

# Susquehanna County Democrats Newsletter



## **Dems Donate in Memory of Mary Ann Warren**

Our friend MaryAnn Warren, former Susquehanna County commissioner, passed away earlier this year. In lieu of flowers, it was requested that donations be sent to True Friends Animal Welfare Center in Montrose. In honor of MaryAnn, the Susquehanna County Democratic Committee donated \$100 to the shelter. County Commissioner Judy Herschel and County Auditor Rick Ainey presented the donation. Mary Ann did so much for our communities and our county. She will be greatly missed.

**Save the Date!**

**Patriot Picnic**

Sunday, July 23, 2023  
Hallstead Baseball Field  
23767 Rt. 11  
Hallstead, PA 18822  
1 p.m.

**Fall Rally**

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023  
Great Bend Hose  
Company  
54 Tannery St.  
Great Bend, PA, 18821  
1 p.m.

**Harford Fair**

August 14-19, 2023  
Come check out our  
booth!



**Dems Brave Bad Weather to Attend Petition Breakfast**



Slippery, snow-covered roads didn't stop local Democrats from attending this year's petition breakfast on Saturday, March 4 at the Thompson Hose Company. It was a great turnout despite the bad weather. Even judicial candidate Jill Beck, who is running for PA Superior Court, overcame quite a few mishaps to attend our



event, including a flat tire! The food was delicious and we thank everyone who came out to sign petitions and support local and statewide candidates.



## From the Chair

Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Thomas “Tip” O’Neill, famously said, “All politics is local.” I would add...especially this year.

2023 is one of those odd-numbered years when we get to elect candidates for municipal, county and judicial offices. But it is no less important than a Presidential election year. Unfortunately, many voters seem to sit out local elections. That’s too bad. It’s local elected officials who perhaps have the most direct impact on your life and mine. Borough council members, township supervisors, and school board members are the people who decide local tax rates, set budgets that determine what roads to improve and approve funding to ensure the best possible education for our children.

County Commissioners have their plates full as well. Our three Commissioners are responsible for maintaining public safety and prioritizing initiatives

# A Tribute to MaryAnn Warren

*By Rick Ainey*

MaryAnn Warren, a former Democratic County Commissioner, recently passed. She was the longest serving County Commissioner in Susquehanna County for 16 years. A resident of New Milford Borough, MaryAnn was deeply involved in her community, as well as our county.



She served as a New Milford Borough Councilperson. During her service, she served as part of a Democratic majority for the first time in borough history. She served many years as a Democratic committee woman for the borough and she was the first and only Democratic chair of the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners.

Prior to being elected as County Commissioner in 2003, she served as executive director of the Susquehanna County Chamber of Commerce. Her community commitment was evident in the various capacities she served. She served as Cub Master, Lion’s Club member, BPW member, New Milford Borough Parks Committee, Midtown Festival Committee, State Conservation Board member, County Library Board, Democratic Recognition picnic chair, and publicity chair of Blue Ridge Little League. She was a devoted mother to Brad and Matt and wife to Tom.

MaryAnn’s passions were deep and varied. Her dogs were a true part of her family. She constantly supplied food donations to True Friends Animal Welfare Center. Many neighbors enjoyed her cooked meals, supplied for a variety of reasons or simply no reason at all. Her Halloween parade of lights parties were notoriously enjoyed and well attended.

MaryAnn will be missed, but her legacy of commitment and compassion will be carried on.



that will improve our quality of life, such as the ongoing efforts to expand broadband service throughout the county. These are only a few of the reasons why we need to pay close attention to our local elections. In deep red Susquehanna County, we are fortunate to have our share of Democratic candidates vying for these important offices. Judy Herschel is running for a second term as commissioner. Throughout her first term, Judy has been a full-time commissioner who keeps a close watch over how our tax dollars are spent. She has been deeply involved in making our communities a safer place to live, work and raise our children. We are grateful to have Judy working hard for every county resident. Our former county party chair and current party treasurer, Rick Ainey, is running for a second term as county auditor. Believe me, you can sleep well knowing that Rick is watching over every penny that goes through the courthouse. Rick played a major role in

## Every Election Matters!

*By Christian Chludzinski*

It's another year in Pennsylvania politics, and while there is no president or governor on our ballot this year, there are even more crucial positions up for election in 2023. Not only will we elect a new Pennsylvania Supreme Court judge, two new Pennsylvania Superior Court judges, and a new Commonwealth Court judge, we will also be electing hundreds of county and municipal local government officials right here in Susquehanna County!



Our Pennsylvania statewide courts, the Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth Courts, are often the last layer of protection we have for our civil rights. Whether it's handling challenges to voting rights, healthcare rights or even just basic human rights of equality and respect, these courts safeguard our democracy and our rights as free Pennsylvanians. No election could be more important than this one! As we look to elevate four judicial candidates of integrity to our highest Pennsylvania courts, I hope you will join us in voting for our judicial candidates.

