

# Susquehanna County Democrats Newsletter



## Important Dates

- Register to vote or update your registration - May 3
- Last day to apply for mail-in or civilian absentee ballot - May 11
- Municipal Primary - May 18
- Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in or civilian absentee ballots - May 18 by 8 P.M.

## Tell Your Friends!

Pennsylvania voters, **regardless of party affiliation**, may vote on the ballot questions during the primary.

Please tell your friends & family how important it is for them to vote on these ballot questions, no matter their party affiliation.

## Important Questions on the Ballot for the Primary

Four ballot questions, including three proposed constitutional amendments, will appear on the ballot during the primary election on May 18. Two of them are designed to limit the powers of our governor.

- ◆ Proposed Amendment - Article III, Section 9  
Termination or Extension of Disaster Emergency  
Declarations

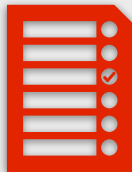
“Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to change existing law and increase the power of the General Assembly to unilaterally terminate or extend a disaster emergency declaration—and the powers of Commonwealth agencies to address the disaster regardless of its severity pursuant to that declaration—through passing a concurrent resolution by simple majority, thereby removing the existing check and balance of presenting a resolution to the Governor for approval or disapproval?”

## Upcoming Events

- Spring Fling at New Milford Park - May 8 at 1 P.M.
- Patriot Picnic at Hallstead Park (next to the ball field) on July 18
- Montrose 4th of July Parade
- Booth at the Harford Fair

## What's the Annual Mail-In Ballot Request?

You now have the option to request to be added to the annual mail-in ballot request list where you'll receive an application to renew your mail-in ballot request each year. Once your request is approved, you will automatically receive ballots for the remainder of the year, and you do not need to submit an application for each election.



- ◆ Proposed Constitutional Amendment - Article IV, Disaster Emergency Declaration and Management

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

Disaster declarations are key to protecting Pennsylvanians and delivering federal and state aid to those in need. These two ballot questions, if passed, would jeopardize the checks and balances that keep one branch of government from becoming too powerful. Vote “NO” to keep partisan gridlock out of state emergencies.

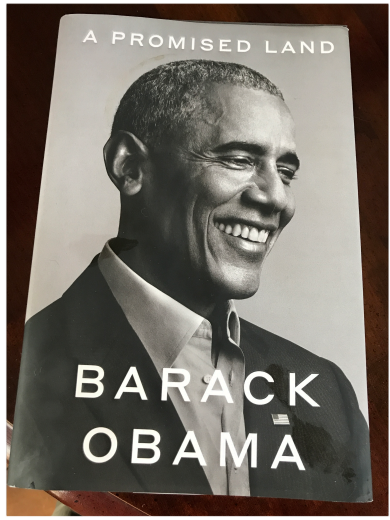
## A Closer Look at the Proposed Racial Equality Amendment

Voters will be asked to decide if they want to add an amendment to Pennsylvania’s Constitution that would prohibit denying an individual their rights based on their race or ethnicity.

- ◆ Proposed Constitutional Amendment - Article I, Prohibition Against Denial or Abridgment of Equality of Rights Because of Race or Ethnicity

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

This may seem like an unlikely issue to be brought forward by a Republican-controlled legislature, but public radio



## A Promised Land

Barbara Scott led a book group on Barack Obama's memoir, "A Promised Land." A group of individuals met every two weeks to discuss each section of the book. Our discussions were a lot of fun! We talked about how the book resonated with us and the connections between Obama's time in office and today.

If you have a book that you think would be great for a book group discussion, please email [kfry12484@gmail.com](mailto:kfry12484@gmail.com)



station WITF, Harrisburg, in a June 29, 2020 story, "Two for the price of one: pair of proposed amendments head to Pa. House," explains. The subtitle states, "Bid to limit governor's emergency powers is tied to racial equality measure."

You can read the full story [here](#).

Republican legislators, annoyed at Gov. Wolf's comparatively successful statewide pandemic shutdown last year, want to curtail the governor's future powers to declare a statewide emergency, as shown in two other questions on the ballot.

Votes for the bill fell along party lines, but when a senator from the Philadelphia area added the racial equality bill to the package, it passed almost unanimously. The racial equality amendment came about as a response to police brutality and Black Lives Matter protests, according to WITF.

Under Pennsylvania law, getting a Constitutional amendment in front of the voters requires that the proposed amendment pass both houses of the legislature in two consecutive sessions. And in order to garner enough votes, the emergency powers-limiting bill was tied to the racial equality bill, as the WITF story explained.

So, two for the price of one, however, the measures are independent ballot questions, and voters will vote on them separately.

This amendment applies to all Pennsylvania state, county and local governmental entities, and guarantees equality of rights under the law, according to an explanation provided by the state attorney general. The amendment, if enacted, will become a part of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

For more information on the ballot questions, [click here](#).

## Combating Misinformation on Facebook

From last November until March of this year, Facebook banned pages from running new political/social ads, as a means to combat misinformation. Unfortunately, this ban hurt organizations like ours that were trying to spread facts within a county that is overrun with QAnon conspiracy theories.

Thankfully, the ban was lifted and we were able to run ads again. Memes, however, are a quick and easy way to share facts on Facebook, as well as other social media platforms. If you see memes shared by the Susquehanna County Democrats or IDWSC, please take a moment and share them. Help us combat misinformation by sharing these memes to your Facebook circle.



## Celebrating Women’s History Month

In March, we celebrated Women’s History Month with different types of content, including a podcast from Reality Check Chat, which is sponsored by the Independent Democratic Women of Susquehanna County (IDWSC). “Podsters” Barbara Scott, Liz Kearney, Judy Herschel and Kate Fry discussed women who’ve influenced them, like author Maya Angelou, Senator Tammy Duckworth and more.

