# Tuesday, Novemb 7.20 a**m-8**pm BY NONPARTISAN PREPARED

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA CONTAINING CANDIDATES LISTED ON THE BALLOTS OF UNION COUNTY VOTERS

## You may take this publication into the voting booth with you.



# THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

This nonpartisan publication contains important information for voters in all the municipalities of Union County. In addition to PA judicial candidates, this issue of the Voters Guide includes candidates running for Union County Offices, School Director, and municipal officials in all ten townships and four boroughs in Union County.

This Voters Guide lists candidates in the following order: PA courts, Union County, townships and boroughs, school directors, and ballot questions. The candidates listed are those whose names appear on the official ballot. They are listed in ballot order with the party of the governor given precedence. There are two judicial retention questions for state-wide judges at the end of the ballot (see page 19).

This publication is provided free of charge by members of the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area. The League thanks the Union County businesses and individuals who so generously contributed to the financing of this Guide. For business and individual contributors, see page 9).

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# VIRTUAL CANDIDATES NIGHTS

VIRTUAL EVENT	OFFICES	DATE	SPONSOR	TO REGISTER
School Director Candidates Night	Lewisburg & Warrior Run	October 18, 2023	League of Women Voters	To register, go to:
	School Districts	6:00pm	of the Lewisburg Area	<mark>bit.ly/schbrd23</mark>
Twp. Supervisor Candidates Night	East Buffalo Township	October 26, 2023 6:00pm	League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area	To register, go to: <mark>bit.ly/ebtspv23</mark>
Appellate Court Candidate Forum	Supreme, Superior, &	October 24, 2023	LWVPA and Pennsylvanians	To register or submit questions,
	Commonwealth Courts	6:30pm – 8:00pm	for Modern Courts	go to <mark>bit.ly/pacrt23</mark>

Voters Guide

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA (LWVLA) publishes this *Voters Guide* as a public educational service. *Nothing in the Guide should be construed as an endorsement of any candidate by the League of Women Voters*.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF THE LEWISBURG AREA

Editor: Sheri Stayton Designer: Dawn Maneval Voter Services Chair: Linda Harris LWVLA President: Kandy Duncan Thanks to: Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Kathy Swope, and the Union County Elections and Voter Registration Office

### THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS is a nonprofit organization of women and men whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is nonpartisan: it does not support or oppose any candidate or party. It does, however, study and take positions on public issues and encourages its members to participate as individuals in the party of their choice.

Contributions to support this activity are greatly appreciated and inquiries are welcome. Tax-deductible contributions can be made out to LWVLA Education Fund and sent to PO Box 206, Lewisburg, PA 17837. You may go to our LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA website at LWVLewisburgArea.org or contact us at 570-524-4439.

For more information about the League, voting, or government in Pennsylvania, please contact the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA at (717) 234-1576, info@palwv.org, or 922 N 3rd Street, 1st Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17102; website at <u>www.palwv.org</u>. Additional candidate and voter information, including links to candidate videos, can be found at <u>Vore411.org</u>.

# HOW WE GET OUR CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidates were invited to enter their responses on the **Vote411** website in their own words. <u>Vote411.org</u> is provided by the national League of Women Voters Education Fund. We thank the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) for providing information on the state-wide judicial candidates.

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area (LWVLA) used candidate responses submitted to <u>Vote411.org</u> by September 8, 2023 to create this Voters Guide. We also include information specific to Union County voters, such as polling places and local League information. LWVLA does NOT edit candidate responses except to maintain standard formatting. Candidates may have updated, edited, or added to their information on <u>Vote411.org</u> since the September 8th deadline.

# Pennsylvania Appellate Courts

## STATE-WIDE JUDICIAL RACES

Judicial elections occur in odd-numbered years. Justices and judges must be Pennsylvania residents for at least one year and be a member of the state bar. They may serve an unlimited number of terms until they reach the mandatory retirement age of 75 if they are retained or re-elected by the voters. Vacancies that exist before an election may be filled by gubernatorial appointment until an election is held. These selections are subject to Senate confirmation.

QUESTIONS ASKED of all JUDICIAL CANDIDATES for SUPREME, SUPERIOR, and COMMMONWEALTH COURT

- 1. Pennsylvania's three co-equal branches of government Executive, Legislative, and Judicial each act as a check on the power of the others. In practical terms, what does this relationship of checks and balances mean to you?
- 2. What criteria would you consider in deciding a case that could affect long standing precedent?

**NOTE:** For more nonpartisan information on appellate court candidates, view the PA Bar Association's nonpartisan ratings and candidate responses to detailed questionnaires here: <a href="mailto:pavotesmart.com/current-judicial-ratings/">pavotesmart.com/current-judicial-ratings/</a>



If there are more candidates than open positions in a particular race, it is a **contested** race, and you as voter will have a choice or choices to make when you vote.

**UNION COUNTY** 

For Union County voters, the following races are contested:

### STATE-WIDE

- Justice of the Supreme Court
- Judge of the Superior Court
- Judge of the Commonwealth Court

- Union County District Attorney
- NOTE: For Union County Auditors, voters may choose no more than two of the three candidates. However, this race is not listed as contested because there are three open positions and three candidates.

### MUNICIPAL

- Supervisor: East Buffalo & Union Townships
- Borough Council: New Berlin
- School Directors: Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, & Warrior Run

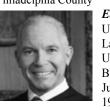
### JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

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 sevenmember court by the Pennsylvania State Constitution and a collection of statutes known as the Judicial Code. The justice with the longest continuous service on the Supreme Court automatically becomes Chief Justice. Administratively, the courts within the Unified Judicial System are largely responsible for organizing their own staff and dockets; however, the Supreme Court has several committees and boards responsible for writing and enforcing rules for judges, attorneys, and litigants to ensure an efficient and fair judicial review. Annually, the seven justices receive over 3,000 requests for appellate review.

*Term:* 10 years *Salary:* \$244,793 *Vote for ONE.* 

For the questions asked of candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court, see the <u>"STATE-WIDE JUDICIAL RACES" box</u> on page 2.

### **Democratic DANIEL McCAFFERY** Philadelphia County



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

*Occupation:* Judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court

**Qualifications:** 32 years as an attorney, trial and appellate court judge, tried more cases and presided over more litigation than any other candidate. Highly Recommended by the PA Bar, the only Veteran on PA's Appellate Courts. Judge, Court of Judicial Discipline, supervising judge for PA wiretap applications.

Answer to question 1: In its most general terms, as it pertains to the question, the court has a duty to ensure the Constitutional rights of the people are appropriately applied and protected. I would describe my approach to constitutional interpretation as "Living Constitution" – meaning that the constitution was intentionally drafted using broad language to allow its concepts to evolve with changing societal conditions. As to my approach to interpreting rules, legislation & statutes, I would describe myself as a textualist in that I attempt to give a common sense meaning and will give the intent to apply a reasonable analysis to interpret any ambiguous word or provision.

Answer to question 2: Every case must be considered based on the facts of the individual case, the laws pertaining to the case and were the appropriate Constitutional rights and protections fairly applied to the people and case in question.

### Website: judgemccaffery.com Republican CAROLYN CARLUCCIO

Montgomery County



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

*Occupation:* Court of Common Pleas Judge *Qualifications:* First

female President Judge of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas serving in the Criminal, Family, and Civil Court Benches. Montgomery County Chief Deputy Solicitor, Director of Human Resources, Chief Public Defender, Assistant United States Attorney. Answer to question 1: Our system of checks and balances is vital to our democracy and should be carefully guarded. We must ensure one branch does not overstep its authority. For the Executive Branch, it could be excessive Executive Orders which can circumvent Legislative powers. For the Judiciary, it is legislating from the bench which can also circumvent Legislative powers. The Judiciary also has the duty of ensuring that Legislative and Executive actions do not overstep their constitutional roles. It's critical that the Judiciary only applies the law as it is written in the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions. Inappropriate actions taken by the Executive branch and even the Judiciary takes power from our legislature which is closest to the people.

Answer to question 2: In deciding a case that could affect long-standing precedent, just as in any case that comes before me, I will apply the law as it is written in the constitution. Justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court must not allow themselves to be swayed by the media, Executive or Legislative branches, and certainly not by the popular opinion of the day. Even our own personal beliefs must be tempered to ensure that the Judiciary remains unbiased and only make rulings based on the law.

Website: judgecarluccio.com



### HAVE ID AND PROOF OF ADDRESS WITH YOU!

Voters appearing at a precinct for the first time must show identification (ID). If you registered by mail, the first time you vote you must bring a photo ID or other ID that shows your name and address. Sample valid forms of ID include: a valid PA driver's license or PennDOT ID card, any other photo ID issued by a U.S. or PA government agency, a Voter Registration ID card, a valid U.S. Passport, student ID card, etc. If you do not have one of these forms of ID, call the **Union County Elections and Voter Registration Office** at **570-524-8681** to get a list of additional, acceptable forms of ID.

### 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: \$230,974 Vote for not more than TWO.

For the questions asked of candidates for Judge of the Superior Court, see the "STATE-WIDE JUDICIAL RACES" box on page 2.

### Democratic JILL BECK Allegheny County



Criminal Justice - The George Washington University (cum laude graduate); J.D. -Duquesne University School of Law (cum

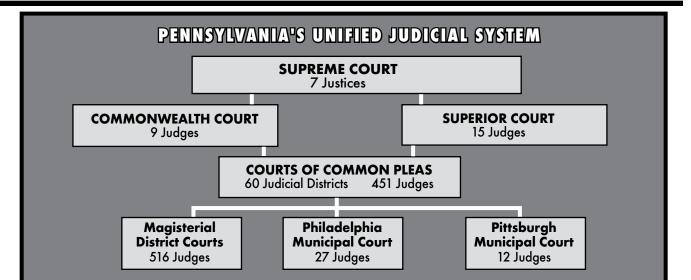
Education: B.A. in

laude graduate)

Occupation: Commercial litigator & appellate attorney

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

Answer to question 1: The judiciary is a separate but coequal branch of government. It is not the role of the Court to legislate, but neither is it permissible for the Court to serve as a rubber stamp for the legislative and executive branches of government (or the courts below). Appropriate deference to these bodies must be given when reviewing & interpreting their work, but it is solely in the Court's purview to determine the constitutionality of the measures taken and the legal correctness of their actions. The Court serves a critical role of interpreting our statutes and our constitutions (federal and state), which must be viewed in terms of the intent of the drafters at the time of their passage as well as the evolving standards of decency of our society.



Answer to question 2: The decision to overrule precedent, particularly longstanding precedent, should not be taken lightly. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to, the correctness of the prior reasoning, its consistency with related precedent, changes in the law & society subsequent to the decision, & the level of reliance on the precedent by the legal system and the public.

