

# Susquehanna County Democrats Newsletter

## Important Dates

Nov. 1 - Last day to submit a completed absentee ballot application

Nov. 8 - Election Day.  
Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you vote by mail, make sure your ballot gets to the county election office no later than 8 p.m. Do NOT take a mail-in ballot to the polls on Election Day, but do take it to the courthouse.

## From the Chair

As I assemble these words for you, our loyal supporters, it's T-minus 28 days and counting until the end of the 2022 election season. Are you excited yet? Notice I didn't say Election DAY. With the advent of mail-in voting, citizens are already casting their



## Dems Donate to Women's Resource Center

The Susquehanna County Democratic Party recently presented a donation to the Women's Resource Center to help the Center fulfill their mission of supporting women in their time of need.

"Women's rights are currently under attack in this country, so it's more important than ever to lift up organizations



ballots. That means we must work longer and harder to propel our great team of Democratic candidates to victory when the last vote is counted on November 8th, but that's okay! Whatever we can do to enhance our democracy is a good thing. So, in case you haven't noticed what your Democratic Committee has been up to lately, allow me to explain.

Over the summer, with the help of our many dedicated volunteers, we began sending over 3,000 handwritten postcards targeted toward occasional voters, with the goal of sparking their attention to this year's critical mid-term elections. Then we conducted a hugely successful direct mail campaign to raise the funds we needed to get our message out to the voters of Susquehanna County. This allowed us to place weekly eye-catching ads in three of the county's newspapers. If you've missed any of them, check them out on our Facebook page. Right now, over 3,000 get-

who work tirelessly to support and protect women, especially in Susquehanna County," said Ed Zygmunt, chairman of the Susquehanna County Democratic Committee. "We're proud to donate to help empower women in our community."

Pictured in the photo, from left to right, are Zygmunt; Tiffany of the Women's Resource Center and Susquehanna County Commissioner Judy Herschel.

## Shapiro Visits Susquehanna County

On Sunday, October 9, Josh Shapiro paid a visit to Monument Square in Montrose, where a crowd of 160 individuals were waiting to hear him speak! Other speakers in attendance included Jackie Baker, who is running for PA Senate District 20; Amanda Waldman, who is running for PA Congressional District 9; and Susquehanna County Commissioner Judy Herschel.



arriving in mailboxes throughout Susquehanna County. Amazing! We've also distributed hundreds of yard signs for our great team of candidates: John Fetterman, Josh Shapiro, Amanda Waldman, and Jackie Baker. People are taking notice.

More than 160 citizens attended the rally we hosted for Josh Shapiro on Monument Square in Montrose. They say Susquehanna is a "red" county, but we only saw a sea of blue that day! So did Josh Shapiro. Finally, as Election Day approaches, we'll be ramping up our door-to-door canvassing and phone banking operations. Teamwork makes all this possible. You can do your part too, by encouraging your friends and family to vote this election SEASON. We can't leave one vote behind.

Ed Zygmunt, Chair  
[edzygmunt@yahoo.com](mailto:edzygmunt@yahoo.com)



## Democrats Gather at Fall Rally

On Saturday, Sept. 24, the Susquehanna County Democratic Party held their annual fall rally at the Great Bend Hose Company Fire Hall in Great Bend. Both candidates and elected officials were in attendance and gave speeches, including Jackie Baker, who is running for PA Senate District 20; Amanda Waldman, who is running for PA Congressional District 9; Michael Lombardo, mayor of Pittston; and Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, PA District 18r.



