Council**

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

A: 1. The Bellefonte community deserves fair representation from Borough Council. This starts with communication and accessibility between council and the community. I will facilitate inperson meetings. I will provide regular updates of the meetings and proposed ordinances in a timely and expected manner. I will provide different ways to contact me so I'm accessible to the community. 2. Our police department is an important and valued part of our community. I will establish a good working relationship with the department to ensure that our community is kept safe. I will support the police department with their funding needs including training, equipment and other related budget needs. 3. Bellefonte Borough Council needs diverse membership to represent the community. When everyone in a group agrees there is no room for growth, creativity or fair representation. I will speak up and serve the wonderful people of Bel-

lefonte!

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL WARD 3

Candidates (choose 2): ANNE WALKER Party: Dem Date of Birth: May 8,

Education: Varied Qualifications: Four ears on



Walker

Bellefonte Borough Council **Q**: If elected. what will be your top three priorities, and how will

you address them? **A:** I hope to pursue options to deal with the issue of abandoned buildings by researching how the state handles such properties. I intend to continue to explore ways to make Bellefonte's streets safer for pedestrians and drivers. Residents should feel encouraged to participate in their local government, and I'd enjoy learning more about options available to give community residents a more prominent voice.

R. MICHAEL PREN-DERGAST Party: Dem Did not respond JEFFREY J. PUHALA Party: Rep

Date of Birth: Sept. 20, 1975



Jeffrey J. Puhala

Education: Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Curriculum Leadership Northeastern Uni-

versity

Master of Education in the Administrative Program for K-12 Principals - California University of Pennsylvania Master of Music in Saxophone Performance -Penn State University Bachelor of Science in Education, Music Education - Clarion University

of Pennsylvania Qualifications: Resident of Bellefonte Borough since 2005; 21 years of experience in public education; Children in the local school system

Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you

address them? A: I have lived in Bellefonte Borough, Ward 3, since 2005. My career in public education has spanned 21 years giving me the necessary skills to serve the general public. I am the father of two young daughters and want to assure they continue to grow up in a safe and vibrant community. If elected to Bellefonte Borough Council I will focus on three priorities: 1. Support Police Funding - I will support an annual budget that fully funds law enforcement to ensure a safe community. 2. Support Local Businesses - I will support business zoning to encourage small business growth and reasonable parking fees for residents and visitors of Bellefonte. 3. Fair Citizen Representation - I will support the development of new communication methods to ensure every resident is aware of proposed ordinances and other action items to encourage public

comment before a final

vote.

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH MAYOR

Candidates (choose 1): GENE D. JOHNSON, JR.

Party: Rep Date of Birth: Jan. 20, 1972

Education: BS Lock Haven University MS California University of PA

Qual-

ifications:

Educator

within the

Bellefonte

Area School

District for

the past 21

years; Belle-



Gene D. Johnson Jr.

fonte Borough resident 21 years Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: My name is Gene Johnson Jr. but you may know me as Buddy Johnson. I am proud to be running for the office of Mayor of Bellefonte. I have dedicated the past 21 years to educating our youth within the Bellefonte Area and it is my wish to continue to be an integral part of our community by looking out for the well-being and best interests of all. If elected, my top priorities would be bridging the gap between our community and the borough council, as well as the police department. I will do my part to help ensure that we continue to live in a safe, comfortable community. I will work tirelessly to help ensure that all community members are heard and are as proud as I am to reside in the Borough of Bellefonte.

STATE COLLEGE **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Candidates (choose 3): **B. DIVINE LIPSCOMB** Party: Dem Campaign Website: paunited.org/cantwait Date of



B. Divine Lipscomb Birth: Dec. 11, 982 Education: Rehabilitation and Human Services Penn State University May '22

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ Divine-Lipscomb-for-State-College-Borough-Council-108367151293467

Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you

address them? A: Restorative Justice: I will address harms caused in government, and in our neighborhoods, in order (to) reestablish trust and community dialogue through reallocation of funding to support mental health issues, the community oversight board, and efforts like the Centre County Community Conferencing Program. Finally, listening to the voices of the community and governing with them. Housing Justice: implement common sense development practices and the impact to life-long residents, while remembering to include our local young professional and our unhoused population in those plans. Economic Justice: There should never be an exception to pov-

erty. Advocating for local

ability to push for livable wages not only for students but for locals that are inundated with rising bills and hospitality earnings

RONALD FILIPPELLI Party: Dem Date of Birth: Nov. 1, 1938

Education: Ph.D. in history from Penn State Qualifications: Eight years on Borough Council, two years as council president, chairperson of COG,



Ronald Filippelli currently serving as interim mayor, membership on numerous boards. authorities, and com-

mittees in

the community, including the Land Trust, Schlow Library, and the Downtown Improvement District. Past President of Arts Fest.

Facebook: facebook.com/ daulerfilippelli

Twitter: @daulerfilippelli

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

A: The first order of business will be to guide State College through the recovery from the pandemic. This means using the borough's share of American Rescue Plan funding to cover losses suffered during the past year; to put in place a loan/grant program to assist our small, local businesses; and to offer mortgage and rental assistance. We must begin to develop a long-term plan to return the borough to financial stability. The last two budgets were balanced by the use of reserve funds. This is not tenable. In addition to belt tightening, we should use as much of our federal and state funding as possible to provide affordable housing for new tax-paying citizens. The majority of our current residents do not pay income or local service taxes, but consume 100% of services. We need to continue to give strong support to our community human-services agencies to protect our

most vulnerable citizens. **CATHERINE DAUL-**ER

Party: Dem **Education**: Marietta College, B.A., Lesley University, M.Ed.



Catherine Dauler

ifications: Served four terms on State College Borough Council, including two as council president;

Qual-

Served as a volunteer supporter of Global Connections and Discovery Space; Board member College Heights Neighborhood Association, Coalition of Neighborhoods, Downtown Improvement District, Downtown Strategic Plan and Community Land Trust; Teacher of English as a Second Language to international students for over 30 years.