Website: JillBeck.com

### Democratic TIMIKA LANE

Philadelphia County

Education: Howard University - Bachelor of Arts, Rutgers Law School - Doctor of Law (JD)

Occupation: Judge **Oualifications:** Elected

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

Answer to question 1: Checks and balances are an integral part of our government, essential to ensuring that no one branch can overpower its boundaries. The role of the Judicial branch ensures that the legislative and executive branches maintain constitutional rights within the law, furthering that justice be equally, effectively and lawfully maintained and upheld. In short, checks and balances are critical to a functioning government and must be maintained.

Answer to question 2: Presiding a case in which in theory could affect a long-standing precedent must be weighted carefully and with respect to the past precedent. Long standing precedents are not without fault, and throughout history the judicial system has seen changes occur to long standing precedents for better and for worse. It is through this evolution, as society changes and laws are adapted to those changes that consideration of both the changes in the legal system and society should be considered, as well as aforementioned respect to the long standing precented and whether its reasoning still stands solid within the judicial and societal systems.

### Website: judgelaneforpa.com Republican

MARIA BATTISTA Clarion County



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

### Occupation: Attorney/Executive

Qualifications: 15+ years experience in Civil, Criminal and Administrative Law; Former Assistant District Attorney; Former Attorney with the Governor Corbett Administration; Served as an Administrative Hearing Officer where I presided over hundreds of hearings and issued hundreds of administrative decisions.

Answer to question 1: The Framers' purpose in dividing power between the three branches of government was to ensure that no branch of government became too powerful. James Madison's wisdom in Federalist 51 was to create a check against the authority of a single branch of government, sharing the decisionmaking power of the new federal government. For Pennsylvania, this model of separation of powers has created its own form of checks and balances between our three co-equal branches. In practical terms, this has empowered the courts, particularly the appellate courts, to better protect the rights of the people of this Commonwealth. By serving as a check against the executive and legislative branches, the judiciary serves to safeguard against abuses by either.

Answer to question 2: Stare decisis, a Latin term which means "let the decision stand," or "to stand by things decided," is a central tenet of the American legal system. This doctrine highlights the importance of precedent in our legal tradition. Applying precedent to the particular facts of a case is a way to provide predictability and consistency in the law. While I cannot speak directly about how I would rule in any case that may appear before me, precedent may be used as a guide, as well as the law as it has been written and the particular facts of a case. In some instances, the issue of constitutionality may be raised by the parties.

Website: BattistaForJudge.com

# **REGISTERED** TO VOTE?

You can find your voter registration status online using <u>any</u> of the following:

- Name
  - PA Driver's License Number
  - PENNDOT ID Number

### Go to: pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx

### Republican HARRY F. SMAIL, JR. Westmoreland County



Education: Grove City College Class of 1988 Duquesne School of Law Night School Class of 1997 Occupation: Judge

**Qualifications:** 

14 years as a practicing attorney and nearly 9 years as sitting judge in Westmoreland County Answer to question 1: The Founders' in their wisdom established a system of checks and balances as an attempt to ensure that no branch of our government could have unbounded power. Our system is based on on the freedom of our people and these checks and balances ensure that is difficult to pass laws or regulations that can curtail that freedom. Our constitution is our guiding light and any branch that strays from that document can be quickly put in line with it by another branch. It is the judiciary's role, as the only branch to not face regular election, to ensure that the constitution is being adhered to by intermediary courts and by the the legislative and executive branches.

Answer to question 2: My guiding principle when deciding a case is the text of the constitution and the intent of a statute when applying that statute in the course of a case. Precedent or stare decisis is critical in this review. Stare Decisis is critical in providing predictability and stability to the courts. I leave open the possibility that a court must at times correct previous encroachments by the judiciary relative to constitutional review and deviation of the facts. I believe it it is a heavy burden to demonstrate such encroachments when weighing prior precedents. Website: VoteJudgeSmail.com

### JUDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COURT

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

Term: 10 years Salary: \$230,974 Vote for ONE.

For the questions asked of candidates for Judge of the Commonwealth Court, see the "STATE-WIDE JUDICIAL RACES" box on page 2.

### Democratic MATT WOLF



Education: B.S. Political Science, LeMoyne College, J.D., Loyola University School of Law, numerous judicial education training

### Occupation: Judge

courses.

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

Answer to question 1: The rule of law. Each branch of government serves as a check on the others. Legislatures pass laws, sometimes in reaction to judicial decisions and executive actions. Courts interpret the law and the facts and the Executive essentially carries out the functions of the government, subject to the laws as interpreted by the Courts. People who serve as elected officials usually take an oath of office to uphold the laws and the state and federal constitutions. I take such oaths seriously and would commit to upholding the law, as should each member of the other branches of government.

Answer to question 2: It depends on the case, the facts and the law. This question cannot be answered in vacuum. There are antiquated decisions in Common Law that are long standing precedent which call to be overturned such as the Supreme Court's 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision which upheld the legality of racial segregation in America. It took 58 years for that case to be overturned in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Some long standing precedent should be overturned such as the "separate but equal" line of cases as an example. Other long standing precedent should be respected, particularly as it relates to the preservation and recognition of fundamental constitutional rights.

Website: judgemattwolf.com

(See 2nd candidate's response on the next page)



# REGISTRATION

October 23, 2023 is the last day to REGISTER to vote in the November election or to change your address or party registration. Register online at vote.pa.gov or contact the Union County Elections Office for an application.

Pennsylvania recently became the 24th state to implement automatic voter registration. Starting September 19, 2023, residents obtaining new or renewed driver's licenses and ID cards will respond to questions to complete or update their voter registration, unless they opt out. Previously, the Department of Motor Vehicles asked residents if they wanted to fill out a separate form to register to vote or update their registration.

### MAIL-IN AND ABSENTEE VOTING

<u>ALL</u> registered voters in PA have the option of voting in person or by mail. For more information, see the "MAIL-IN and ABSENTEE VOTING" box on page 7.

### MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHERE TO VOTE

At the website vote.pa.gov, you can check your registration status and polling place, register to vote, or apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot. If you moved or can't remember where you vote, contact the County Elections Office to make sure you go to the right polling place. This information is also on your Voter Registration card. If you registered to vote while applying for or renewing a PA driver's license and you have received a Voter Registration Card, you are eligible to vote in this election. For a list of Union County polling places, see page 20 of this Voters Guide.

### ACCESSIBILITY AND ASSISTANCE IN VOTING

Any voter having questions regarding the accessibility of a polling place should contact the County Elections Office. Any voter who has a disability that requires assistance in voting or using a voting machine may complete a declaration at the polling place and receive assistance.

### ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS

Poll workers are there to help you, show you how to work the machines, and assist with any other questions. 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 will telephone the County Elections Office. The problem could be resolved by phone if your name appears on the county records. If it does not, you must be given the opportunity to cast a provisional ballot. If it is determined that you are eligible to vote, your vote will be counted. You can check the status of your provisional ballot by calling the County Elections Office.

### COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE: CONTACT INFORMATION

Union County Elections Office Address: Union County Government Center 155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

570-524-8681 Phone:

Website: unioncountypa.org (under Departments, choose Elections & Voter Registration)

Judge of the Commonwealth Court, cont.

### Republican MEGAN MARTIN Cumberland County



*Education:* JURIS DOCTOR, May 1994, Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg, PA; BACHELOR OF ARTS, June 1991,

University of Delaware, Newark, DE

### Occupation: Attorney

**Qualifications:** Megan has served in all 3 branches of our state government & as an attorney for the US Navy, where she was both a litigator & transactional attorney. Megan has received endorsements from law enforcement, business & labor groups, along with the PAGOP & is recommended by the PA Bar Association.

Answer to question 1: I respect the very different yet equally important roles of the three branches. When it comes to our judges, the people deserve to have judges who are fair & impartial, respect & defend the rule of law, protect our Constitutional rights & freedoms, apply the law as it was written by our General Assembly, & who hold government accountable because government must follow the law, too. Our judges must be exemplary public servants who act in the public's interest, not to further any political agenda or their own personal agenda. Judges must not make policy decisions from the bench that are reserved for our elected representatives to make. We need our judges to be independent as our Constitution created them to be. I will be that judge.

Answer to question 2: Judges should approach every case keeping in mind their oath to support, obey & defend the Constitution. The Constitution should be their North Star. Judges should apply the law as it was written by the General Assembly. Judges should not be influenced by public opinion or pressure; they should follow the law. Precedent exists to maintain the rule of law. Defending the rule of law helps promote a world without chaos. It gives consistency to our judicial decision-making process. It ensures that individuals in similar situations are treated alike rather than being subject to the personal views of a particular judge. I respect the Constitution & rule of law. I respect precedent. I will continue to do so as a judge on our Commonwealth Court.

Website: meganmartinforpa.com

### JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS 17TH DISTRICT: SNYDER AND UNION COUNTIES

Description of office: The Courts of Common Pleas are the trial courts of Pennsylvania. Major civil and criminal cases are heard in these courts. Judges also decide cases involving adoption, divorce, child custody, abuse, juvenile delinquency, estates, guardianships, charitable organizations, and many other matters. The Common Pleas courts are organized into 60 judicial districts, most of which encompass a single county. Seven judicial districts in lightly populated areas include two counties. Snyder and Union Counties are combined into the 17th Judicial District under two judges. A president judge and a court administrator serve in each judicial district. This election will replace Judge Michael H. Sholley, who retired at the end of 2022.

*Term:* 10 years *Salary:* \$213,422 *Vote for ONE.* 

The candidate for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas 17<sup>th</sup> District was asked:

- 1. What makes you qualified to handle both criminal and civil matters as a Common Pleas Judge?
- 2. What personal qualities do you have that make you particularly suited to be a judge?

### **Democratic/Republican MIKE PIECUCH** Snyder County



*Education:* Franklin and Marshall College; Albany Law School *Occupation:* Attorney/

Prosecutor *Qualifications:* I've been a licensed attorney

for over 25 years and have practiced in all levels of Pennsylvania's courts including criminal, civil and appellate. For the past 13 years, I've served as the District Attorney for Snyder County.

Answer to question 1: I've been a licensed attorney for over 25 years and have practiced in all levels of Pennsylvania's courts including criminal, civil and appellate.

*Answer to question 2:* I would bring a conservative judicial philosophy to the bench while serving the people of Union and Snyder counties with integrity and fairness. *Website:* instagram.com/mike4judge

# UNION COUNTY

### **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Description of office: The three-member Board of Commissioners constitutes the chief governing board of the county. They are responsible for policy-making, fiscal management and the administration of the county. This includes adopting county budgets; appropriating monies; borrowing funds for capital construction projects; purchasing land for public buildings and projects; and providing for the salaries of county officers. The corporate power of the county is vested in them-they may sue and be sued, hold title to county real estate, and award contracts. On the local level, they share in implementation of state and federally mandated services such as children and youth, mental health, and soil conservation. They are also responsible for tax assessment and administration, emergency services and communication, the conduct of elections, upkeep of county buildings and bridges, planning, and economic development. The Commissioners appoint numerous county employees (i.e., clerk, solicitor, public defender), county boards, and commission.

