

Susquehanna County Democrats Newsletter



Don't Forget These Important Dates

- Last day to apply for mail-in or civilian absentee ballot - Oct. 26, 2021
- Municipal Election - Nov. 2, 2021
- Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in or civilian absentee ballots - Nov. 2, 2021, by 8 P.M.
- Petition Breakfast - Feb. 19, 2022

No Fraud, 99 Votes for Biden. Republican Legislature Undaunted in Their Quest for a Forensic Audit

By Barbara Scott

Many of you have read about the "forensic audit" recount of 2020 presidential election votes in Maricopa County, Arizona. This outrageous display of partisanship was part of a mission to insert terms like "voter fraud" and "forensic audit," in the minds and hearts of Trump supporters, to give them hope in overturning the fair and democratic win of President Biden.

The highly right wing, private, inexperienced organization Cyber Ninjas, that was hired by the Republicans in Arizona turned up no fraud after months of playing around with the ballots, under loud objections from the Republican dominated Maricopa

County Election Board, who had deemed their part in the 2020 election fair and above board. They certified the win of President Biden. This travesty of a voting audit was paid for with a combination of taxpayer money and private right wing billionaire donations, up to \$6 million. In the end, it turned up extra votes for President Biden and discovered no fraud. Now our PA Republican-controlled legislature, in an effort to gain recognition with the voters who think there was fraud, continue to push for an audit through some kind of private (read partisan) organization, at taxpayer expense. This is since their ploy to get the voting machines from Tioga, Philadelphia and York counties did not pan out.

The Republicans, your representatives in Harrisburg, have subpoenaed the PA Department of State for the personal information of you and 6.9 million other voters. They asked for your driver's license number, the last four digits of your social security number and more information they claim they need to be sure that you were eligible to vote in 2020!

Please call your PA representatives in Harrisburg and tell them how you feel about this. Ask them if it's legal to take your data and share it with a private contractor. Show some

The Faces of Our Party

By Liz Kearney

From time to time, your newsletter team likes to profile Susquehanna County Democrats who hold local elected office. One such Democrat is Thompson Borough Council President Joni Kaiser.

Kaiser has been on the council since 2011. She was initially appointed to fill a vacancy, but has since then run and been elected. Party affiliation in a small jurisdiction doesn't seem to concern the borough's 300 voters.

"People see if you get stuff done," Kaiser said. "They don't care what party you belong to."

Kaiser enjoys the work, which isn't as "glorious," she joked, as some people might imagine.

"The sewer plant is mostly what we deal with," Kaiser said. "And people who don't want to pay their bills."

If you think you might like to run for a borough seat or other elected position, Kaiser suggests to attend a few meetings.

"Go watch a meeting and see the kind of stuff people do, look at the agendas," she said. "Talk to others who are in office."

Kaiser says the duties are manageable.

"It doesn't take hundreds of hours of your time. I really do enjoy it most of the time."

Three Step Guide to



Voting by Mail

Step 1:

Request your ballot, either by using the online application padems.com/mail or call for a paper form: 1-833-336-8683.

Step 2:

Complete the ballot. Mark your ballot, place it in the secrecy envelope and sign your voter's declaration.

Step 3:

Return your ballot. Ballots must be received by 8 P.M. Election Day. Return address is listed in your packet. You can return it by mail or walk in. Postmark date is not accepted.

outrage! The Senate Democrats have filed suit to stop the Republican's subpoena, as has our Attorney General. We shall see.

From the Chair

Soon, those who have not yet voted by mail will have the duty and opportunity on November 2 to nudge our state back to being a part of America as we once knew it. At the top of the ballot, there are judicial races that have a great impact, maybe more than any office we elect. Had it not been for our Democratic majority in the Supreme Court, we would still have the most gerrymandered congressional districts in the nation. Remember, the Commonwealth Court was headed by the current Republican candidate for the Supreme Court. This is the same court that tried to allow the audit that questioned the integrity of each of our election workers under the "big lie."

Our Democratic slate for these judicial seats are all experienced judges. Our opponents are not all judges. These important courts are not the place for on-the-job training. Also to be elected this year are many local offices such as supervisor, mayor, tax collector, council members, election board members and school board. These folks make decisions that affect you every day. Consider them carefully.

The Susquehanna County Democratic Party needs you and invites you to participate in our work. Consider attending our monthly meeting every 2nd Monday at 7 P.M. in New Milford. We need your ideas, concerns and help. Feel free to contact me at any time.

Rick Ainey, Chair, Susquehanna County Democratic Party

richard.ainey@aol.com

570-947-8433

Governmental Affairs Committee Holds Local Congressman Accountable

In September, the Governmental Affairs Committee ran an ad in the Mulligans Shopping Guide on Congressman Fred Keller. The ad called out Keller for voting against the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and encouraged residents to contact the Congressman's office and express their concerns. The ad also ran for a week on Facebook, targeting Susquehanna County residents. The Facebook ad reached over 4,195 people, with a total amount spent of \$11.22.