Facebook:

SEE BOROUGHS, 5B

FROM PAGE 4B

BOROUGHS

facebook.com/dauler

filippelli Twitter: @daulerfilippelli

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

A: There are signs of hope that State College Borough will survive the unexpected financial burden of the pandemic. But it will take time and effort to repair the damage. Fortunately, funding from the American Rescue Plan for cities and states will provide some relief. Borough reserve funds used for pandemic expenses must be replaced. Aiding our small local businesses and existing affordable housing programs should be possible. State law mandates that municipalities balance their budgets annually. We cannot depend on using reserve funds to balance our budget. Elected officials must recognize the fiscal challenges created by residents' expectations for continued high quality services when funds are limited and new programs are demanded. Finally, we must continue to engage all citizens in efforts to create a more equitable and inclusive community where all people feel safe and welcome.

GOPAL BALACHAN-DRAN

Party: Dem **Campaign Website:** paunited.org/cantwait

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ CentralPAUnited. www.facebook.com/ BalachandranCouncil

Date of

Birth:

1975

March 2,

Educa-



tion: B.S. University of North Gopal

Carolina-Chapel Hill Balachandran M.A. University of Chicago J.D. The George Washington University Law School

Qualifications: I worked in the criminal justice system as a public defender for over 10 years. I continue to work for criminal justice reform as a clinical professor of law at Penn State. I run a criminal appellate/ postconviction clinic at the law school. I have a diverse background. My undergraduate degree is in chemistry and I have a master's degree in history, along with my J.D. I am a child of immigrants and proud to call State College

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ BalachandranCouncil

home.

Twitter: @gopalbala75 **Q:** If elected, what will

be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: First, I want a better balance between policing and the community. I intend on accomplishing this goal with proper, guaranteed (not reserve) funding for the Community Oversight Board and the Civilian Response Team. Both of these units should have real oversight powers and not be simply rubber stamps. Second, I want sustainable communities with better access to downtown through walking or biking. I am strongly in support of the pilot pedestrian plaza on Allen Street in downtown through the summer months and will fight for better pedestrian cross walks across busy intersections like Park Road and Atherton Street. I want there to be a reimagining of downtown State College as an outdoor, pedestrian friendly, gathering place for residents, families, students and visitors. Third, I want there to be affordable housing for all. We should allow affordable housing residents to live on the same floor in the high rises and look for more options in places with access to downtown.

KATHERINE YEAPLE Party: Dem **Campaign Website:** yeapleforboroughco. wixsite.com/yeaple2021

Date of Birth: March 2,

Education: Bachelor of Arts in **English** Literature-Swarthmore

College

Master of

Katherine Yeaple

Science in Urban Planning-Columbia University

Bachelor of Science in Nursing-Pennsylvania **State University**

Qualifications: I am an active member of our community and a nurse. Right now, mental health is at an crossroads with public safety. We cannot rest easy until we all feel safe. (I am) a former transportation planner with state and local government experience and a former capital planning manager for Amtrak Northeast corridor. Awarded the Carpenter Community Nurse Fellowship for leadership in Nursing in 2017. Chair of Philadelphia Women in Transportation (WTS) Scholarship Fund 2002. Board member of Palmer Advisory Board for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. A firm believer in unions and a member of the SEIU local P4 Bargaining Unit.

Facebook:

facebook.com/Yeaple-for-Borough-Council-100306802117240/?ref= page internal

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

A: 1. Health and Wellness Establish an Act 315 Health Office with the authority to coordinate a strategic response to public health needs. 2. Building Bridges. Create police oversight board. A properly conceived and functioning police oversight system is necessary to promote accountability of the police officers and protect the rights of civilians. Push for mental health first-responder units that respond to persons in crisis in non-violent ways. Create an equity office to make the borough welcoming to immigrants, refugees and persons of color. 3. Sustainability and Equity. Invest in pedestrians and bike infrastructure. Develop walking and biking connectors to parks, schools, shopping, trails and neighborhoods. For the borough to be sustainable, we must operate in an environment that requires fiscal restraint. We must target our services to be high-return and cost-effective. Increase economic inclusivity by adding affordable housing units and providing food assistance.

RICHARD BIEVER Party: Dem

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/ Richard-Biever-Aprogressive-voice-for-State-Colleges-Borough-Council-106285324838554

Date of Birth: April 18, 1963

Education: American Academy of Dramatic

Arts, NYC

Bachelor of

Music Edu-

cation,

Indiana

MFA in

for the

University

Directing



Richard

Biever Musical Theatre, Penn State

Qualifications: Borough resident for over 20 years; Small business owner severely affected by Covid; Political advocate

Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you

address them? **A:** 1. Reallocations of police funds to social services, such as mental health and homeless shelters. Ideas on this have already been proposed and I would support these based on input from community social service leaders. 2. Affordable housing. One idea is to allow multifamily housing in neighborhoods which would reduce housing costs and make neighborhoods

nomics;

Econo-

metrics

Current

College

Council

Township

Qual-

ifications:

more diverse. Along with this issue is a vision for zoning in the downtown area that takes the longterm health of the borough in terms of climate change and congestion. 3. Universal Basic Income for low-wage earners. Taking federal pandemic money that comes to the borough and giving it

JACOB R. WERNER Party: Rep Date of Birth: July 11,

directly to residents who

are in most need.

 $\textbf{Education:} \ \mathsf{BS-Penn}$ State; VMD — University of Pennsylvania

Qualifications: I am a proud member of the State College community and believe in a safe and welcome community that

ensures

transpar-

believe that

the human

experience

transcends

party and

any political

ency. I



Jacob R. Werner

that all people must have a voice in government. I serve on several national and international boards working with people from various cultural and educational backgrounds to help establish policy and ensure compliance.

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

A: Controlling taxes: Call a financial and service audit of the borough's authorities, boards, and commissions to consider removal or consolidation and determine appropriate use of taxpayer funds providing transparency on how funds are spent and assessed including but not limited to fee for services like trash/recycling. Ensuring openness and transparency: Ensuring decisions made are done with the voice of the community from policy to policing. All should feel safe and welcome. There can be no animosity or divisiveness within the community starting with council. Everyone has a voice; it is my mission to be the voice for all people in the community; provide feedback; gather input to ensure decisions are made with the voice of the community, for the community, by the community. Promote and expand businesses: Engage business leaders to maintain vitality and foster new/developing industry partnerships and keeping the character of the borough that entices patronage of businesses.