*Term:* 4 years *Salary:* \$78,176 *Vote for not more than TWO.*  All candidates for County Commissioner were asked:

*What issue(s) would you prioritize if elected? Please be specific.* 

### Democratic STACY RICHARDS



University, Kennedy School of Government, Master of Public Administration, 1986; Bucknell University, BA with Political

Education: Harvard

Science major, 1978

**Occupation:** Union County Commissioner since 2020 and owner of the strategic energy and environmental consulting firm Stacy Richards & Associates since 1991. **Qualifications:** As Union County Commissioner, I daily apply my 45 years of government policy development and program delivery experience in community and economic development, energy, the environment, transportation, and economics at the federal, state and local levels to improve the well-being of Union County.

*Answer to question:* I will continue to focus on these priorities as our community adapts to rapid changes in our workforce, technology, climate and our connections to the world economy: Sustain and grow our local businesses; Expand family-sustaining wages; Increase local, affordable adult education to improve workforce skills; Expand public transportation services; Increase our affordable housing stock; Expand broadband access; Preserve our farmlands and natural resources; Expand quality, affordable early

childhood development. It is my experience that good government informs and engages its residents. I will continue to increase the public's opportunities to be informed, and to interact with and engage in county priority setting and decision making.

Website: <u>ReElectStacyRichards.com</u>

### Democratic SHARON KOPPEL

Limestone Township Response not provided

### Republican PRESTON BOOP



*Education:* Not provided *Occupation:* Farmer *Qualifications:* Not provided

*Answer to question:* Continue to serve as

a good steward of taxpayer resources so that Union County can be a great place to raise a family, run a profitable business, and create family sustaining jobs while preserving our productive farmlands and awesome natural resources.



### Republican JEFF REBER

West Buffalo Township



*Education:* MBA-Pennsylvania State University/ BS-Business Administration from Bloomsburg

University/ Graduate Mifflinburg Area School District

*Occupation:* Union County Commissioner *Qualifications:* Not provided

**Answer to question:** To continue to serve as a good steward of taxpayer resources so that Union County can remain a terrific place to raise a family, start a business and create family-sustaining jobs while preserving our treasured farmland and natural resources.

### **REGISTER** AND **RECORDER**

Description of office: The person holding this office has two sets of responsibilities. As Register of Wills, this office holder is responsible for maintaining the records relating to the probate of wills and the granting of letters of administration and testamentary. Acting as the Commonwealth's agent, the Register is also responsible for collecting state inheritance taxes. As Recorder of Deeds, s/he is responsible for recording documents relating to the transfer of real property in the county (deeds, mortgages, easements, subdivisions, and restrictions on deeds). This office also records oaths and commissions of county officials, district justices, and notaries, and is the custodian of other miscellaneous documents. In addition, the Recorder collects real estate transfer taxes for the state, townships, boroughs, and school districts and distributes the income monthly.

Term: 4 years Salary: \$86,297 Vote for ONE.

**Democratic** No candidate filed

### Republican LISA A. SEWARD

Mifflinburg Borough *Education:* 12th grade graduate Mifflinburg

High School and Vo Tech New Berlin graduate

*Occupation:* Union County Register & Recorder

*Qualifications:* 21 years of service in the Office, Register and Recorder since August, 2014

## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**Description of office:** The District Attorney (DA) is the chief law enforcement officer and has authority over all criminal investigations and prosecutions in the county. The DA's office works closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement to ensure that Pennsylvania laws are upheld by seeking justice for victims of crimes, prosecuting those engaged in criminal activity, and protecting law-abiding citizens. The DA must be at least 25 years old, a resident of the county, and hold an active law license while in office.

*Term:* 4 years *Salary:* \$211,245 *Vote for ONE.* 

All candidates for District Attorney were asked:

- 1. What would you do to ensure that all members of the community are treated equally in their interactions with the District Attorney's office and have equal, fair, and timely access to justice?
- 2. What are the reasons to pursue plea bargains in criminal cases instead of going to trial?

### Democratic BRIAN L. KERSTETTER

Kelly Township



*Education:* Lewisburg High School 1992; King's College, B.A. Criminal Justice 1996. Ohio Northern University, J.D., 1999 *Occupation:* First

Assistant District Attorney in Union County

*Qualifications:* Attorney for 23 years. 17 years as First Assistant District Attorney in Snyder County. Current Union County First Assistant District Attorney.

Answer to question 1: The key to inspiring confidence in the public as it relates to the DA's Office is transparency and zealous advocacy on behalf of crime victims and the public as a whole regardless of sex, race, religion, etc. We have an excellent victim/ witness coordinator in Union County, with whom I work closely, to ensure that those who find themselves in the criminal justice system have a conduit to express their concerns and give their input on how a case or cases should be handled. We make ourselves available at all times to ensure timely access to justice. My reputation among my colleagues in the practice of law and in law enforcement is that of a "firm but fair" prosecutor who treats all parties, including criminal defendants, equally.

(continued on next page)

# MAIL-IN AND ABSENTEE VOTING

- MAIL-IN BALLOT: ALL registered voters in PA now have the option of voting by mail-in ballot. You may now apply for a mail-in ballot without an excuse using an online application at <u>vote.pa.gov</u>, by mailing in a paper application, or by submitting a paper application in person at the County Elections Office.
- ABSENTEE BALLOT: Absentee ballots are still available to those who satisfy certain criteria (illness, disability, or absence from the municipality on Election Day).
- BALLOT APPLICATION DEADLINES: Completed civilian <u>applications</u> for <u>mail-in</u> or <u>absentee</u> ballots must be **RECEIVED** by the County Elections Office <u>by 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before Election Day</u> (October 31, 2023) (postmark does not matter). If an emergency arises (unexpected illness or business trip) after the Tuesday application deadline and before Election Day, you may obtain an emergency application from the County Elections Office.
- **RETURNING YOUR BALLOT**: Return your mail-in or absentee ballot by mail – you must provide postage. You can also drop off **YOUR OWN** mail-in ballot at the reception desk of the Union County Government Center (see contact information at the bottom of this box).
- BALLOT RETURN DEADLINES: Completed civilian mail-in or absentee ballots must be **RECEIVED** by the County Elections Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, November 7, 2023) (postmark does not matter).

• NOTE: Once the county receives your voted mail-in ballot, you are **NOT** allowed to go to the polling place to change your vote • on Election Day. If you do not return your voted mail-in ballot and you want to vote in person, you have two options: • 1. Bring your ballot and the envelope with the voter's declaration to your polling place and turn it in so you can vote on your county's voting system. 2. If you don't have your ballot, you can vote by provisional ballot at your polling place. Note your provisional ballot number so you can track it. • TRACKING YOUR BALLOT: If you requested an application or ballot online, you can track the status of your application or ballot at www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/BallotTracking.aspx **IMPORTANT:** Direct all questions about your mail-in or absentee ballot to the Union County Elections office.

COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE: CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Union County Elections Office Union County Government Center 155 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Phone: 570-524-8681

Website: <u>unioncountypa.org</u> (under Departments, choose <u>Elections & Voter Registration</u>)

### Union County District Attorney, cont.

Answer to question 2: Over my 17 plus years as a prosecutor, I've earned a reputation for being tough on crime and a strong victim advocate. Our utmost concern in every criminal case is ensuring that justice is served for crime victims and the citizens of Union County. If justice can be achieved without the necessity of putting a victim or victims through a trial and avoid the expense of a trial to taxpayers, a plea agreement is appropriate.

### *Website:* <u>kerstetterforda.com</u> Republican

## ROBYN ZENZINGER

East Buffalo Township



SUNY-Buffalo Law School, cum laude; B.A. Westminster College.

Education: J.D.

**Occupation:** First Assistant District

Attorney Northumberland County *Qualifications:* Seven years with the Northumberland County District Attorney's office and thirteen years practicing law.

Answer to question 1: I'm proud of my reputation as a full-time prosecutor who is fair, hard-working, and keeps our area safe from dangerous criminals. I've earned the respect of my colleagues, including judges and law enforcement officers with whom I work. I'm a strong advocate for crime victims, while exhibiting the necessary professional demeanor and integrity to ensure justice. I'm committed to following the law and protecting constitutional rights. I'll maintain fiscal discipline while administering the office. I'm honored to have the confidence and support of many respected community leaders and members of the law enforcement community.

Answer to question 2: Plea bargains should be used only when serving to accomplish a just resolution. I'm known as an experienced prosecutor who advocates for crime victims and keeps dangerous criminals off our streets. A D.A. must follow the rule of law while seeking justice for the community and victims. We've seen a large spike in crime across our nation due to politically motivated prosecutors not enforcing the law or summarily dismissing cases. We can't let that happen in Union County. Importantly, I'm a full-time First Assistant D.A. who has focused her career on being a prosecutor.

Website: voterobynzenzinger.com

### **COUNTY TREASURER**

**Description of office:** The Treasurer is the officer responsible for receiving and disbursing all county monies on order of the County Commissioners. S/he handles all county revenues, investments, and state licensing (i.e., dog, fishing and hunting, pistol permits, and Small Games of Chance and Bingo licenses for non-profit organizations). The Treasurer serves on the Salary and Retirement Boards.

*Term:* 4 years *Salary:* \$78,176 *Vote for ONE.* 

**Democratic** No candidate filed

### Republican DIANE K. REIGLE

West Buffalo Township



been in finance for over 20 years. Whether it was as a teller, tax collector or County Treasurer. I have taken an excel course, ethics,

Education: I have

and the Tax Collector course.

**Occupation:** I am currently the elected Union County Treasurer

*Qualifications:* My 20 plus years experience and the last 3 as County Treasurer has Qualified me for the job.

### **COUNTY AUDITORS**

**Description of office:** The three County Auditors are elected at the same time and are the officers responsible for auditing, adjusting, and settling the accounts of county officials. They make sure that all money passed into the Treasurer's office by the various county offices has been accounted for in the correct amount, and they verify all monies paid out. The audit is begun each year on the first Monday in January, and the Auditors work until it is complete. A report is made to the Court of Common Pleas.

Term: 4 years Salary: \$216 per day Vote for not more than TWO.

### Democratic ROBERT M. SUNDIN

East Buffalo Township *Education:* Rutgers University *Occupation:* Semi retired/ Union county auditor

Qualifications: 12 years as County auditor

### Republican CAROL MANBECK

Buffalo Township *Education:* Selinsgrove Area High School, 1978; Bloomsburg University, BS/Business Administration-Accounting, 1982

Occupation: Union County Auditor



# BE PREPARED TO VOTE!

Vote411 CAN HELP!

After you enter your address on the <u>Vore411.org</u> home page, you'll see every race that will appear on your ballot. You can also compare candidate's answers, make your selections, click **Finish**, and print or email yourself your choices. You can then either go to the polls or complete your mail-in ballot confident that you are prepared and informed.

Information is posted by each candidate and is unedited by the League of Women Voters. This Voters Guide contains information from candidates who responded by September 8, 2023. Candidates may have posted additional information on <u>Vote411.org</u> closer to the election.