## Auditor's Report

I recently attended an auditor conference in Lewisburg in Union County. Being in office only two and a half years, it is beneficial for me to be with those who have served for years to learn from their experience and gather the knowledge they have to offer. The topics that were covered in the presentations from experts were auditing tax collectors, handling unclaimed property (checks usually on the county level), and submitting the required asset forfeiture reports and audits. I was also appointed as a legislative representative to the State Association of Elected County Officials (SAECO) group. The topics covered were issues not being addressed properly or at all when I took office. The tax collectors are to be audited on an annual basis. Every year, a report and audit are to be done of the asset forfeiture program. All property (checks) unclaimed after three years are to be reported and returned



In addition, five members of the Susquehanna County Democratic Party were honored for their years of outstanding volunteer service and dedication to the party, including (from left to right): Joseph Plonski, Nancy Hurley, Robert McNamara, Carol McNamara (not pictured) and Richard Franks.



## Auditor's Report

to the state.

We (the auditors) began auditing the tax collectors last year. At this conference, we learned how to effectively do this. They are to submit taxes collected by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month following collecting them. Not all do this. We learned that any amount of money left after submitting all taxes collected and unpaid to the county, need to be accounted for. We are working on defining those. Some tax collectors in our county have thousands of dollars in the account after all submissions have been made.

We reviewed the asset forfeiture regulations that require a report be made to the attorney general annually. This had not been done for years when we took office. It has been brought up to date and is current. Unclaimed property was something we all knew about when we see the big ads notifying us in the local papers. The requirement is that checks must be returned after being

## The Faces of Our Party: Interview with Ed Zygmont

Recently, Susquehanna County Democratic Party Chair Ed Zygmont answered some questions by email about his many years of volunteer service

### **In addition to serving as the chair of our county party, what other offices have you run for or held?**

I have been an addicted volunteer for almost 50 years. One of my proudest moments came in 2007 when the National Wildlife Federation named me "Volunteer of the Year" for my efforts to urge Congress to enact legislation that protects headwater streams and isolated wetlands.

Professionally, I worked many years for a local county conservation district and the USDA

Natural Resources Conservation Service,

which gave me the opportunity to assist agricultural producers in Wyoming, Bradford and Sullivan counties to improve the economic and environmental conditions of their operations. From 2007-2010, I had the great privilege of serving as field representative for Congressman Chris Carney. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity allowed me to help Congressman Carney help the citizens of Susquehanna County and 13 other counties in his district. Helping people is what public service is all about. I'm a proud Democrat because I believe the Democratic Party best espouses my personal values.



### **What are some important qualities you believe that Democrats must have when running for local elected office?**

## Auditor's Report

returned after being unclaimed for three years. When we took office, we found accounts where checks were unclaimed for as much as ten years. This has been rectified and is kept current.

This knowledge allows me to be a better auditor representing you. It is my pleasure to serve you. I thank you for that privilege.

Rick Ainey  
County Auditor  
[richard.ainey@aol.com](mailto:richard.ainey@aol.com)  
570-947-8433

## Consider Running for Local Office in 2023

Next year, many local offices are up for re-election. If you want to make a difference in your community, consider running for local office, such as:

- County Register and Recorder
- County Treasurer
- County District Attorney
- County Coroner
- And many more!

This may sound cliché, but any candidate for office, Democrat or Republican, must have honesty, integrity, and a strong desire to improve the well-being of their constituents. Any candidate who is just in it for him or herself doesn't deserve the dignity of holding office.

## What do you think are the biggest challenges Democrats face in a county that is primarily Republican?

I grew up in a county that was heavily Democratic. Your parents were Democratic, so you were raised a Democrat. The same is true in an opposite way here in Susquehanna County. I get it. But it's not as simple as that. From my experience in government, I've heard many times the subliminal message that many politicians from rural areas pass along to their constituents: that folks from the cities steal their tax dollars and want to take away their guns; that most city people are Democrats, so therefore, you must vote Republican. Even though none of that is true, it's a tough nut to crack. Even more so with today's polarized electorate.