The year 2023 also brings a crucial window of opportunity to directly create positive change in our local communities, as hundreds of local municipal positions are up for election this year. No matter what borough or township you live in, we all have the opportunity to vote for county-wide positions such as Commissioner, Register and Recorder of Wills, Auditor, and many more. And in your local borough or township, council members, school board members, constables, and many more elected offices may also be on the ballot. Every single one of those elected offices has the opportunity to make positive change in your community, so it's important that we fill those positions with quality individuals who will demonstrate effective local governance.



uncovering the misdeeds within the county's Register & Recorders office, which led to charges being filed against the former director. Well done, Rick!

Speaking of the Register & Recorder's office, our own party secretary, Tom Charles, has thrown his hat into the ring for that important position. We wish Tom well as his campaign swings into action. There are also a number of democratic candidates running for borough council and township supervisor seats throughout the county. But even if your precinct or school board doesn't have a democrat running, it's still very important to pay close attention to those elections. Just look at what is happening in Florida.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the statewide races for Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth Courts. A lot of voters tend to ignore these critical races. May I remind them it was the courts that rejected Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the results of

**Here are important dates to know for this upcoming primary election:**

**May 1st** - Last day to register to vote in the primary election

**May 9th** - Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot

**May 16th** - Primary Election Day (vote in-person from 7am to 8pm) (any mail-in ballots must be received by the Susquehanna County Elections Office by 8pm on Election Day)

After the primary election results are in, and we officially have our roster of Democratic candidates for the general election in November, check out our website at [www.susquehannadems.com](http://www.susquehannadems.com) to find a voter guide of every Democratic candidate in the county, so you know exactly who is running for office in your borough or township.

Hope to see you at the ballot box on May 16th!

## Meet Your PA Judicial Candidates

### PA Supreme Court (1 seat)

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**Debbie Kunselman**

[kunselmanforpa.com](http://kunselmanforpa.com)



**Dan McCaffery**

[judgemccaffery.com](http://judgemccaffery.com)

[facebook.com/McCafferyforSupremeCourt](https://facebook.com/McCafferyforSupremeCourt)



2020 election right here in the keystone state. So, as you can see, decades later, Tip O'Neill's words still ring true. See you at the polls!

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

### Meet Your County Candidates

Here's some information about Democratic candidates running for local office.

### County Commissioner



Judy Herschel is running for re-election as county commissioner. She has accomplished so much in her first term, focusing on important issues in our communities, such as mental health, acquiring broadband and stopping

### PA Superior Court (2 seats)

#### Jill Beck

[jillbeck.com](http://jillbeck.com)

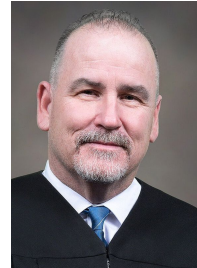
[facebook.com/electjillbeck](https://facebook.com/electjillbeck)



#### Pat Dugan

[judgepatdugan.com](http://judgepatdugan.com)

[facebook.com/judgepatdugan](https://facebook.com/judgepatdugan)



#### Timika Lane

[judgelaneforpa.com](http://judgelaneforpa.com)

[facebook.com/LaneforSuperiorCourt](https://facebook.com/LaneforSuperiorCourt)



### Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court

#### Bryan Neft

[bryanneft.com](http://bryanneft.com)

[facebook.com/bryanneft](https://facebook.com/bryanneft)



#### Matt Wolf

[judgemattwolf.com](http://judgemattwolf.com)



the rise in overdoses and substance abuse. We wish Judy all the best in her pursuit of a 2nd term!

[www.judyherschel.online](http://www.judyherschel.online)

### County Auditor

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Rick Ainey is running for re-election as county auditor. Rick has done a fantastic job in bringing the county's finances under control. He uncovered some ethical issues that took place in the Register and Recorder's office, as well as financial discrepancies at the Susquehanna County Correctional Facility. If you want to learn more about his efforts, check out past issues of our [newsletter](#) for his auditor's report. We appreciate Rick's hard work and wish him luck!



## Did You See Our Ad?

The Susquehanna County Dems ran this ad during the week of April 19 in several local papers. Keep an eye out for more ads in the coming months.

**There have been more than 140 mass shootings SO FAR in 2023.**

**Gun violence is now the leading cause of childhood deaths.**

**Many of these tragedies occur in America's schools. Let's not let this happen in a Susquehanna County school**

**Representative Dan Meuser,  
Senator Lisa Baker,  
Representative Jonathan Fritz**

**JOIN SENATORS CASEY AND FETTERMAN TO ENACT COMMON SENSE GUN REFORM NOW**

This ad paid for by the Susquehanna County Democratic Party

### Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, and Clerk of the Orphans' Court

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Tom Charles is running for the office of Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds and Clerk of the Orphans' Court. With everything that has happened in the Register and Recorder's Office, it's never been more important to elect a new person to the office. Tom is honest, dedicated and ready to take on the challenge. Check out his Facebook page for more information. Good luck, Tom!



<https://www.facebook.com/CharlesForRecorder>

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