LWVLA thanks the Union County GIS Office, which was instrumental in helping us bring **Vore411** to Union County voters.



*Qualifications:* Union County Auditor, 11 years; former Union County Historical Society Office Manager, 15 years

### Republican DONNA KAHLEY GEMBERLING

Hartley Township *Education:* Mifflinburg Area HS, 1976

**Occupation:** Union County Auditor; Teller, Mifflinburg Bank & Trust

*Qualifications:* Union County Auditor, 7 yrs.; Bank Teller, 16 yrs.; Former Hartley Twp. Tax Collector, 28 yrs.

### **MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE** DISTRICT 17-3-02

District 17-3-02 includes the Boroughs of Hartleton, Mifflinburg, and New Berlin, and the Townships of Buffalo, Gregg, Hartley, Lewis, Limestone, West Buffalo, and White Deer.

*Note:* Union Township is no longer part of this district; it is now part of District 17-3-01.

**Description of office:** The minor courts, also called the "special courts," are the first level of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System. There are 516 magisterial district judges based in community courts throughout the Commonwealth, with two judges in Union County. The Magisterial District Judge decides small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, traffic cases, minor criminal matters and civil suits, and conducts preliminary hearings in serious criminal cases. The Magisterial District Judges who are not members of the PA Bar Association must complete a course of training and instruction in the duties of their office and pass an examination prior to assuming office. All judges must take continuing legal education programs and must also reside in their districts for a year preceding their election to office.

*Term:* 6 years *Salary:* \$106,254 *Vote for ONE.* 

The candidate for Magisterial District Judge was asked:

What would you do to ensure that all litigants, whether represented by counsel or not, have equal, fair, and timely access to the courts?

# Democratic/Republican JEFFREY L. MENSCH

Mifflinburg Borough *Education:* BA in Political Science Penn State; JD from Dickinson School of Law

Occupation: Magisterial District Judges

*Qualifications:* attorney & 23+ years as Magisterial District Judge

*Answer to question:* I listen to all parties regardless of whether they are represented or not. We provide interpreter services to those who are not proficient in English.



be following Union County businesses generously contributed to the financing of the 2023 LWVLA publications and activities.

## PATRONS



The following people generously contributed since our fall 2022 Voters Guide. We very much appreciate this financial support of our efforts to increase voter participation, keep the electorate informed, and take action on vital political issues.

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One Benefactor wishes to remain anonymous.

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One Supporter wishes to remain anonymous.

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One Contributor wishes to remain anonymous.

## FRIENDS

Keri Albright Shari & Dave Jacobson Sharon Jeffers Ann Longanbach

One Friend wishes to remain anonymous.

The many in-kind donations from LWVLA members are also appreciated.

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## DESCRIPTIONS OF TOWNSHIP AND BOROUGH **OFFICES**

### **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

There are 6 to 8 council members in each borough with half elected every 2 years. Borough Council members meet once monthly and are responsible for enacting, revising, repealing, and amending ordinances and resolutions that govern and are beneficial to the borough, but are not inconsistent with the laws of the Commonwealth. The Council appoints other borough officers such as secretary, treasurer, solicitor, manager, etc., but no council member can also be a borough employee. The Borough Council has the power to make, authorize, and ratify expenditures for lawful purposes from available funds or from funds borrowed within legal limits. Additionally, each member serves on at least one committee such as planning, police, public works, or finance. Term: 4 years

### **TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

There are 3 supervisors for each of our local townships, one being elected every 2 years. The Board of Supervisors is the legislative body of the township in setting policy, enacting and enforcing ordinances and resolutions, adopting budgets, and levying taxes. The Supervisors are responsible for planning and zoning, road maintenance, providing for fire and police protection, hiring employees, and the administration of financial affairs. They are also involved with Central Keystone COG, SEDA-COG, sewer enforcement, recreation, and other affairs affecting the health, safety, and welfare of township residents.

Term: 6 years

QUESTION ASKED OF ALL CANDIDATES FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL AND TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

What do you see as the biggest challenge your borough/ township faces at this time, and how would you address it?

### AUDITOR

There are 3 township auditors, one elected every 2 years. They meet several times after the first of the year in order to audit the accounts of the tax collector and all municipal officers, as well as all municipal accounts of any person, organization, or agency receiving or spending municipal funds. NOTE: Some municipalities do not have an auditor position.

Term: 6 years (4 and/or 2 year unexpired terms may also be on the ballot)

### TAX COLLECTOR

A Tax Collector's responsibilities include collecting real estate, per capita, and other taxes for the county, school district, and the municipality that s/he serves. S/he does not collect the 1% earned income tax.

- Term: 4 years; Only the Townships of Hartley, Limestone, and West Buffalo; and the Boroughs of Hartleton, Mifflinburg, and New Berlin have tax collector races on the ballot in 2023, all of which will be elected to serve the last 2 years of an unexpired term.
- Salary: Based upon the number of bills/parcels; rates may vary by municipality

# **BUFFALO TOWNSHIP**

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the **"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and** BOROUGH OFFICES" box to the left.

## SUPERVISOR

Salary: \$1,875 per year

6 Year Term Vote for ONE.

Democratic No candidate filed

### Republican **GLÈNN TROUP**

**Education:** Graduated Mifflinburg High School and SUN Area Votech Class of 1976

**Occupation:** Construction-General Contractor. Self-Employed since 1980

**Qualifications:** As a general contractor I am experienced in planning, budgeting, and the many aspects of projects from start to finish. I am able to to read and understand plans, know how to get the best quality for a fair cost, and able to make sound decisions that will benefit taxpayers.

Answer to question: I feel the biggest challenge at this time is providing a transparent local government, a fair and honest board that will govern on behalf of the voters who put them in authority. I plan on getting input from citizens in the township, then addressing those issues and concerns through the board to make sound decisions to solve them, keeping in mind the financial aspect of each decision implemented. I will always consider benefits versus costs when making decisions in order to insure that all taxpayers are getting the most for their money.

4 Year Unexpired Term Vote for ONE.

No candidate filed in either party.

### **AUDITORS**

Salary: \$25 per meeting

6 Year Term, 4 Year Unexpired Term Vote for ONE for each term.

No candidate filed in either party

### **MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

### **REGION 1**

*For candidates and their responses, see* <u>"MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS"</u> on page 17.

# EAST BUFFALO **TOWNSHIP**

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the **"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES"** box to the left.

### **SUPERVISOR**

Salary: \$2,500 per year Vote for ONE.

### Democratic THOMAS F. ZORN



Education: Graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Economics Occupation: Retired.

Had a career with the Federal Government,

including the White House, from 1974 through 2008

Qualifications: East Buffalo Township Supervisor from 2010 to 2016; Commissioner, Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department; Deputy Associate Director for Financial Disclosure, U.S. Office of Government Ethics; Ethics Advisor to the President of the United States; Management Auditor, U.S. GAO.

Answer to question: The biggest challenge East Buffalo Township faces at this time is to maintain and improve the quality of life in the township. The police and fire service must be adequately supported financially to continue with their excellent service. Also, the Township's parkland must be developed appropriately and maintained adequately. In addition, the rural nature of the Township must be retained and enhanced.

### Republican CHAR GRAY

### Education:



Washington University/ St. Louis: Applied Mathematics, 1979; Washington University/ St. Louis: Masters Business

Administration 1981

Occupation: Part-time: East Buffalo Township Supervisor; Retired after 40 years (Corporate Operations, Finance and Manufacturing)

Qualifications: EBT Supervisor, 6 years. 40 yrs in business: Corp.P&L, Budget Mgmt, Cross-discipline teamwork, problem solver, strong negotiator. Past/Present Board positions: Campus Theatre, Lewisburg Alumni, BV Rec Auth., Mother (3 kids) and wife (35 years): commitment.

Answer to question: When I ask EBT residents, the answer is often - rising costs and inflation. As part of the EBT Board since 2018, I am proud to state that we have lowered EBT taxes in the last 6 years. If elected, I would continue to be fiscally prudent, managing existing resources to establish a balanced budget, take time and effort to find alternative sources of funding, and set reasonable priorities within our means. We will always have to make trade-offs, and I will solicit input from our residents. My priority is to provide EBT with a wellmaintained infrastructure, while reinforcing and preserving small-town charm and safety. I will continue to work for low taxes, maintaining local control over local issues, and providing access to recreation.

### **AUDITORS**

Salary: \$25 per hour

6 Year Term, 4 Year Unexpired Term, 2 Year Unexpired Term *Vote for ONE for each term*.

### No candidate filed in either party

**LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS** For candidates and their responses, see <u>"LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on</u> page 15.

# **G**REGG **T**OWNSHIP

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the "DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES" box on page 10.

### **SUPERVISOR**

Salary: \$156.25 per month Vote for ONE.

**Democratic** No candidate filed

Republican DAVID E. MASSER Response not provided

### **AUDITOR**

*Salary:* \$10 per hour *Vote for ONE.* No candidate filed in either party

### WARRIOR RUN SCHOOL DIRECTOR

**REGION 1** 

For candidates and their responses, see *"WARRIOR RUN SCHOOL DIRECTOR"* on page 18.

# UNION COUNTY VOTING RESULTS

Unofficial Union County vote totals will be posted at <u>unioncountypa.org</u> as soon as they are available.

**NOTE**: <u>Only</u> Union County votes are reported here. For PA Appellate Courts, and for Milton and Warrior Run school directors, winners will be determined by combining Union County votes with votes in the entire State or voting district for each race.

# HARTLETON BOROUGH

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the "DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES" box on page 10.

### TAX COLLECTOR

*Salary:* Information unavailable *Vote for ONE*.

No candidate filed in either party

### **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Salary: \$15 per meeting

4 Year Term *Vote for not more than TWO*.

No candidate filed in either party

2 Year Unexpired Term *Vote for ONE*.

No candidate filed in either party

### AUDITORS

Salary: \$30 per day, 2 days

6 Year Term, 4 Year Unexpired Term *Vote for ONE for each term.* No candidate filed in either party

### MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTOR

**REGION 3** For candidates and their responses, see <u>"MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS"</u> on page 17.

# HARTLEY TOWNSHIP

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the "DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES" box on page 10.

### **SUPERVISOR**

*Salary:* \$150 per meeting *Vote for ONE.* 

**Democratic** No candidate filed

Republican RODNEY KLINE Response not provided

AUDITOR

Salary: \$10 per hour Vote for ONE.

No candidate filed in either party

### TAX COLLECTOR

Salary: Information unavailable Vote for ONE.

No candidate filed in either party

### **MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

**REGION 3** 

For candidates and their responses, see <u>"MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS"</u> on page 17.

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# **Kelly Township**

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the <u>"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and</u> BOROUGH OFFICES" box on page 10.