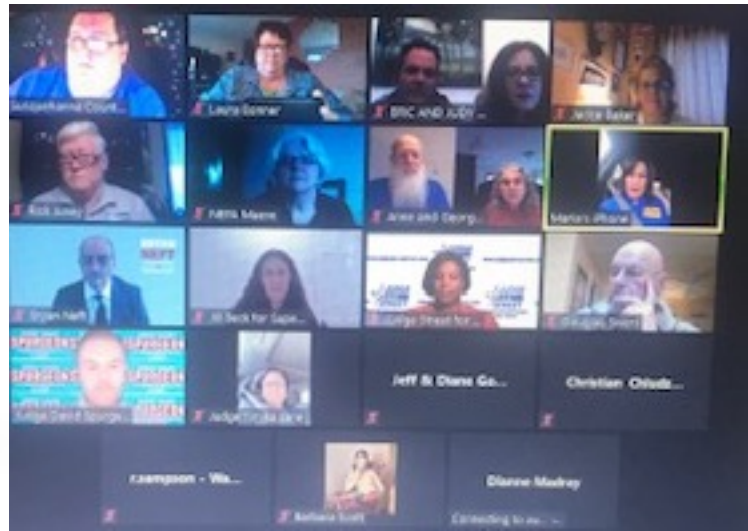
In addition, on March 8, 2021, we celebrated International Women’s Day with a Facebook Live event, co-sponsored by the Susquehanna Dems, IDWSC and Let the Women Speak. Diane Madray of Let the Women Speak spoke with guest Jane Kleeb, chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party and author of “Harvest the Vote: How Democrats Can Win Again in Rural America.”



Jane Kleeb speaks with members of IDWSC.

# Recap: The Pennsylvania Judicial Candidates Forum

On Sunday, April 25, eight judicial candidates for the PA Supreme Court, PA Superior Court and the Commonwealth Court participated in a virtual Q&A forum.



The event was held in partnership with Wayne, Bradford, Wyoming and Susquehanna County Democratic Committees. When attendees registered for the event in advance they submitted their questions to the candidates ahead of time. Judicial candidates who participated in the forum, as well as their websites, are listed below.



Many thanks to Jackie Baker, Tom Charles and Christian Chludzinski for organizing this informative event.

Candidate	Court	Website
Judge David Lee Spurgeon	Commonwealth Court	<a href="http://judgedavidspurgeon4commonwealthcourt/">judgedavidspurgeon4commonwealthcourt/</a>
Judge Lori A. Dumas	Commonwealth Court	<a href="http://judgedumas2021.com">judgedumas2021.com</a>
Judge Sierra Street	Commonwealth Court	<a href="http://judgesierrastreet.com">judgesierrastreet.com</a>
Amanda Green Hawkins	Commonwealth Court	<a href="http://amandagreenhawkins.com">amandagreenhawkins.com</a>
Judge Jill Beck	Superior Court	<a href="http://www.jillbeck.com">www.jillbeck.com</a>
Judge Timika Lane	Superior Court	<a href="http://judgelane.com">judgelane.com</a>
Judge Bryan Left	Superior Court	<a href="http://hbryanneft.com">hbryanneft.com</a>
Judge Maria McLaughlin	Supreme Court	<a href="http://judgemclaughlin.com">judgemclaughlin.com</a>



## Let's Get Social!

Do you have a social media account? Please follow the Susquehanna County Democrats on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and share our posts to spread facts, upcoming events, news articles and more to our communities.

**Facebook:**  
@susquehannadems

**Instagram:**  
@susquehannadems

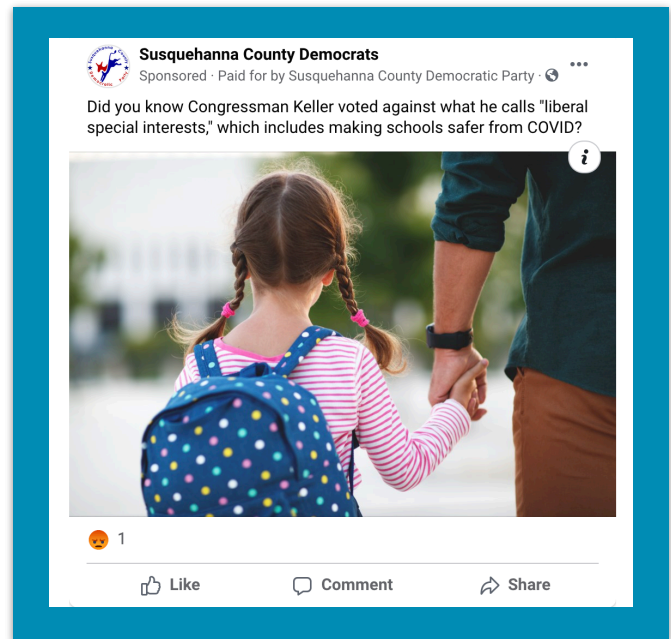
**Twitter:**  
@susquehannadems

# Facebook Ad Update

Congressman Fred Keller voted “NO” against the American Rescue Plan that was passed by Congress. His reasoning was that the plan supported “liberal special interests.” We ran some Facebook ads explaining exactly how the American Rescue Plan benefitted individuals in our community. You can view these ads below.

## Ad Performance:

- These ads ran from March 14 - March 25
- Total reach: 13,322 people
- **Total amount spent:** \$35.46
- **Target area:** 50 miles from New Milford, in all directions



[www.susquehannadems.com](http://www.susquehannadems.com)  
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