STATE COLLEGE **BOROUGH MAYOR**

Candidates (choose 1): **EZRA NANES** Party: Dem Campaign Website:

bit.ly/ezra-for-mayor Date of Birth: June 4, 1972

Education: - University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts with Distinction '94 - Penn State Smeal College of Business, Masters of Business Administration, Marketing and Finance '12, Valedictorian

Qualifications: Three decades of professional and leadership experience in the performing arts,



Ezra Nanes

hospitality and event planning, Product Development and **Business** Development -

career menjleo.us tor, Penn

State Smeal College of **Business MBA Program** 2012-Present -Mentored dozens of students and served as panelist at numerous career development events - community organizer, College Heights 2016-2017 - candidate for PA State Senate, 2018 - won Centre County, contributed to PA Dems picking up 5 State Senate seats - Executive Committee Member, Centre County Democratic Committee, 2019-Present, member of HR Subcommittee, host of major fundraising and volunteer appreciation events. Campaign Chair, Teamwork Centre County provided strategic, fundraising and publicity guidance to winning Democratic county slate of candidates, leading to historic wins - Re-Election of both Democratic county commissioners, election of first ever female treasurer in Centre County. - Fundraising Chair, Peter Buck for PA House 171st, 2019 Member, Nittany Mountain Biking Association 2011-Present - Organizer and participant in trail work projects in Rothrock State Forest - Member of the Board, University of

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ **EzraForPA**

Pennsylvania, Class of

Twitter:

1994

twitter.com/EzraNanes **Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you

address them? A: As State College mayor, I will provide responsible and equitable oversight of the budget and COVID relief funds, improve accessibility to borough leadership and our community resources, and defend the rights of every resident here. With my extensive business and civic experience, I can ensure funding reaches our neighbors and local businesses that need it the most, and supports services so many rely on — for instance, child care for working families, and food

programs for those in need. We'll take action on zoning for affordable housing, allocation of hard budget funds to mental health services, and expanding sustainable bike path infrastructure. I encourage an open dialogue to find out what matters to you. My State Senate run and public advocacy for immigrants and transgender rights informs my service, and I would leverage our town/gown partnership, council meetings, media engagements, and other opportunities to champion our community's future.

JIM LEOUS Party: Dem Campaign Website:

Date of Birth: Nov. 24, 1962

Education: B.S., Physics, Notre Dame; M.S.,



Jim Leous

Penn State Qualifications: Three term school

board member, SCASD;

Community volunteer (State High Hockey, WPSU-FM, Boy Scouts, Inspector of Elections); Member of the Executive Committee of the Centre County Democrats; Vice Chair, State College Borough Democrats; Advisor, Penn State College Demo-

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

A: 1. Post-COVID Economic Recovery — work with council to strategically allocate federal and state relief funds to best jumpstart the borough's economic recovery. Encourage new and diverse businesses to move into State College to replace those lost during the pandemic. Direct homeowner and renter relief toward those with the greatest need. Our message will be, "Work (remotely) anywhere in the world, but live in State College." 2. A More Welcoming Community for All -Engage students where they are with efforts such as our Holmes-Foster Neighborhood "Welcome Walk." Hold at least one "Lunch with the Mayor" session per week. Engage non-traditional students and our international community by encouraging their participation on our many authorities, boards, and commissions. 3. A Sustainable State College — Finish the Solar Power Purchase Agreement. Move to an allelectric fleet. Create a "Renew, Reuse, Recycle" program in conjunction with the State High Career and Technology Center.

FROM PAGE 1B

VOTERS GUIDE

worked collaboratively over the last year to develop these tools to represent to the residents our guiding principles and our action plan. Having said that, I believe the recent pandemic has put our priorities in a slightly different context and given us reason to reconsider the emphasis put on a couple of areas like virtual public engagement, mobility options, and recreational opportunities. I expect to work with our ABC committees, township staff, and the other council members to expand and improve those processes and opportuni-

DUSTIN BEST Party: Dem Date of Birth: Aug. 27,

Education: M.S. Biotechnology

Oualifications: Leader, Process/business manager **Q:** If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you



Dustin **Best**

address them? **A:** 1. **Environ**mental sustainability and protection. Let's be smart about how we move forward

with our residential and commercial development. We must take action today to do our part to combat climate change. 2. Improving our government efficiency. We must look internally at how we are running our government and find ways to gain efficiency. I would like to make continuous improvement part of the culture. 3. Resident experience. Let's continue to improve the experience of live, work, and play for all residents in the township.

ANTHONY FRAGOLA Party: Rep Date of Birth: Sept. 25,

Education: BS Eco-



Anthony Fragola

member; Past College Township **Planning Commission** member; Past College Township Industrial Development Authority Member Leadership Centre County Alumni (Class of 2004)

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

A: If reelected, I will first thank all for the opportunity to serve and continue to work with our current council, township staff and residents to achieve and maintain our priorities to the benefit of our township and residents. Current interests and objectives are: 1. The township is currently working on a Pedestrian Master Plan. What this entails is reviewing areas within the township in which we can have better

walkable, bike-able sidewalks and paths in our community. 2. The township is currently working on a Small Area Plan. This entailed and involved a study which reviewed our current zoning uses in our Commercial and Industrial Development Zones to assist council in looking into other current, more up-to-date zoning uses which may be beneficial in encouraging job creating commercial development within our community. 3. Continue to work with and listen to the voices of our residents and to represent all in keeping College Township a great place to live, work, learn amd play.

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-AT LARGE

Candidates (choose no more than 2):

TIERRA D. WIL-LIAMS

Party: Dem **Campaign Website:** secure.everyaction.com/ iZI-NwbcaUORbcOhR6Jk w2?fbclid=IwAR2aB5aELAQx1kPEIwUomh WotWSBVzHSiozXrayhs

DK5inUmNRmPfJCX3O Date of Birth: Oct. 24, 1991 Education: B.A. Speech Communications 42A-

Human Resource Specialist USAR Facebook: www.facebook.com/

Ferguson-Board-of-Supervisors-103841361751076 Q: If

Tierra-D-Williams-for-



Tierra D. Williams

elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will vou address them? **A:** 1.

Transparency in Mental Health Policies 2. Equitable Housing 3. Police Accountability

LISA STRICKLAND Party: Dem Date of Birth: Nov. 4,

Education: State College Area High School graduate; B.A. International Politics, Penn State University; Graduate Certificate in Community and Economic Development,



Qual-

2019; SE-

DA-COG

Lisa Strickland

Board member; CRCOG Transportation and Land Use Committee member; Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordinating Committee member; Pine Grove Mills Farmer Market Steering Committee, Chair; Past Ferguson Township Planning Commission member and Chair; Centre Region Planning Commission, past Chair; Small business ownership and nonprofit

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ LisaforFerguson

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

management experience.