### **SUPERVISOR**

*Salary:* \$2,500 per year *Vote for ONE.* Democratic

No candidate filed **Republican** 

# ELVIN STOLTZFUS



*Education:* GED; Numerous post high school courses *Occupation:* Pik Rite, Inc. President; Grain farmer

**Qualifications:** 

Business experience; Family venues *Answer to question:* Safe and affordable community- Continue to operate within budget- Recreation for local children and families- Continue to provide and upgrade these areas

### **AUDITORS**

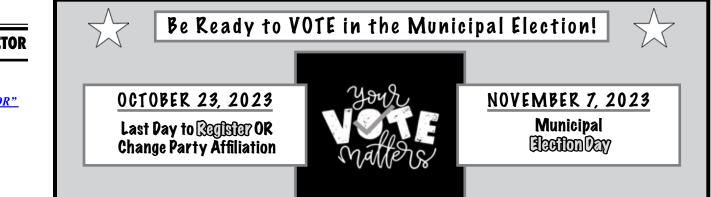
Salary: \$10 per hour

6 Year Term, 4 Year Unexpired Term *Vote for ONE for each term*.

No candidate filed in either party

## LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS

For candidates and their responses, see <u>"LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on</u> page 15.



# LEWIS TOWNSHIP

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the **"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES"** box on page 10.

### SUPERVISOR

Salary: \$100 per meeting *Vote for ONE.* 

Democratic No candidate filed

### Republican DONALD G. SHIVELY

Education: Mifflinburg High School Graduate 1972

Occupation: Retired

**Oualifications:** Served 12 years as Lewis Township supervisor and a board member of the Lewis Township Municipal Authority

Answer to question: The biggest challenge is one that faces many rural communities and that is large bureaucratic government agencies, be it Federal, State, and even county that want to institute a "one size fits all" approach when determining regulations that affect our communities. Lewis Township residents have their own interests that may not be the same as Mifflinburg Borough, Lewisburg borough, East Buffalo Township, etc. I am a firm believer in local control and those controls should be set by the residents of their own township and not because it's been enacted in a neighboring township. As a member of a 3 person board, I realize that one person cannot keep bad decisions from being made, however one person can be a source of reason in the discussion.

### AUDITOR

Salary: \$10 per hour Vote for ONE.

No candidate filed in either party

## MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTOR

### **REGION 3**

For candidates and their responses, see "MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on page 17.

# Lewisburg Borough

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the **"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and** BOROUGH OFFICES" box on page 10.

## **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Salary: \$100 per meeting

WARD 1 No candidate filed in either party

WARD 2 4 Year Term Vote for ONE.

### Democratic **JORDI COMAS**



Education: BA Carleton College 1994; MA University of Virginia 1999; PhD IESE/Universidad de Navarra 2008 **Occupation:** 

Environmental Justice Regional Coordinator for PA Department of Environmental Protection

Qualifications: 1.5 terms already on Borough Council including service on Buffalo Valley Regional Police Commission; Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority; Shade Tree Commission; Public Works committee. Decades of experience and commitment to grassroots organizing, shared leadership, and innovative thinking

Answer to question: 1) Seeking once-in-ageneration grants to make the borough more flood resilient, better adapted to the coming climate, more walkable and livable for transit, more affordable housing. 2) Moving our police force to continue adopting best practices so its seen by as many people as possible as helpful, respectful, and fair. 3) Continuing the work of improving sidewalks and shade trees 4) Comprehensive planning so that the competing needs of parking, greenspaces, sustainability, livability, business growth, and cultural opportunities can all be considered and met. 5) Improve towngown relationships. 6) Improve Borough communications to all stakeholders. To address: quality staff, relevant ordinances, direct outreach, research.

Website: facebook.com/jrc4lbg

# **VOTING IS** people power

### Republican No candidate filed

WARD 3 No candidate filed in either party

WARD 4 4 Year Term Vote for ONE.

Democratic JAMIE GROBES

Response not provided

Republican No candidate filed

2 Year Unexpired Term Vote for ONE.

No candidate filed in either party

## LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS

For candidates and their responses, see "LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on <u>page 15</u>.

# LIMESTONE TOWNSHIP

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the **"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES"** box on page 10.

### **SUPERVISOR**

Salary: \$1,875 per year Vote for ONE.

Democratic No candidate filed

### Republican **BRIAN HAINES**

Education: Mifflinburg High School Graduate

Occupation: Laborer at WoodMode LLC Qualifications: 1 previous 6 year term as Supervior

Answer to question: There is a need for better communication between agencies and the enforcement laws and regulations. Ordinances and Resolutions are put in place to protect the residents and the land. These need to be monitored and upheld.

### AUDITORS

Salary: \$10 per hour

6 Year Term, 4 Year Unexpired Term Vote for ONE for each term.

No candidate filed in either party

### TAX COLLECTOR

Salary: 3% of collected taxes Vote for ONE.

No candidate filed in either party

### MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS

**REGION 1** 

For candidates and their responses, see <u>"MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS"</u> on page 17.

FOLLOW LWWILA ON FACEBOOK

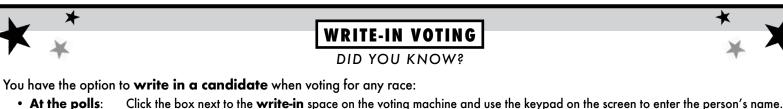
Stay up-to-date on the events sponsored by the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA. Like and follow us at:

# facebook.com/LWVLA

# VOTERS GUIDE ON WEBSITE

An electronic version of this Voters Guide is available for downloading on the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA website at:

LWVLewisburgArea.org/voters-guide



• Mail-in ballots: Completely fill in the box next to write-in and legibly write the person's name in the provided space.

NOTE: Candidates must receive a certain number of votes, depending on the office, to win by write-in votes. If you write in a candidate, it should be someone willing to accept the position.

## Mifflinburg Borough

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the <u>"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and</u> BOROUGH OFFICES" box on page 10.

### TAX COLLECTOR

*Salary:* Information unavailable *Vote for ONE.* 

No candidate filed in either party

### **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Salary: \$150 per meeting

EAST WARD Vote for ONE.

**Democratic** No candidate filed

### Republican MAURA McGLAUGHLIN HEIGES Education: 2013



Graduate of Mifflinburg Area High School, 2017 Graduate of Lock Haven University with a Bachelors of Science in Middle Level

Education, Currently earning Masters of Education in Special Education from Point Park University

**Occupation:** Teacher at Mifflinburg Middle School

**Qualifications:** Earned Managerial Certifications to operate Mifflinburg Park and Pool, Member of the Mifflinburg Park Advisory Committee, Years of experience as Game Manager for the Mifflinburg Athletic Department, Co-Advisor of Mifflinburg Middle School Envirothon Team

*Answer to question:* I was Mifflinburg's Park/Pool Manager for 3 years so I have an understanding of the Borough's operation, infrastructure, and budget. As a teacher and business owner I have a realistic sense of the direction for our future. I will share my understanding of what our youth need and

lessons learned as a successful business owner. As a young council member, I will bring new ideas, yet preserve our values and history. I plan to improve transparency, especially the activities of borough council committees. The biggest challenges we face are infrastructure issues, diminished community pride, and lack of funds to maintain our town. I will address these challenges through my experiences, eagerness for change, and passion to preserve our community.

WEST WARD

Vote for not more than TWO.

**Democratic** No candidate filed

### Democratic/Republican COLBEY RUSSELL



*Education:* 2011 Graduate of Mifflinburg Area School District; Bachelor of Arts: Education & Psychology, Bucknell University expected

completion May of 2024

**Occupation:** Over a decade of Public Service including: Evan Hospital Security & EMT, Union County Deputy Sheriff, Public Safety Manager, Small Business Owner of SEE Consulting LLC

**Qualifications:** Vice President Mifflinburg Heritage and Revitalization Association; Christkindl Market Board Member; Eagle Scout; Susquehanna Valley Law Enforcement Camp Cadet Counselor; Educator in Workplace Violence Prevention, Violent Critical Incident Response, De-Escalation, Inclusive/Equitable Safety Networks

Answer to question: After interviewing for a vacant Council position in '22, residents should know that the council lacks innovative vision and nepotism on Council leads to a serious lack of accountability & transparency. The success of Christkindl Market is important but we must address safety concerns and the inconvenience it causes local residents. We're raising our family here, and I believe in creating a community where residents feel a sense of belonging and connection through recreation and volunteering. Our water and sewer infrastructure is declining, utility costs are rising, and we cannot retain dedicated employees because of low wages. I look forward to addressing these challenges as part of a new generation that is stepping up to guide our Borough.

# Republican **MATTHEW WAGNER**



*Education:* Bachelor's degree from Susquehanna University, graduate studies at Penn State University

**Occupation:** Retired teacher, professional Church musician

*Qualifications:* Councilman for 1.5 years, Chair of Personnel Committee; member of Finance Committee responsible for budget planning.

Answer to question: The recruitment and retention of employees for our borough services crew has been a challenge for us. It has been particularly difficult to attract qualified individuals to staff our electrical, water and sewer crews. The borough needs to explore ways to provide competitive wages and benefit packages to attract skilled employees without placing undue burden upon our citizens. Because the borough does not levy a tax, we derive our revenue from electric, water, and sewer rates. Even though our rates may be a bit higher than in surrounding communities, our borough continues to provide excellent services without levying a tax on our citizens.

### **MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

### **REGION 2**

For candidates and their responses, see <u>"MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS"</u> on page 17.

# New Berlin Borough

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the "DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES" box on page 10.

### TAX COLLECTOR

*Salary:* \$1 per tax duplicate *Vote for ONE.* 

No candidate filed in either party

### **BOROUGH COUNCIL**

*Salary:* \$25 per month *Vote for not more than THREE.* 

### Democratic DAVID FARMER



*Education:* HS in New Jersey; Univ. of Delaware, undergraduate; Oklahoma State Univ., graduate school

Occupation: Mathematician

*Qualifications:* Longtime concerned resident of New Berlin

*Answer to question:* Our biggest challenge is communication between the residents and the Borough Council. The problem goes in both directions. The Borough Council does not have an effective system for considering and responding to resident concerns, and the New Berlin community is generally unaware of the work done by the council. I will work to improve communication in both directions. With effective communication we can work better, together.

### Republican BARRY KUHNS Response not provided

Republican LYNDA K. FREDERICK Response not provided New Berlin Borough Council, cont.

### Republican **BARBARA L. STAMM**



Occupation: Retired Commonwealth of PA **Oualifications:** At least

2 full terms experience on the Borough Council.

I've been a volunteer in various New Berlin organizations for years. Small Town living is important to me.

Answer to question: Since Covid, New Berlin like many other small communities, is experiencing transition. On the 2 blocks near my home I can count at least 6 homes that have been sold. The new residents are much younger than myself. I welcome them to the community. I encourage them to participate in the town's activities, churches, borough council meetings and other organizations. You've chosen New Berlin to be your home town. I invite you to introduce yourself to me and I guarantee you I'll be receptive to your presence and ideas you wish to share.