## What are some goals you have for the party as we approach the next presidential election?


Democrats have to do a better job of getting our message out that "We Put People First," as our party's motto says. Our county is a perfect example. Many of our citizens have better healthcare coverage; hundreds of our children have been lifted out of poverty; soon, we will expand internet coverage in every corner of the county. Our roads and bridges are being rebuilt, and we have a new public safety building. All of these quality-of-life measures were made possible in large part by legislation and funding passed by Democrats. The electorate needs to know which party is actually working for them, and perhaps more importantly, which party is protecting our democracy. All this takes an active and motivated county committee. It's going to take time, but I'm confident our county committee is up to the challenge.


# Have You Seen Our Ads?

In case you missed them, check out some of our ads that have run in Mulligans, the Independent and Forest City News over the last several months.

**Democrats Deliver for EVERY American**  
 Thanks to President Joe Biden and Democrats in Congress for passing the  
**Inflation Reduction Act**  
 For the first time in history, Medicare can negotiate with drug companies on the cost of prescription drugs and the maximum expense for those on Medicare will be capped at \$2,000 per year.

**EVERY REPUBLICAN IN CONGRESS VOTED AGAINST THIS LAW**



**We Put People First**  
[www.susquehannadems.com](http://www.susquehannadems.com)  
[susquehannadems@gmail.com](mailto:susquehannadems@gmail.com)  
 [@susquehannadems](https://www.instagram.com/susquehannadems)


This ad paid for by the Susquehanna County Democratic Party

**The Opioid Epidemic has Affected Everyone**

1 in 3 Americans loves someone who suffers from opioid dependency  
 In 2016, Susquehanna County ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> per capita, after Philadelphia, in PA for deaths from overdose

**Since Josh Shapiro became Attorney General in 2017**  
 8100 dealers and traffickers have been arrested  
 3.2 million doses of heroin have been taken off the streets  
 5.65 million doses of fentanyl have been taken off the streets  
 There has been a 60% increase in arresting doctors that created the problem  
 Big Pharma lost a \$1.07 billion lawsuit, over \$1 million of which came to Susquehanna County to support prevention and treatment programs

**Josh Shapiro has already PROVEN that he will fight special interests and work for ALL Pennsylvanians**



**We Put People First**  
[www.susquehannadems.com](http://www.susquehannadems.com)  
[susquehannadems@gmail.com](mailto:susquehannadems@gmail.com)  
 [@susquehannadems](https://www.instagram.com/susquehannadems)

This ad paid for by the Susquehanna County Democratic Party

**VOTERS**  
**Here are your Choices**

- Candidates who will deny a woman's right to choose
- Candidates who do nothing to stop mass shootings
- Candidates who oppose legalizing marijuana
- Candidates who participated in the 1/6 insurrection
- Candidates who side with gas companies over landowners

Their candidates ARE extreme

OR

**Governor Josh Shapiro**  
**Senator John Fetterman**

- Pro Choice
- Pro Family
- Pro Gun Safety
- Pro Environment
- Pro Democracy



**We Put People First**  
[www.susquehannadems.com](http://www.susquehannadems.com)  
[susquehannadems@gmail.com](mailto:susquehannadems@gmail.com)  
 [@susquehannadems](https://www.instagram.com/susquehannadems)

This ad paid for by the Susquehanna County Democratic Party


**Republicans**  
**Here Are Your Candidates**


**Mehmet Oz** is a resident of New Jersey who knows little about Pennsylvania, such as how John Fetterman helped transform Braddock for the better as mayor. Oz uses his mother-in-law's address in a town he can't spell. He's a doctor who pushed miracle cures on his TV show and mocked a man recovering from a stroke.

**Doug Mastriano** participated in the January 6th insurrection, even busing people to it. A veteran, he CHOSE to wear the uniform of traitors who fought for slavery. He wants to decide who wins elections, not you. He wants to tell you who you can love and what your kids can read, and wants to take away women's choices over their bodies.

**You're better than this and so are our candidates**

•John Fetterman •Josh Shapiro  
 •Amanda Waldman •Jackie Baker



**We Put People First**  
[www.susquehannadems.com](http://www.susquehannadems.com)  
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