A: My first priority is to improve community engagement and communi-

SEE VOTERS GUIDE, 6B

Harris

Township

Supervisor

and current

Chair. Serv-

ing on Cen-

tre County

Planning

FROM PAGE 5B

VOTERS GUIDE

cation. I value the perspectives and insights of residents from across the township. I will continue to work directly with community members and advocate for citizen advisory groups and more opportunities for public dialogue to ensure all voices are heard. Second, I will prioritize fiscal responsibility and economic development. Through careful budget review and oversight initiatives, including proposing a financial advisory committee, I will work for prudent use of tax revenue. I will work to support our small businesses and diversify our economic base through creative initiatives such as agritourism. Finally, I will prioritize long range planning for the sustainability of our community. Through coordination with regional partners and resident feedback, I will work to create sound and equitable solutions that address, in particular, environmental, public safety and infrastructure issues.

PATTI HIGGINS Party: Rep Date of Birth: April 29,

Education: State College Area High School; South Hills School of Busi-



Patti Higgins

Qualifications: Lifelong Ferguson Township resident; Seven years in banking; Fifteen years in the construction industry.

Facebook: @pattihiggins2021

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

A: My first priority would be to put the residents of Ferguson Township in charge, by engaging them in person, by phone, email and on social media about important township business. All residents should have the opportunity to be more involved and feel that their opinion is heard. Township residents' concerns and opinions matter more than any board or staff members. The second priority would be to address the Stormwater Management Fee Ordinance. Many residents were not in favor of this ordinance, yet it was passed anyway. There is no limit to what property owners can be charged year to year, and it will live on in perpetuity. I would introduce a resolution to cap the fee at a lower rate, and give it an end date. My third priority would be to address the budget and spending. I will examine the budget in detail and question every line item and its purpose

to determine if it's a necessity. I would recommend and approve spending freezes on equipment and facilities for multiple

JEREMIE THOMP-SON

Party: Rep Campaign Website: ieremiethompson.com Date of Birth: March 4,

Education: Labor and **Employment Relations** (BS) - Penn State '12



Jeremie **Thompson** ifications: Ferguson Township Planning Commission Chair, Former Centre

Qual-

Regional Planning

Commission Representative, and Over 10 Years of Experience in Retail & **Customer Service** Facebook:

@ieremieFTWP Twitter:

@jeremieFTWP Q: If elected, what will be your top three pri-

orities, and how will you address them? A: While we pull

through the COVID-19 pandemic, we must keep health, safety, wellness, and recovery top of mind. I will promote COVID-19 mitigation best practices; connecting residents to testing, vaccines and other essentials; and ensure proper distribution of the \$1.92 million in American Rescue Plan funds allocated to the township. In addition, I want to foster a welcoming and inclusive community. We need equitable and sustainable resolutions to social justice; public engagement and open dialogue; antidiscrimination ordinance adoption; and affordable housing options for everyone. Furthermore, sustainability is essential to our future from environment to finances. We must care and protect our environment by preserving open space, natural resources, and farmlands in addition to exploring climate action initiatives. Fiscally, we've got to ensure proper and adequate funding for TWP departments and services coupled with efficient

HARRIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

parency.

operations, financial over-

sight, advising, and trans-

Candidates (choose no more than 2):

DENNIS HAMEISTER Party: Dem **Campaign Website:** www.drhameister.com

Date of Birth: Feb. 22, **Education**: B.S. & M.S.

Southern Illinois Uni-

versity, Ph.D. The University of Michigan Qualifications: Harris Township resident since 1978. Twenty-five years as

Dennis Hameister

Commission, Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority, Chair of Centre Region COG. Chair of PA Local Government Investment Trust. Serving on DEP Storage Tank Advisory Commit-

Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you

address them? **A:** My priorities are: 1) Ensuring efficient and reliable municipal services, such as road maintenance, neighborhood parks and recreation facilities, fire and police protection, sewer, water, trash and recycling systems, by working cooperatively with local and regional programs. 2) Managing growth and development through good planning principles and efforts of our Planning Commission and the Centre Region Planning Agency. Of particular interest is preservation of open space and working with our agricultural community to increase success by diversifying their operations. Affordable workforce housing is also important for township growth and development. 3) Providing safe, efficient, and affordable transportation in Harris Township is important because all residents depend on transportation. Current issues include sidewalks and bike paths connecting neighborhoods, intersection safety and highway design, encouraging use of CATA. safe bridges, and improvements to U.S. Route 322.

FRANKLIN HARDEN Party: Rep Date of Birth: June 13,

1951 Education: B.S. in Economics from Penn State **Qualifications**: Career 5 1/2 years as Harris

of Management and Sales; Township Supervisor, 8 years US Navy Submarine Service.

Facebook: @harden4harris

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

A: My priority has been and will remain to serve the people of Harris Township. This drives my decisions. We have accomplished a lot of good things in the past 6 years. Going forward there is a lot of challenges for the Board of Supervisors. We have been very good at fiscal management, however there has been growth keeping up with expenses. Growth may not continue at that rate, so we will need to pay attention to expenses and level of services. The other area that is a potential issue is Parks & Recreation. With our growth, to maintain

and create new opportunities, we will need to be fiscally responsible.

PATTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS 6-YEAR TERM

Candidates (choose 1): **SULTAN MAGRUDER** Party: Dem **Campaign Website:**

www.instagram.com/ sultanmagruder Date of Birth: July 3,

Education: 2017 Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Doctor of Philosophy Major: Counseling Psychology; 2013 Oklahoma State University-Stillwater, Master of Education Major: Counseling Psychology; 2012 Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Bachelor of Arts Major: Psychology Minor: Child Development and

Family

Studies

Qual-

ifications:

Staff Psy-

chologist,

Penn State

CAPS; Di-

versity,

Sultan Magruder

Equity & Inclusion Coordinator, Penn State CAPS: Instructor, Oklahoma State University; Task Force Leader, Building **Resilient Communities** (BRC); Campus Representative, Advocacy Coordinating Team (ACT); Vice President, ABPsi Student Circle-Stillwater; Treasurer, ABPsi Student Circle-Stillwater

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

A: If elected, my top three priorities will focus on: Housing, small business, and parks and recreation. First, I would like to see an increase in affordable workforce housing with pathways to renting and home ownership. I would address this issue by advocating for and approving new housing development projects that incorporate affordable housing options for the Patton Township workforce. Second, I want to support the establishment and maintenance of small local businesses to increase employment opportunities for Patton Township residents, keep monies circulating in the local economy, and increase the uniqueness of businesses in Patton Township. I would address this issue by approving sensible policies, zoning ordinances, land use, and tax rates that achieve this goal. Last, it is my hope to support the maintenance and revitalization of parks and recreation in Patton Township so as to help facilitate community building and promote the health and wellbeing of Patton Township residents.

PATTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNEXPIRED 4-YEAR TERM

Candidates (choose 1): **PAMELA ROBB**

Party: Dem Did not respond

PATTON TOWNSHIP **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNEXPIRED 2-YEAR**

Candidates (choose 1): **BETSY WHITMAN** Party: Dem Date of Birth: April 4,

Education: BA, Mary Washington Univ., Psychology and English; Masters coursework, Univ. of Virginia, Environmental Sciences

Qualifications: Township Supervisor, 3 years; Open Space Stewardship Committee, 4 years; excellent communication skills; excellent people skills; passion for the job; diligent worker.

Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you



address them? **A:** 1) Climate responsibility. As chair of the COG (Council of Government) Cli-

Betsy Whitman

mate Action and Sustainability Committee, I guide and advise COG staff to educate the public on climate issues and take action to achieve pragmatic, fiscally responsible, and equitable environmental stewardship. See, for example, centresustains.com. 2) Workforce housing. The Centre Region needs more housing for teachers, nurses, police, clerks, and cashiers. I am an active member of the Patton Housing Task Force which researches housing options and will educate and advocate for fiscally and socially responsible solutions. 3) Communication. A community operates best when members are readily informed and can easily offer feedback on day-today township needs and activities, eg., traffic and roads; development and zoning; policing; health and safety; parks and open space. I will guide the content and function of the township's new web-

RUSH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

supervisor initiated.

site which I and another

Candidates (choose 1): PAT ROMANO JR. Party: Rep Date of Birth: Oct. 7,

Education: Penn State World Campus

Qualifications: 5-plus years as Township Supervisor; 3 years on CCATO; 3 years on CCMPO; 4 years Parks and Recs; 1-year Mo Valley Fire Council; 3 years Penn State Fan Council; several decades in real estate development and general contracting.

Facebook: Pat Romano

Q: If elected, what will be your top three pri-

that music and art pro-



Pat Romano Jr.

dress them? A: Our top three priorities are already in motion.

orities, and

how will

you ad-

SUNDAY APRIL 25 2021

In my first year, we started a blight program to remove dilapidated structures and work to have properties cleaned up to make the area safer and less unsightly. We've recently applied for and received grants to help mitigate costs and avoid using township funds that should be reimbursed. Secondly, we have some major projects in the planning phase that I would be honored to see through to completion. We have a \$3 million road project, a large portion of which is funded by grants with a low percent match from the township. ... Lastly, we have other projects and need to have them done as effectively as possible while avoiding a local tax. At last check, Rush is one of only two municipalities in Centre County that has no local millage and we plan to keep it that way. My goal is to remain focused on our future.

DONALD TRAVIS Party: Rep

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

A: First and foremost, I would check with the residents prior to making changes to any regulations, putting the power in the hands of the people where it should be! A post on the township web page, an article in the papers asking for resident's opinions, and going door to door. With the people's permission, pass an ordinance making Rush Township a 2nd amendment sanctuary township to help protect the people's right to bear arms. With the people's permission, pass an ordinance allowing the Rush Township Constable to enforce township ordinances, disturbing the peace, etc. helping protect residents. I'd also require the constable to be at the polls to ensure voter integrity. Constables are required to have their own insurance and are paid by the job; therefore, there would be no cost or liability for the township.

SPRING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Candidates (choose 1): **DAVE CAPPERELLA** Party: Rep Did not respond

WALKER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Candidates (choose 1): KEITH HARTER Party: Dem Did not respond

FROM PAGE 1B

SCHOOL BOARD

positioned to get that project back on track and communicate concerns as well as opportunities to the administration to bring the project to a safe and timely completion. 3. Charter reform — I will stand strong with other members of the board and the district as we work to bring understanding and change to cyber and charter school funding. I am not opposed to charter schools but I do believe strongly that they should be held to the same rules and financial accountability as our district. Successful charter reform could save the district a substantial amount of money.

JEFFREY SCOTT STEINER Party: Dem, Rep **Campaign Website:** www.win4bellefonte.com Date of Birth: Feb. 12, 1966



Jeffrey Scott Steiner

Education: Bachelor's Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Masters in Education Penn

State.

Qualifications: Two terms as a director for the Bellefonte Area School District Board of Education, four years in board leadership. Currently District Representative on the IU 10 Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, where I chair the Finance and Facilities Committee.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/win 4bellefonte

Q: If elected, what will

be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: Four years ago, I ran on building a track and renovating Rogers Stadium and am so grateful that we were able to accomplish this. We have initiated the process of upgrading our elementary schools and I very much would hope to use my experience with the track and stadium to help see this project through. We similarly need to ensure the availability of advanced technology for all students to ensure equal educational access. As we start to come out from under COVID we need to refocus on addressing mainstream learning gaps at all levels, which have increased due to the pandemic, as well as enhancing the identification of special needs and gifted students, with an easier and quicker path for testing and IEP development.

dent to include, but not limited to fine arts, clubs, athletic and non-athletic opportunities. **JACK BECHDEL II** Party: Dem, Rep

Finally, ensuring the edu-

cation of the whole stu-

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/win4 bellefonte

Date of Birth: Sept. 24, 1966



Jack

tion: Associate Degree **Contact** email: jackbechdel@ya-

hoo.com

Q: If

Educa-

Bechdel II

elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: I would promote civil discussion versus heated hostility among board members. A sense of unity is necessary for the benefit of the students. I believe

grams help develop young minds and expand their thinking. Preserving these will prepare our students to face their future better. In light of the pandemic, we need to do a better job at educating our children when challenges arise that disrupt their normal classroom studies. Online classes have to deal with more distractions for the students and make it difficult for the teachers to determine if the students are actively participating. **JORDAN EMELY**

Party: Dem, Rep **Campaign Website:** facebook.com/groups/ emelyforbasd

Date of Birth: March 27, 1999

Education: Bellefonte Area High School, Class of 2017; Penn State, Class of 2020; Penn State, Class of Qualifications: Bache-

lor of Science in Education and Public Policy; Rele-

vant advising experience at the collegiate level

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/ emelyforbasd Twitter:

@EmelyforBASD **Q:** If elected, what will be your top three pri-



Jordan Emely

Education: The debate surrounding the Red Raider mascot has shown more of

orities, and

you address

how will

A: 1)

Equitable

them?

the cracks within our curriculum and the depth we need to go in the classroom over what the mascot of the district should be. Equitable education is important to ensure that we are preparing students to go into the world with the knowledge they need

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, 8B



Vito Baldini is the executive director of Small Things, which distributes food in Roxborough, Pa.