## AUDITORS

Salary: \$120 per year

6 Year Term, 4 Year Unexpired Term Vote for ONE for each term.

No candidate filed in either party

### MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS

### **REGION 1**

For candidates and their responses, see "MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on page 17.

# **UNION TOWNSHIP**

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the **"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES**" box on page 10.

### SUPERVISOR

Salary: \$150 per month Vote for ONE.

Democratic DAN GREAK



Education: High School Diploma Occupation: Self Employed: Dan Greak Home Improvements (Since 1985), Dan

Greak's School Of TaeKwon-Do (Since 1990)

Qualifications: Sole Proprietor of my General Contracting Business for over 38 years. Sole Proprietor of my TaeKwon-Do School for over 33 years.

Answer to question: We are not prepared for the changes that are coming to our township with the new thruway. There are no laws in our township to prevent unwanted businesses from moving in; for example, landfills, strip clubs, adult bookstores, and bars. Would you want any of these in our township? I do not! A local game protector informed me that the state was in negotiations with the owners of the quarry to acquire it and turn it into state game lands. I would like to facilitate these talks. We also have a serious run-off water problem. Our roads and properties are being eroded. We need to investigate grants to place a series of catch basins throughout our township to slow the water down. Prohibit "Jake Brakes" throughout the entire township!

Website: facebook.com/ dangreakforsupervisor

Republican TODD M. WRIGHT Response not provided

## AUDITOR

Salary: Information unavailable Vote for ONE.

Democratic No candidate filed

### Republican **CHRIS WHEELAND**

Response not provided

### LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS

For candidates and their responses, see "LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on page 15.

# **UNION-INDEPENDENT**

For all Union-Independent offices, see information under Union Township. Ballots in the precincts of Union and Union-Independent differ only by school director.

### MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS

### **REGION 1**

For candidates and their responses, see "MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on page 17.

# West Buffalo Township

*For the descriptions of offices and the* question asked of candidates, see the **"DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES"** box on page 10.

### **SUPERVISORS**

Salary: \$150 per month Vote for ONE.

Democratic No candidate filed

Republican ERIC N. WAGNER

Education: BA, Pennsylvania State University, 1994; Diploma, Mifflinburg Area High School, 1989

Occupation: Abstractor **Qualifications:** A registered elector, and, resident continuously for 17 years, of West Buffalo Township

Answer to question: While rural townships face many challenges, one of the biggest is the maintenance of public township roads and bridges, and, securing enough funding for that purpose. Supervisors attempt to address this by prioritizing projects based on necessity and how far the dollar can be "stretched", and unfortunately, end up postponing other much-needed projects as a result. Securing enough funding is always challenging; this is attempted through prudent management policies, and obtaining any available grant money which can be complicated and very competitive and only covers so much.

### **AUDITORS**

Salary: \$10 per hour

6 Year Term, 4 Year Unexpired Term Vote for ONE for each term.

No candidate filed in either party

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Salary: \$1 per parcel Vote for ONE.

No candidate filed in either party

## MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS

### **REGION 2**

For candidates and their responses, see "MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on page 17.

# ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR DEMOCRACY

BACKGROUND: In 2016, the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area (LWVLA) was the recipient of a generous grant from League members Rebecca and James Mauch for the purpose of identifying and implementing strategies for engaging young people in the civic life of our democracy.

MISSION: The mission of the LWVLA Mauch Millennial Project is to engage young people in the civic life of our democracy in the United States in general, and specifically in the LWVLA's service area of Union County, PA. To that end, the LWVLA Mauch Millennial Project began developing and implementing a series of initiatives beginning in 2016.

**MAUCH INITIATIVES:** The initiatives include activities at local high schools and middle schools, various voter education events, community civic engagement opportunities for young adults, the Bucknell-Mauch Fellowship Program (co-sponsored with the Bucknell Political Science Department), a LWVLA-sponsored voting exhibit at the Lewisburg Children's Museum, and online resources for voters.

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF THE LEWISBURG AREA

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT, VISIT THE LWVLA WEBSITE AT: LWVLewisburgArea.org/Mauch-Millennial-Project

Education: HS education Clerical Supervisor,

# White Deer Township

For the descriptions of offices and the question asked of candidates, see the "DESCRIPTIONS of TOWNSHIP and BOROUGH OFFICES" box on page 10.

### **SUPERVISOR**

Salary: \$1875 per year Vote for ONE.

**Democratic** No candidate filed



Republican

*Education:* BS -Environmental Science from Messiah College, high school diploma -Northern Bedford County HS

Occupation: Construction Project Manager

*Qualifications:* Member of the WDTSA Board, currently serving as Vice Chairman

Answer to question: Balancing the challenges of creating opportunities for business & economic growth while considering limited and aging infrastructure and maintaining our rural heritage. I would work with current officials to explore options that would allow new businesses to call WD Township home. Part of this process would be analyzing our current infrastructure, determining needs for expanding or building new facilities, bridges, etc., researching loan and grant opportunities to minimize the cost to the Township and its Residents and impacts on the overall dynamic of our Township and its resources.

## AUDITOR

*Salary:* \$35 per year, 1 meeting *Vote for ONE.* 

No candidate filed in either party

### **MILTON SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

### **REGION 3**

For candidates and their responses, see <u>"MILTON SCHOOL DIRECTORS" on</u> page 18.

# SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Description of office: School Directors are members of a board that sets policy, determines the annual budget and levies taxes accordingly, evaluates the Superintendent, and monitors student achievement. The Board focuses on governance, while the Superintendent is responsible for the daily operation of the district. Boards meet at least monthly in addition to committee meetings and executive sessions.

Salary: None Term: 4 years

### QUESTIONS ASKED of ALL SCHOOL DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

- 1. How will you approach decisions on controversial issues when community members have conflicting views about the actions the School Board should take?
- 2. School board members have collective authority rather than individual. How will you foster a spirit of collaboration with your fellow board members to successfully work together on behalf of the students?

### **LEWISBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

The Lewisburg Area School District includes Lewisburg Borough, East Buffalo Township, Kelly Township, and the Precinct of Union. School Directors are elected at large representing all municipalities in the district. For description of office and the questions asked of candidates, see the "SCHOOL DIRECTORS" box above.

Vote for not more than FIVE.

### Democratic ERIN JABLONSKI



*Education:* Ph.D. Chemical Engineering *Occupation:* Associate Dean & Director of Pre-College Engineering Programs, College of Engineering,

Bucknell University

**Qualifications:** Serving second school board term; previous Treasurer, current President. President and Co-Founder of Lewisburg Children's Museum. 20 years experience instructing/leading K-12 STEM outreach programs, including visiting schools throughout PA. 15+ years college teaching experience.

Answer to question 1: The most important way to approach such decisions is with an open mind, and to listen carefully and gather relevant information. Community stakeholders are welcome to come to school board meetings or submit comments via email or other means, and the board as a whole considers all of this input when deliberating controversial topics. Often there are competing priorities and significant financial implications to weigh against a limited budget - these decisions can be some of the most difficult because we need to consider both the current and future needs of the district. Laws, policies, circumstances and best practices evolve over time, so it can sometimes happen that an issue that had been resolved before will need to be discussed again.

Answer to question 2: The key part of this question is its focus on working together on behalf of students; I am confident that the opportunities and experiences we want to provide for all students are always top of mind when we are deciding policy and allocating resources. We are fortunate in Lewisburg to have a collaborative group; we prepare well so that during meetings we can discuss and arrive at decisions that represent the will of the whole board. A way to maintain esprit de corps is to celebrate the successes of our students and staff, and acknowledge how fortunate we are. Communication

and transparency are essential for good collaboration, so that all board members have the information that they need to bring their recommendations to the conversation.

### Website: facebook.com/ erinjablonskiLASDboard

### Democratic ASHLEY ANNE GRANT



*Education:* B.A., Linguistics, Georgetown University; M.S., Education, Saint Joseph's University; Ph.D., Education, Johns

Hopkins University *Occupation:* Education Researcher (Johns Hopkins University, evaluating school programs)

**Qualifications:** School board (5 years) – Holy Angels Catholic School; Teaching experience (9 years) – 3 as a 5th grade teacher, and 6 in higher ed; Education research and policy (8 years) – Johns Hopkins; Soon-to-beparent of future Lewisburg student

Answer to question 1: In any difficult conversation, I think it will be important to make sure everyone is heard. In my prior school board experience, there are often underlying worries surrounding these difficult conversations, and it will be important for us to acknowledge those issues. I also think that, to reach any consensus, we'll need to recall our shared values and core mission: a top quality education for all Lewisburg students. Finally, as I've learned through my research partnerships with school districts, I think that it will be essential to seek community input on decisions so that everyone feels like a partner in the process. After seeking this input, we'll then need to explain how it was incorporated into decisions in the interest of transparency.

Answer to question 2: Collaboration is built upon a firm foundation of mutual respect and trust. Building this respect and trust requires relationship building and honest conversation. Deep listening is a key part of developing a better understanding of one another on the school board and involves giving a space for everyone's voice to be heard-and feel understood. This listening, without interruption, should occur within meetings but also should be bolstered by activities outside meetings. Time during, adjacent, and outside meetings should be cultivated for dialogue about our shared values and mission (supporting the Lewisburg School District) and also getting to know one another as people.

Website: facebook.com/ashleygrantlewisburg

(continued on next page)

### Democratic JUSTIN M. MADAUS



Education: Doctorate of Psychology in clinical psychology from Adler University in Chicago, IL Occupation: Licensed

Psychologist and

Counselor at Commonwealth University Lock Haven Campus

**Oualifications:** Parent, Educator, and Former PA School Board Member

Answer to question 1: My goal as a professional and as a representative of the community is to listen, understand, reflect, and gather as much information as is available to make well-reasoned decisions.

Answer to question 2: For me, collaboration starts with the belief that all members of the board sought office and are present because they believe in the mission of public education and want the best in academics and environment for our students, staff, and community. With that belief, debate and disagreement can be respectful and healthy, leading to balanced and thoughtful decisions by the board as a whole.

### **Democratic / Republican** JORDAN W. FETZER



Education: Lewisburg Area High School, '06; Bucknell University, B.A. Spanish and Sociology, '10 Occupation: Small **Business Owner** 

Qualifications: LASD

School Board, 8 years; Vice President of LASD School Board, 2 years; President of LASD School Board, 2 years; CPA Chamber of Commerce Business and Education Committee member, 5 years; SUN Tech representative, 2 years

Answer to question 1: Over the past 8 years of being on the board, I have been faced with many difficult and controversial decisions. I have approached each scenario with an ability to understand the different perspectives and what makes the topic so controversial to each party. Budgeting, for instance, is a topic that will never satisfy every single constituent in our district. My parents, for example, have been married for 47 years and still occasionally disagree on how they should budget. If this is the case for a household budget, imagine trying to please an entire district with drastically different backgrounds. While my decision on a budget might not make everybody happy, my ability take a logical approach rather than an emotional one has proven successful

Answer to question 2: It is very easy to take a stance on something when you are passionate about it. My positive experiences in the Lewisburg district as a K-12 student was my

# ELECTION SECURITY

The PA Department of State addresses Election Security with:

- More Security in Voting
- More Robust Post-Election Audits
- Safe & Secure Voter Registration & Voting Systems

For more information, go to:

vote.pa.gov/About-Elections/Pages/Election-Security.aspx

motivation to run for election 8 years ago with the sole intent of fighting for each student. I have seen many board members come and go, many having joined the board with a hidden agenda. I have seen how detrimental it is for a school board to be divided and lose sight of keeping the students as the focus. The ability to communicate with fellow board members, even if your opinion is different than others, is paramount in keeping the board moving forward as a collective group.