Congressman Fred Keller voted NO on the Voting Rights Act. He voted AGAINST protecting our constitutional right to vote. We deserve better.

Contact Congressman Keller's office to voice your concerns
Washington DC Office: (202) 225-3731
Tunkhannock Office: (570) 996-6550



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From the Desk of Judy Herschel

Fiscal Update - The Commissioners recently completed the budget for 2022. There is a copy of this budget at the courthouse by the security guard and in all the libraries in Susquehanna County. We currently have no debt. The public safety building has been built without using taxpayers' money. Our pension is fully funded. County employees were given raises, which was long overdue, and we were able to do this without raising taxes.



Area Agency on Aging - The Area Agency on Aging is having staffing and participation issues, particularly as it relates to Meals on Wheels and Active Living Centers. An Active Living Center Committee has been developed, which I serve on. I will continue to update you on this as we move forward. The centers in Montrose and Forest City are currently in jeopardy of closing (Forest City has been in jeopardy of closing for over 2 years now), The AAA, however, is working

Vote for the Most Experienced Judicial Candidates



Judge Maria McLaughlin

Running for
Pennsylvania Supreme
Court

[Click here](#) to visit her
website.



Judge Lori Dumas

Running for the
Pennsylvania
Commonwealth Court

[Click here](#) to visit her
website.

with us on this issue. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering.

Census - Though we did predict there would be a decrease in population, we had a very large decrease in population per the most recent census (11%). Below are the documented issues the commissioners experienced or were informed of by our regional census manager and volunteers. I want to thank all the census workers that worked extremely hard in a limited amount of time. These issues were also discussed with this committee throughout 2020 as noted in the 2020 County Commissioner updates. It's important to note that Governor Wolf has announced that if a county went down in population, they can opt not to change their class and there will be no change to their funding unless the change is reflected in two consecutive censuses. Also, once the census was completed, we had a sharp increase in individuals moving to the area and we have a housing availability shortage due to the number of people seeking a residence in Susquehanna County according to several local realtors.

The county commissioners of Susquehanna County met with the regional director from the United States Census Bureau on January 23, 2020. We were informed that Susquehanna County was nearly 3 months behind due to hiring difficulties. Shortly after this meeting, Governor Wolf declared a state of emergency and Susquehanna County and Pennsylvania went into lockdown until we entered the yellow phase on May 22. Completing the census online was new in 2020. Whether it's because of our issues with internet connections or our community members unfamiliarity with completing the census online, completing the census online as a main means of data collection was identified immediately by the director as being problematic.



Judge David Spurgeon
Running for the
Pennsylvania
Commonwealth Court
[Click here](#) to visit his
website.



Judge Timika Lane
Running for the
Pennsylvania Superior
Court
[Click here](#) to visit her
website.

When the county commissioners recommended individuals utilize the toll-free phone number, we received complaints that the one toll-free number available was often busy. It was also during this time that the initial extension to wrap up in October was abruptly moved back to the end of the September. The Susquehanna county commissioners agreed to assist in advertising and promoting the importance of filling out the census in to help out in any way we could. The county paid for two rounds of advertisements in three local newspapers. We produced short video clips on the importance of filling out the census and spoke at at our public meetings and on social media. We contacted local groups, organizations, healthcare facilities and service providers to share this information with their contacts throughout Susquehanna County. Our local libraries were available to assist individuals with online completion. As of September 4, 2020, our return rate is less than 50%. The final response rate numbers given by census bureau at the end of the year was 99%.

Treatment Court began this month.

Public Safety Building - The public safety building is nearing completion in November. We have had issues with the supply chain which has been the big reason for delay. We anticipate an open house for the public by the end of the year.

I am always available. Please reach out anytime with questions, comments or concerns.

jherschel@susco.com

Local Democrats Attend Fall Rally

We want to extend a special thank you to everyone who attended our fall rally at Thompson Hose Company on Saturday, Oct. 23. It was a great turnout. We're so thankful to all the candidates from statewide offices who attended, as well as local candidates and elected officials. We hope you enjoy these pictures from the event!



Christian Chludzinski serves as emcee



Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, who is running for U.S. Senate



Judge Maria McLaughlin



Judge Lori Dumas



Judge David Spurgeon



Judge Timika
Lane



Donna and Steve Jablonowski



Party Chair Rick Ainey
gives remarks



Judges Timika Lane, David Spurgeon, Lori Dumas
and candidate Lisa Longo



Maria McLaughlin and Judy Herschel



Laura and Lee Bonnor, who won
multiple basket raffles

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