FAITH

A former addict, minister fights hunger these days

BY ALFRED LUBRANO Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA

On the worst day of Vito Baldini's life, after scuffling on the streets of Philadelphia with drug addictions that were pushing him toward the grave, he was spotted outside a ShopRite by an old friend's mother.

"Vito?" she asked, staring at the barely recognizable 23-year-old in his emaciated dissipation. "She saw me as no longer human," Baldini, now 42, recalled, "but as a junkie who would never get better. The way she looked into me burnt into my soul."

Within two years, he started clawing his way upward from that rockbottom moment. He became a minister who helps those experiencing homelessness, and battles the pandemic by distributing food to hundreds of lowincome Philadelphians.

"I was lost and scared and didn't know how to live life," Baldini said. "But I found something I needed: to commit myself to helping others.

"I love who I am today." Baldini isn't alone in his thinking.

Among the city's hunger fighters, the ordained cleric of the Protestant Reformed Church in America is known as a giant-hearted whirlwind who can comfort the destitute as easily as he can explain to financial donors why their largesse is critical. He's the founder of Small Things, a nonprofit that distributes food from a 75,000-square-foot warehouse in Roxborough.

Since the pandemic hit, Baldini has transformed his organization from a tiny charity that gave out meals once a year to a

six-day-a-week juggernaut that disbursed a "ridiculous" (Baldini's word) 2.68

million pounds of food

from last March through

December alone. "Vito and Small Things are an incredible example of an organization that has stepped up during the pandemic," said Loree Jones, CEO of Philabundance, the hunger-relief agency that supplies food to Baldini's organization. "They grew to a full-time operation since the onset of COVID.

"And it's clear to me that Vito's personal story informs what he does and how he does it. He brings a compassion, dedication, and empathy to his service, which is admirable and inspiring. He's incredible.'

So many agree: "He got me sober and off the street," said Sean Wiggins, 55, a formerly homeless man who's done some work at Small Things. "He has a heart of gold and has fed so many people in

such a short amount of time.

"All he wants to do is help others. Vito is my man."

Born in Overbrook into a blue-collar family, Baldini graduated from Archbishop John Carroll High School in Radnor in 1998. The youngest of four kids, he said: "We weren't a perfect family. I saw drugs as a way out.'

After starting college at Cabrini University, Baldini moved swiftly from weed to ecstasy, acid, cocaine, opioid pills, and finally, heroin. He dropped out by his second semester.

What followed was a down-bound haze of five or six years. "I reached a point of saying, 'This is who I am, a junkie who will never get better,' Baldini said.

He was arrested twice once for possession of marijuana, another time for illegally selling firearms, the latter of which brought a sentence of 24 months' probation.

Capable of outrageous acts to pay his drug dealers, Baldini stole the giftladen Christmas cards given to his schoolteacher sister by the parents of her students. Another time, he emptied the contents of his nephew's piggy bank.

On the last night he got high - Jan. 12, 2004 - Baldini stole razor blades from

STORAGE

5x7x7

As low as \$40 / per vault

* Local, Long Distance, and International Moves

eystone Relocation, LLC, Since 2008

Spring

Cleaning

Sale!

www.keystonerelocation.com

* Secure, Dry, Private Storage

* Pickup and Delivery Option

* Corporate & Family Relocation

a supermarket and sold them in a bar. For some reason, he saw that petty theft as the final straw, and he got into rehab.

"I just looked up to God and said, 'OK, I'll try it your way."

And that was it. Baldini earned a college degree from Cairn University in Langhorne Manor, Bucks County, and a master's from Missio Seminary in Spring Garden in Philadelphia.

He went to work at Liberti Church near Rittenhouse Square, where homeless people were sleeping on the steps.

Baldini had an easy manner with people who did without because he'd suffered, too. He understood instinctively that he could begin relationships with people through food.

"I'm Italian, fed by my grandmother," he said. "Food is how people connect. I can't solve poverty, but I can give someone their next meal. And to me that small act of love and kindness leads to change."

He offered meals with no strings attached. Ultimately, he began volunteering at Bethesda Project, a Center City homelessness service provider and shelter.

"He had a deep connection to our guests at Bethesda," said the organization's CEO, Tina Pagotto. "He invited them to get involved at Liberti Church. He views meals as an entry point to forming relationships.

"Vito is good people." Baldini began Easter Outreach, a feeding program that gave away 148,400 meals every Easter for 10 years. Last year, he left his church to work with a network of churches. Then, the pandemic hit, and he came up with Small Things.

The name is based on a quote from Mother Teresa: "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

FROM PAGE 1B

KEY INFO

IDENTIFICATION AT THE POLLING LOCATION

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

If you are not a new voter and are not voting at your polling place for the first time, you are not required to bring or provide identification

ONLINE VOTERS GUIDE

The Vote411 Online Voters Guide is available at www.vote411.org. Links to this guide as well as links to Vote411 and other useful information for voters can be found on the League of Women Voters of Centre County website at

lwvcentrecounty.org. Membership in the League is open to all women and men 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.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

The League will host a virtual candidates' night at 7 p.m. April 29. It will be broadcast on C-Net Channel 7 and livestreamed. The event will also be available at cnet1.org from May 1-18. Visit www.lwvcentrecountv.org/ candidates-nights for more information.