### **Democratic / Republican** CORY HEATH



Education: Bachelors in Biology from University of Mississippi; Masters in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University

Qualifications: 8 years serving on Lewisburg

Area School Board. 4 years as Vice-President of the Lewisburg School Board.

Answer to question 1: I will always listen to community members to gather their input and opinions, but ultimately I make decisions based on what I personally believe is in the best interest of students, parents and tax payers.

Answer to question 2: In eight years on the Lewisburg School Board I have worked with board members of various backgrounds. I have found that treating people with respect and holding to the common ground of "what is best for students" tends to smooth over any other differences.

### Republican LAURA E. GRAVER



Education: BA, University of Pennsylvania; MBA, Saint Joseph's University Haub School of Business **Occupation:** 

Hematology Clinical Account Specialist Qualifications: Mother of 3 LASD students; Lewisburg small business owner; Green Dragon Foundation, Advisor; YMCA Lewisburg, pool committee member; Union County election poll volunteer

Answer to question 1: My approach would be proactive communication with multiple stakeholders before, during and after decisions are made. Often, those who will be most impacted may not initially speak up. I would encourage active dialogue and full transparency at all stages of the decision process. I take seriously the impact of school board decisions not only on LASD, but also the taxpayers and community that surrounds the district.

Answer to question 2: Thoughtful questions, nonjudgemental listening and clever solutions have been my keys to success in multiple areas of work and life. I will respect the contributions of other board members and our outstanding students and faculty!

### Republican TERA UNZICKER-FASSERO



**Education:** University of Nebraska-Biology, Pacific University College of Optometry -OD

Occupation: Optometrist-Business owner **Qualifications:** Current Board Director-2010present, CSIU 2013-2017, TAI board 2015-2022, Next Century 2014-current-past president.

Answer to question 1: My experience on the board has helped me grow as a school director. I have been through facilities planning/construction, budgets, and contract negotiations with all of the various labor groups. I have served through a pandemic, 4 superintendents, 4 school board presidents and a complete turnover of board members. I have also served on other boards and volunteered my time throughout various school, community, church, and occupational associations. With every experience I learn something new about myself as well as the people around me. I have learned to not be reactionary and most importantly I listen to understand before offering a response. It helps to be as transparent as possible while focusing on common ground to resolve conflict.

Answer to question 2: School districts that thrive have collaborative boards and working relationships with personnel as well as the

community. Decisions involving budget, safety, staffing and curriculum are handled at every meeting. I try to listen and evaluate differing opinions before voting. If the board cannot work together the business of the school will suffer and everyone loses in that situation. It is imperative that all voices can be heard, not just the majority. We have to work together as a team and keep student's education as the top priority. The local tax base is the biggest supporter of the district. If we work as a team, we can be innovative and find ways to reduce spending and try to ease the tax burden of the community stakeholders!

### Republican **ROSS MUIR**



Education: Penn State University: Bachelor of Science: Kinesiology **Occupation:** Medical **Device Sales** Representative **Oualifications:** 

Personally: I'm the proud father of three daughters in the Lewisburg Area School District. Professionally, I manage a multimillion dollar budget, working to deliver the best care possible in an efficient and cost-effective way for the patients of our community and the company that I work for.

Answer to question 1: If a controversial issue presents itself to me, I believe that it's important to remember three main things. One, whoever is bringing up their point has a right to be heard and should be given the opportunity to present their side on a given subject. Two, I think it's important to understand that it's ok to disagree with someone while still coming to a mutually beneficial outcome. Third, with all controversial issues; all members should remember why we are all here in the first place; our foundation should be built upon wanting the absolute best for the students, the employees of the district and the taxpayers who fund it. If we can start every discussion from a common foundation. I believe that the best days are ahead for Lewisburg!

Answer to question 2: What excites me most about joining the school board is working alongside eight members of our community that truly want the best for our children, the staff, and district! Knowing that each member represents a different perspective and brings a different set of skills to the board should bring about the very best in the fabric of our community. I'm excited to share my professional expertise where I can, but am equally excited to learn from the other members of the board. Lewisburg Area School District is a great springboard for the future generations of our community, at large. I believe that if we can all start with a mutual alignment of wanting the best for our community, the students and staff; we will be able to accomplish our goals!

### **MIFFLINBURG SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

The Mifflinburg Area School District consists of Hartleton, Mifflinburg, and New Berlin Boroughs; Buffalo, Hartley, Lewis, Limestone, and West Buffalo Townships; and the Precinct of Union-Independent. School Directors are elected to represent specific municipalities. For description of office and the question asked of candidates, see the <u>"SCHOOL</u> <u>DIRECTORS" box on page 15</u>.

### **MIFFLINBURG REGION 1**

**Region 1** of the Mifflinburg School district consists of New Berlin Borough, Buffalo and Limestone Townships, and the Precinct of Union-Independent.

Vote for not more than TWO.

### Democratic JANELL WEAVER



*Education:* Bachelor's of Science in Nursing

*Occupation:* Registered Nurse at Geisinger Medical Center

**Qualifications:** I am a mother of two students in the district. I am a special education advocate and am very involved in helping parents understand their rights. And for the past 3.5 years I have served on the school board, learning as much as possible across all committees and topics. Answer to question 1: My decision-making approach on controversial issues will be to actively listen to community members, including seeking out the views of less vocal constituents. This can be accomplished through community forums, surveys, or one-on-one communication. Then I need to educate myself on the facts and laws, including current guidance on any issues that may be developing or ongoing, as well as our own district policies. Once I've made a decision, I will explain how I got there. I believe that explanation piece is important in the spirit of transparency and communication. Finally, I will never act unethically. I believe the board should develop a Code of Conduct & Ethics to hold all members accountable to our stakeholders.

Answer to question 2: A great starting place to begin board collaboration is to remind one another of our district Vision statement, which includes the following: "Everything we do is about educating young people," and "Working together makes us stronger." The board must work together to function as our district and students need us to. To foster a spirit of collaboration, I will cultivate honest and open communication by seeking out the views of my fellow board members while sharing my own knowledge and perspectives. This could help build an understanding of differing points of view so that even when we disagree, we can do so respectfully. After all, the way we conduct ourselves is just as important as what we say when working as a team.

### Republican JOSHUA D. MOSER



*Education:* Bachelors Degree Business Management emphasis Marketing from Susquehanna University *Occupation:* Sales for Sporoco Inc

**Qualifications:** Dedicated team player, Financially responsible, Communication skills, Reliable, Conflict resolution

*Answer to question 1:* By listening to the tax payers of the community. All members need to be heard and there thoughts need to be tabled for discussion. We were not created to all be the same individual but rather diverse. I am the person who can listen and accept all issues in order to review and process from the community. I will always be fair and base decisions off of the majority of the community in what they have to say about the Mifflinburg School District.

*Answer to question 2:* I am a parent of a Mifflinburg student and hear what is going on in the Schools from Teachers and Faculty. I also help coach a youth softball team in Mifflinburg. I hear many thoughts from students and parents on what they approve and disapprove of in our School District. I would table what I hear in our community and discuss with my fellow board members on all concerns.

### Republican MINDY BENFER



*Education:* Mifflinburg HS, 1998; South Hills Business School, 2000 *Occupation:* Subrogation Analyst *Qualifications:* New

Hope Bible Church Board, treasurer, 2004-2007

*Answer to question 1:* A school board's responsibility is to have the big picture in view. The priority is students and what is best for them. I will listen actively to acknowledge all community members' views and concerns, keep open communication to provide and share transparency to all, and look at different points of view.

*Answer to question 2:* I will work in collaboration with fellow board members by expressing and respecting others' contributions and opinions, being open minded, recognizing the shared vision with clearly defined success, and placing students above our own personal satisfaction. We can work well together when we really listen to one another. Providing and being provided communication is important.

# \*\*\*\*



# n us in making our communities fair, vibrant, and strong!

If you found this VOTERS GUIDE informative and helpful, please consider joining the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA

All women and men who are 16 years of age or older are welcome to join. The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA serves all of Union County. We need your help in encouraging voters' informed participation in government and getting information about elections and candidates to all parts of Union County.

The LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS is a trusted and nonpartisan organization; we do not endorse any candidates or political parties. We work to increase understanding of major policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy at the national, state, and local levels. In Union County, we hold monthly lunch forums open to the public on topics relevant to our communities, publish the VOTERS GUIDE and FACTS FOR VOTERS, hold Candidates Nights, and more. Join us!



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Call: **570-524-4439** Email: **Iwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com** Website: <u>LWVLewisburgArea.org</u> Facebook: <u>facebook.com/LWVLA</u>

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### **MIFFLINBURG REGION 2**

**Region 2** of the Mifflinburg School District consists of Mifflinburg Borough and West Buffalo Township.

of Science in Nursing

**Occupation:** 

Registered Nurse

Qualifications: I am

a proud Mifflinburg

Vote for not more than TWO. Democratic

### AUTUMN FAUST



graduate who's raising my children in the district. I serve on the education committee on my unit at work, and have taken part in a variety of volunteer opportunities in the school.

Answer to question 1: It will be my job as a school board member to listen to the community, educators, staff, students, and any valid data and make the best decision I possibly can from the information presented. My priority will always be providing every one of our students with a safe school environment and a top notch education that allows them to reach their fullest potential.

Answer to question 2: In my job as a nurse we work together as a team to take the best care possible of our patients. We may all have slightly different ways of doing things, but our priority is always putting the patient first and I feel like we can definitely learn from one another by working together. I plan to take this exact spirit of teamwork into working together with fellow board members to provide the best possible school environment for our community.

Website: facebook.com/profile.php?id= 100090653935584&mibextid=ZbWKwL

### Republican TROY ZIMMERMAN

Response not provided

### Republican **CARL ANDY EMERY**



Education: 2001 Mifflinburg and SUN Tech graduate Occupation: Self employed, business owner, automotive repair

**Oualifications:** Parent, small business owner, and involved community member who has spent the last 3 years advocating for parental rights in education for our district.

Answer to question 1: When controversial issues arise, I will listen to all sides. I will always advocate for a common sense based solution that reflects the needs and moral values of my district.

Answer to question 2: I will maintain a positive attitude and give equal respect to my fellow directors, regardless of our personal views.

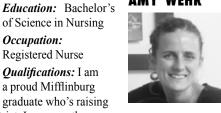
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### **MIFFLINBURG REGION 3**

**Region 3** of the Mifflinburg School District consists of Hartleton Borough and Hartley and Lewis Townships. Vote for ONE.

Democratic

### AMY WEHR



Education: Graduate of MAHS, Bachelor's of Sociology from PSU, Master's in Social Work from Marywood University

Occupation: Licensed Social Worker working for the CSIU

**Oualifications:** I have worked in public schools in the region since 2002, including Mifflinburg Schools for 11 years. I now work for the CSIU and have served on the MASD school board since 2019

Answer to question 1: This came up often during the pandemic. The highest importance for me has been to ensure that I understand the positions of the community. When I prioritize listening to families with concerns, I often learn that even people standing on the opposite sides of an issue have concerns that are very similar. Understanding the root of the concerns (such as our children developing positive values, parents not having enough of a voice, development of trust in administration, fair practices for students, etc.) helps me determine the questions I need to ask, and the research I need to do before voting. I work to get clarifying answers during public meetings, and then vote with best services to all students at the forefront of my mind.

Answer to question 2: My experiences on the board have taught me the value of having members with diverse experiences. The functions and operations of a public school are many, from budget to grounds keeping, curriculum and supply inventory, as well as personnel issues and direct instruction to students. Partnering with board members who have both knowledge (whether personal or professional) and vested interest in the district is critical for staying informed. Being able to engage in civil discourse within and across the team of 10 (board members and Superintendent) provide opportunity to not just enhance my own understanding, but to illuminate responses that address the concerns of the families and community members who are watching the meetings.

### Republican **TYLER SNOOK**

Response not provided

### **MILTON SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

### **REGION 3**

**Region 3** of the Milton School District includes White Deer Township in Union County, and the townships of Turbot and East Chillisquaque in Northumberland County. For description of office and question asked, see the "SCHOOL DIRECTORS" box on <u>page 15.</u>

Vote for not more than TWO.

### **Democratic/Republican KEVIN R. FRY**



Education: HS Graduate, Milton Area School District; Attended Williamsport Area Community College; Realtor License from Don Paul

Shearer Real Estate School

**Occupation:** Owner-AutoMotion, LLC Milton, PA

**Qualifications:** Actively served on Milton Area School Board for 22 years, including three terms as President and six terms as VP. I participated in PSBA School Director training over several years. and took various minicourses related to finance.

Answer to question 1: First and foremost, EVERY community member has the right to be heard. There is a specific process for community members to request time to speak on agenda items every month and there is also time set aside at the end of every meeting for community members to speak on other topics of interest or concern. The Board members should encourage respectful conversation. It is difficult in some cases for individuals to communicate their passion without becoming emotional. Therefore, reminding everyone before speaking that they should be respectful might help to keep things more civil.

Answer to question 2: All Board members have their own opinions and many have specific reasons for wanting to serve on the Board. Board members should feel comfortable enough to express their opinions and concerns, and ask questions for clarification or further information. No member should try to influence or intimidate others. ALL communication should occur in the public meeting unless it is a topic that requires an Executive Session. When the time comes, each individual should vote for or against the proposal set forth. Once the vote is final, members must respect the decision of the majority and work as a unified team.

### Republican ERIC D. MOSER

Education: BS in Agricultural Systems Management Pennsylvania State University Occupation: Farmer and sales rep for Pioneer Hi-Bred International

Qualifications: Incumbent with 5 years served.

Answer to question 1: My approach has always been to take the stance that is best for the students and the tax payers.

Answer to question 2: Communication is key. Have to be a good listener and treat each other with respect.

### WARRIOR RUN SCHOOL DIRECTOR

### **REGION 1**

Region 1 of the Warrior Run School District includes Gregg Township in Union County; West District of Delaware Township and Second Ward of Watsontown Borough in Northumberland County. For description of office and question asked, see the "SCHOOL DIRECTORS" box on page 15.

Vote for ONE. Democratic

# TAMARA K. HOFFMAN



Education: Bloomsburg Univ., BS/ **Business Administration Occupation:** Certified **Public Accountant** Qualifications: Warrior Run School

Board Member 10 years, CSIU board member Answer to question 1: It's important to listen to views from many sides of an issue so that the board may make an educated and informed decision. I believe in thoughtful and active listening to as many stakeholders as possible for data driven rather than emotional decisions. It may be appropriate to remind the public that some issues (such as those regarding personnel) can not be discussed by the board in public, to help prevent frustration on all sides. The board is to be transparent with data that has been gathered and the community has every right to share information, concerns and views on a topic. All parties involved should speak and act with respect in order to deescalate a controversial issue when emotions run high.

Answer to question 2: Respect is key in having a cohesive board. Conversations should be open and honest between board members without fear of ramifications or information leaks when discussing confidential matters in executive sessions. If a vote does not go the way I expect or want, I recognize that the boards collective decision is the final decision and would strive to follow the best path forward for the district constructively. I recognize that our common ground is to provide all Warrior Run students with the best education.

### Republican **MIRANDA E. BAILEY**

compromise.

Education: B.S. Management Occupation: Technical Analyst **Qualifications:** Want to make changes to help children's future Answer to question 1: I will listen to constituents and do what is best for the children. Answer to question 2: Work together and

# JUDICIAL RETENTION QUESTIONS

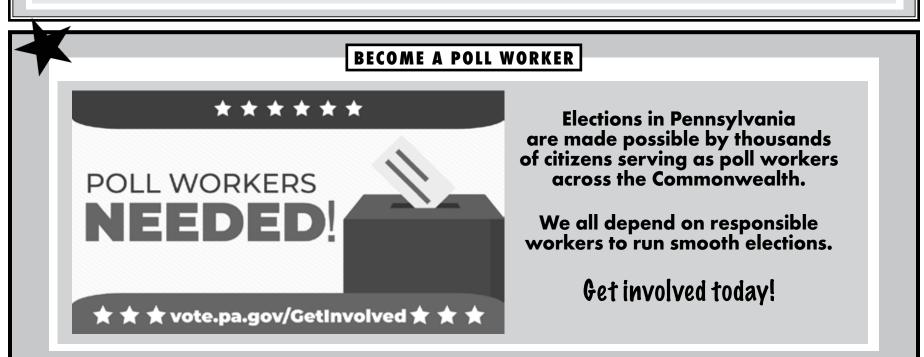
# **OFFICIAL JUDICIAL RETENTION**

According to <u>www.pacourts.us</u>, **retention** is a nonpolitical method of reelecting Pennsylvania judges. It is intended to be politically neutral and does not require judges to engage in campaigning against other candidates. **Retention** is specifically designed to keep judges out of the political fray while at the same time holding them accountable to the voters based on their overall records and performance in office. The intent is to provide a fair and nonpartisan way for the public to judge its judges. **The names of the candidates are listed at the end of the ballot**, **apart from other offices**. No political affiliation is listed for retention candidates.

PA Bar Association ratings and information for incumbent judges are available here: pavotesmart.com/current-judicial-ratings/

### SUPERIOR COURT

Shall Jack Panella be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? Yes <u>No</u> Shall Victor P. Stabile be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? Yes <u>No</u>



### POLL WORKER POSITIONS

These positions make up the local election board in each precinct:

- Judge of Election: the person in charge at the polling place
- Majority and Minority Inspectors of Election
- Clerk and Machine Inspector (also known as Machine Operator)

The Judge and Inspectors of Election, elected every four years, work together to manage the polling place, keep track of the number of voters, and make sure that the returns are delivered to the County Elections office at the end of the day. Clerks and machine inspectors, appointed by the County Board of Elections, help check-in voters, manage the lines, and make sure voters know where to go at each step in the voting process.

### HOW TO BECOME A POLL WORKER

At the website **vote.pa.gov**, there is a Poll Worker Interest form. To indicate that you are interested in becoming a poll worker, follow these steps:

- 1. If you are interested in becoming a poll worker fill out the Poll Worker Interest Form here:
- https://paebrprod.powerappsportals.us/EBR/DOS/Votes-PA-County/
- 2. After you submit the form, the County Elections office will contact you.
- **3.** You may reach out to the Elections office to follow up. You can find their contact information below.

### COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE: CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Union County Elections Office Union County Government Center 155 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837 Phone: 570-524-8681 Website: <u>unioncountypa.org</u> (under Departments, choose <u>Elections & Voter Registration</u>; then click How do I get involved?)

# UNION COUNTY POLLING PLACES

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

# BUFFALO 1 BUFFALO 2

EAST BUFFALO 1 EAST BUFFALO 2 EAST BUFFALO 3 EAST BUFFALO 4 GREGG HARTLETON HARTLEY KELLY 1 KELLY 2 LEWIS

LEWISBURG 1 LEWISBURG 2 LEWISBURG 3 LEWISBURG 4 LIMESTONE MIFFLINBURG EAST MIFFLINBURG WEST NEW BERLIN UNION/ UNION/ UNION-INDEPENDENT WEST BUFFALO WHITE DEER 1 WHITE DEER 2 WHITE DEER 3

WHITE DEER 4

Buffalo Township Municipal Bldg., 2115 Strickler Rd., Mifflinburg Buffalo Valley United Methodist Church, 954 Johnson Mill Rd., Lewisburg East Buffalo Township Municipal Bldg., 589 Fairground Rd., Lewisburg Public Library for Union County, 255 Reitz Blvd., Lewisburg Donald H. Eichhorn Middle School, 2057 Washington Ave., Lewisburg Weis Center, Bucknell University, 525 Weis Dr., Lewisburg Warrior Run Area Social Hall, 196 White Deer Ave., Allenwood Union Church, 115 Catherine St., Hartleton Hartley Township Rec. Center, 49 Ball Park Rd., Millmont Kelly Township Bldg., 551 Zeigler Rd., Lewisburg United in Christ Lutheran Church, 1875 Churches Rd., West Milton Lewis Township Municipal Bldg. (Village Green), 116 Maple St., Millmont Masonic Hall, 28 N. Front St., Lewisburg Union County Courthouse Lobby, 103 S. 2nd St., Lewisburg Larison Hall, Bucknell University, 521 St. George St., Lewisburg St. John's United Church of Christ, 1050 Buffalo Rd., Lewisburg Limestone Township Municipal Bldg., 3840 Wildwood Rd., Mifflinburg Mifflinburg High School, 75 Market St., Mifflinburg First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 404 Market St., Mifflinburg New Berlin Community Center, 318 Vine St., New Berlin Union Township Fire Company, 40 Municipal Ln., Winfield West Buffalo Township Municipal Bldg., 577 Johnstown Rd., Mifflinburg White Deer Township Municipal Bldg., 2191 Creek Rd., New Columbia

New Columbia Civic Center, 224 3rd St., New Columbia

Faith Chapel United Methodist Church, 2155 White Deer Pike, White Deer

Bonanza Restaurant, 300 Commerce Park Dr., New Columbia