Money Saving Coupons www.centredaily.com

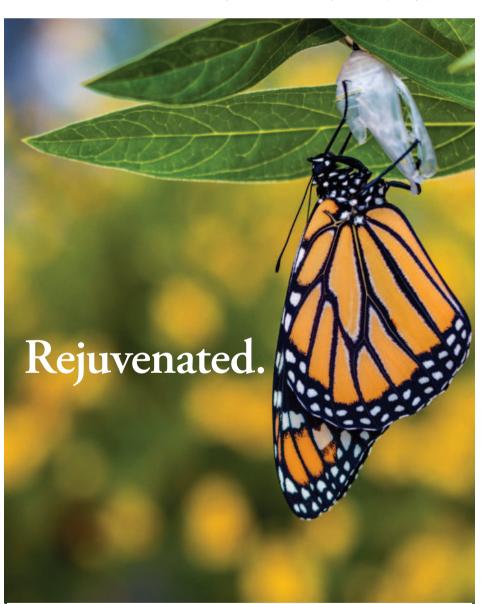


Kick out the cold and welcome spring with a complete home cleaning from Molly Maid®. Our team of trusted professionals will have your home spotless and smelling as fresh as the outdoors, so you can go out and enjoy the day.

MOLLY MAID

(814) 240-0458 • LEWISTOWN-STATE COLLEGE

https://www.mollymaid.com/lewistown-state-college ©2020 Molly Maid, LLC. Each franchise locally owned and independently operated.



ur Wellness Center is just one of the many ways Foxdale residents can enjoy cultivating a healthy body, mind and spirit. Featuring a fitness studio, exercise equipment and the Healing Waters Therapy Pool, residents have an array of options to enhance their strength and health.

To learn more and plan a visit, **Foxdale** call us at (814) 272-2146.

A Quaker-Directed Continuing Care Retirement Community

2952 Benner Pike, Bellefonte 16823

(814) 548-7972 | www.klabans.com

Save up to 70% on in-stock sofas,

chairs, home decor and more!

HOME FURNISHINGS

500 East Marylyn Avenue | State College, PA 16801 | foxdalevillage.org

FROM PAGE 6B

SCHOOL BOARD

to be caring and contributing members of society. Finally, an argument against stripping the name Red Raiders has been "educate not eradicate." If this is something the community is truly passionate about, we need to enhance our education to be equitable to all races and their experiences. 2) Accessibility: As a member of the board, I will research opportunities to expand broadband to areas that don't have it, and advocate for policies such as universal pre-k, and universal free and reduced lunch. 3) Listen to the constituents: give students space to ask for change within the school. They are the ones that we vote on behalf of, and they deserve a voice.

ANDREA ROYER Party: Dem, Rep **Campaign Website:** www.win4bellefonte.com Date of Birth: Feb. 1,

Education: Bellefonte High School, 1993; B.S. Elem. Ed.,



Andrea Royer

University of PA, 1998; M. Ed. Indiana University of PA, 2001 Qualifications: I

Indiana

am a 1993

graduate of Bellefonte High School. I have experience in teaching 6th through 12th grade in an alternative education setting. I also have experience teaching in a private, residential group home for adjudicated girls. I have experience in mental health and substance abuse counseling as well as with adjudicated males, ages 12-21. I currently work with individuals with disabilities in a local day center. I also have two children in the district, Lillian (15) and

Jackson (13). Facebook: Andrea Royer for Bellefonte School Board, Win4Bellefonte

Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you

address them? A: If elected to the Bellefonte School Board, my top three priorities are: To look at identification and testing regulations for special needs and gifted students. Often times students get overlooked, resulting in delays with testing, proper placement and IEPs. Better processes are needed to assure that every student experiences success in education! To investigate the availability of advanced technology for all. This would include further training for our staff to teach, prepare and advance our students for the constantly changing world of technology. To advance education of the whole student; that includes opportunities for students to participate in fine arts, clubs, athletics and non-athletics. Our responsibility is to provide the best education and extra-curricular activities that help students grow into well-rounded, young adults, ready to adapt to

STATE COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

the world around them.

Candidates (choose 4): **DAWN LORENZ** Party: Dem, Rep **Campaign Website:** dawnisrunning.com Date of Birth: July 30,



Dawn

Education: Ph.D., Counselor Education and Supervision (Rehabilitation Education emphasis), The Penn-

sylvania State University, accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Academic Programs (CACREP), M.Ed., School Counseling, accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Academic Programs (CA-CREP), Eastern Kentucky University, B.A., Social Work, University of Ken-

Qualifications: School administrator for five years; educator for 10 years; SCASD parent

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ Dawn-Lorenz-for-SCASD -School-Director-109353057898225

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

A: 1. Review Early Childhood Education in our district to ease key transition times and help all students develop a strong foundation for learning. a. Coordinate with area centers and early elementary educators in our district to identify strengths and weaknesses in current preparatory programs. b. **Ensure communication** between district administration and area programs regarding access and transition. 2. Increase access to allied health providers for all students. a. Advocate for more school counselors in district schools. b. Seek out potential partnerships among area mental resources and our district. 3. Work with stakeholders to incorporate key lessons learned during the CO-VID-19 pandemic into the future vision for our district. a. Review the impact on changes in education on our school community to assess the best course of action moving forward. b. Work to identify changes that have the ability to improve equity and excel-

DEBORAH ANDER-SON

lence in the district.

Party: Dem, Rep Campaign Website: deborahandersonphd. wixsite.com/deborah andersonscasd

Date of Birth: Jan. 9,

Education: B.S. in Labor and Employment Relations, Penn State (Schrever Honors College), 1993; M.S. and



Anderson

Labor Economics, Cornell University, 1996 and 1998.

Ph.D. in

Qualifications: 12 years of active vol-

unteer work in SCASD, including Ferguson Township Elementary PTO President and State College Music Boosters Treasurer. Seven years of college-level teaching experience in economics and education. Served threeyear term on governing board of State College Presbyterian Church. Current volunteer at Meals on Wheels. Involved parent of two children in SCASD.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ Deborah-Anderson-for-SCASD-School-Board-109155454576757

Q: If elected, what will

be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: My first priority is providing excellence in education for all students. We should offer all students a challenging curriculum that helps them to reach their full potential. In addition, access to art, music, technical education, sports and other activities allows students to explore their interests and become well-rounded individuals. Second, I believe in financial responsibility: the school board should help ensure that monetary resources are used efficiently and effectively, so that we can provide the best opportunities to our students and support our faculty and staff without overburdening taxpayers. Third, I believe strongly that our schools must be welcoming and inclusive. All students deserve to learn in a positive environment, free from bullying, harassment, bias or discrimination, so that everyone feels supported and at home in our schools. If I am elected, I am committed to listening, learning, and making decisions for the benefit of all students.

PETER BUCK Party: Dem, Rep **Campaign Website:** www.buckforpa.com

Date of Birth: July 8,

Education: State College Area High School, 1994 B.A. Music, Penn State University, 2001 M.M. Music Theory & Composition, Penn State University, 2003 Ph.D. Educational Theory &

Policy,

2015

Penn State

University,

Qual-

ifications:

20 years of

experience

Face-

teaching



Peter Buck book:

www.facebook.com/ BuckForSCASD Twitter: BuckforSCASD

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

A: My top three priorities are recovering from COVID-19, tackling inequity, and providing fiscal oversight to support incredible learning environments for our children's sustainable future. Our kids need to be safely back in school full-time as soon as possible. Like many, I am eager to see my son fully reunited with his teachers and his peers. We must also focus on social and emotional recovery and coping with lost learning opportunities, especially for our most disadvantaged students. Racial disparity in discipline and inclusion in advanced placement courses has barely improved since I graduated in 1994. I look forward to carrying the conversation forward to build will, policy, and a culture of real inclusion. School board service goes back to fundamentals: fiscal responsibility. With forecasting, efficient budgeting, and wise long-term capital investments in our build-

draw down climate-forcing greenhouse gases, we can improve health as well as learning outcomes.

DAVID K. HUTCHIN-

Party: Dem, Rep **Campaign Website:** www.facebook.com/ david.hutchinson.52438

1953 Education: BA., MBA, Penn State

Date of Birth: Dec. 7,

Qualifications: State College Area School Board, 2003-present; PA School Boards Assoc. governing board 2012-

2020; PSBA

president,

2019; Na-

tional

School

Climate

Council,

2010-2011

Face-

book:



David K. Hutchinson

facebook.com/david.

hutchinson.52438 **Twitter**: twitter.com/ hutchinson153

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

A: We need to continue to do the things we do well: preparing our students for college; an excellent career & technical school; music, art, extra-curricular opportunities. We have been able to do this due to strong community support and prudent financial planning. However, we need to be more intentional about helping our students develop "future-proof" skills: the ability to think critically, to communicate clearly in multiple contexts - including public speaking, and listening! - to work effectively with people of different backgrounds and perspectives, to develop their intrinsic creativity. This will also enable our students to become effective future citizens. This will require that we intentionally develop school and classroom climates in which every student feels socially, emotionally and intellectually safe; in which every student is seen as an individual, and as a contributor to the greater community. Finally, our students, parents, teachers — and the community — must be our

partners. **JACKIE HUFF** Party: Dem, Rep **Campaign Website:** huff4scasd.org

Date of Birth: July 10,

Education: BS Electrical Engineering MS Electrical Engineering Qual-

ifications:

Six years

teaching

math in

schools;

currently

public

secondary



teaching in higher-education Q: If elected, what will be your top three priorities, and how will you address them?

A: Education is the story I know, and I want to serve my community. I have first-hand experience

from K-12 to higher-ed and understand the impact that good governance can have on the learning experience in a classroom. If elected, my priorities will be to (1) grow quality educational opportunities for all students, (2) give a voice to teachers and paraprofessionals in the governing process, and (3) serve the community and promote transparency in

decision making. MICHELLE GLENN YOUNG

Party: Dem, Rep Campaign Website: www.young4scasd.org Date of Birth: Nov. 2,

Education: Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science - University of California, San Diego. Masters of System Technology - Naval Postgraduate School. Masters of Military Science - US Marine Corps University.

Qualifications: US Naval Officer for 22 years - managing programs with



Michelle Glenn Young

leading over 400 people. **Active Stay** at Home Mom · served on the FTE PTO exec-

budgets of

\$995M and

utive board for the last five years helping to formalize the organization through recognition as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and PA nonprofit incorporation and raising funds to pay for all school supplies, field trips, and family fun events. I support the Delta Middle **Student Advisory Council** as a Parent Advisor. Over the last three years, I assisted SCASD by substituting as a paraprofessional and secretary when needed and more recently, as a member of the SCASD Citizens Advisory Committee for Technology. I am experienced in the navigation of SCASD special education and gifted policies and procedures. I also focus my efforts on supporting the boys' athletics clubs including State College Youth Wrestling, State College Lions Youth Football, and State College

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ young4scasd

Little League.

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

A: SCASD is a high performing district and my efforts will focus on maintaining and improving upon the high academic quality of our school system. As a career Naval Officer and leader, I feel it is important to put programs and policies in place that encourage our children to learn and engage in logic-based critical thinking, creativity, and positive inter-personal collaboration to improve problem solving skills. As someone who identifies with many people of varying backgrounds, I represent non-traditional groups

in our community ensuring they have a voice in SCASD. As an experienced manager of multi-milliondollar programs, I can influence the fiscal health of the district and how our taxpayer money is spent. I am committed to fostering the intellectual and personal growth of students, inspiring them to lead a purposeful life. We accomplish this by instilling in them strong moral characteristics such as integrity, courage, fortitude, work ethic, and gratitude.

CARLINE CREVE-**COEUR**

Party: Dem, Rep Campaign Website: www.carlineforschool board.com

Date of Birth: Oct. 2, 1963

Education: St. John's University BS in Chemistry 1985. SUNY Downstate Medical School MD 1989. SUNY Downstate **Health Science Center** Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology 1993. **Board Certified in Obstet**rics and Gynecology 1998.

Qualifications: Wife, physician.



mother and teacher of five State College graduates. A resident of Centre County for

Crevecoeur

15 years. Volunteered on education boards such as WPSU and NAAHP and sponsored public health programs. Public speaker on women's health and community issues. Corroborates well with others.

Facebook: Carline Crevecoeur for SCASD School Board

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

A: My priorities are accessible learning, an inclusive environment, and a re-imagining of education. I would vote to eliminate any barriers to a child's education caused by their ability or socioeconomic status. I would move to provide more digital and mental health access. Students learn best when provided with a diverse curriculum, relevant materials, and an inclusive environment where they feel welcome. I will bolster special education programs and nurture our high-achieving students in their pursuits of excellence. I want to re-imagine education by providing a quality pre-k to close the opportunity gap and create a positive feedback loop between academic progress and social and emotional learning. I will foster partnerships between parents, teachers, and school resource officers to ensure that our students are safe while also exercising responsible stewardship of our community's financial resources. Our schools are successful when we satisfy the needs of every one of our students.



