

Susquehanna County Democrats Newsletter



County Dems Attend Fall Rally

The Susquehanna County Democratic Party hosted their annual fall rally at the Great Bend Hose Company on Saturday, September 30 from 1 to 3pm. It was a great turnout, as many Democrats came to hear local candidates speak and enjoy some delicious food. Speakers included County Commissioner Judy Herschel and County Auditor Rick Ainey, who are up for re-election in November; Tom Charles, who is running for the office of Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds and Clerk of the Orphans' Court, also gave remarks. Thanks to everyone who attended the fall rally and good luck to our candidates in November! Please enjoy some photos from the event.

Save the Date!

Nov. 7 - Election Day

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you vote by mail, please fill out your ballot and mail it back to the Elections Office immediately. If you haven't mailed the ballot by Election Day, please take it directly to the Elections Office in Montrose.

Please see page 7 of this newsletter for a heads up on this year's mail-in ballots.



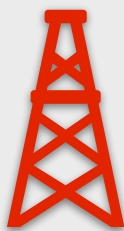
Meet Your County Candidates

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



From the Chair

Like you, my inbox is continually flooded with messages containing frightening subject lines. Sometimes they're so overwhelming I'm forced to hit the delete button on all of them to keep from going crazy. Recently, one message I received was just too important to ignore. It came from the nonprofit group Protect Democracy.

The group just released a 15-page report entitled "Democracy on Trial: The Role of Pennsylvania's High Courts in 2024 and Beyond." This eye-opening report demonstrates how PA's high courts have played an instrumental role in upholding democracy following the attempted subversion of the 2020 presidential election and warns that the outcomes of PA's 2023 Supreme Court and Commonwealth Court elections could set the stage for seismic shifts in the outcome of cases involving institutions and processes vital to our democracy. Here are a few excerpts from this must-read report:

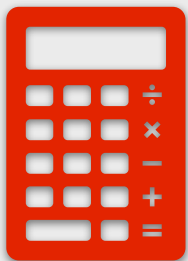
"Over the past decade, the Commonwealth's courts system has acted as a democratic bulwark, dealing with an unprecedented wave of litigation concerning democracy and elections in Pennsylvania. There is no sign that the trend is abating — and that raises the stakes for this year's judicial elections.

As the nation's political parties continue to joust over the concepts of freedom, liberty and equality, the role of courts as arbiters of justice will undoubtedly increase in terms of stakes and scope. With a Congress struggling to keep its factionalism in check and the realities of our federal system in which the states are charged with determining the "time, manner and place" of elections, it is apparent that the responsibility to preserve democracy is now squarely in the hands of state governments. State courts, in turn, will play an outsized role in reviewing those actions.

County Auditor



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.



In Pennsylvania, numerous challenges remain in the pursuit of uniform, effective and nonpartisan administration of elections. With a divided General Assembly, the courts will remain the key venue for addressing inconsistencies; the precedent the court establishes will allow the executive branch to issue directives and regulations to county election administrators. Issues related to pre-canvassing and counting mail-in ballots, the use of ballot drop boxes and satellite election offices, certifying results, requesting recounts in close races, and auditing vote tallies post-election remain ripe for judicial consideration.

This election cannot be viewed simply through a partisan lens. Rather, voters must be consistently and accurately informed of what's at stake to our democracy — ensuring that election law is upheld while preventing widespread disenfranchisement, preventing misinformation from forming election administration policies, and preserving vital checks and balances. Above all, the Courts can be instrumental in restoring a sense of trust, even admiration, in our system of democratic governance and those who administer elections.”

Phew! If these prophetic words don't motivate everyone to get to the polls this November, I don't know what will. You may have received or will receive an important letter from YOUR County Democratic Committee urging you to cast your vote for the entire Democratic team of statewide judicial candidates: Dan McCaffery for Supreme Court; Jill Beck & Timika Lane for Superior Court, and Matt Wolf for Commonwealth Court. We hope you will support these deserving candidates this election season.

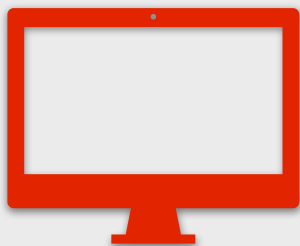
One more thing before I let you go. Don't forget to cast your vote for our dedicated team of candidates at the county level: Judy Herschel for Commissioner; Tom Charles for Register & Recorder and Rick Ainey for Auditor, as well as

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



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!

[www.facebook.com/
CharlesForRecorder](https://www.facebook.com/CharlesForRecorder)



every Democratic candidate running in your own precinct. There you have it! See you at the polls.

Ed Zygmunt, Chair
edzygmunt@yahoo.com

**Highlights from This Year's
Harford Fair**



This year, in preparation for the Harford Fair, the Susquehanna County Democrats booth received a new metal roof, new custom doors, a fresh coat of paint and a new sign. The makeover really helped our booth pop at the fair this year. It was a busy and successful week of getting the word out about our candidates. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible!



Judge Retention Questions on This Year's Ballot

On the ballot in this year's election, there are two questions regarding the retention of judges on the PA Superior Court.

Shall Jack Panella be retained for another term as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

Shall Victor P. Stabile be retained for another term as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

Jack Panella is a member of the Democratic Party and has served on the PA Superior Court since 2004. He has written three books, two of them reference books, for judges on complex criminal issues surrounding sexual violence cases. Panella was honored by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center in 2017 for his efforts. [Click here](#) to learn more.

As Seen Around Your County

By Kate Fry

When you live in a red county, sometimes the “bad stuff” can be overwhelming. From the ultra right-wing extremists trying to gain a foothold in our schools, courts and local governments, to the horrific treatment of the LGBTQ+

community, it's hard not to feel hopeless. Then, you see something like this at the Susquehanna County Library in Montrose.



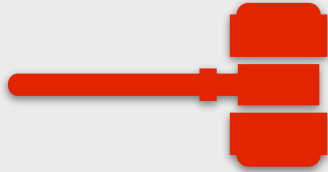
Across the United States, right-wing extremists have taken it upon themselves to police, censor and outright ban books found on shelves in schools and libraries. Our own library in Susquehanna County has also experienced pressure from individuals who think it's their job to censor free speech.

Banned Book Week took place during the first week of October. Our library set up this table. Each wrapped book has a brief explanation as to why it was burned or banned. As you can see, the table encourages you to choose a book and take it home to read.

Nothing makes me happier than to see our own library stand up for free speech. Well done to the Susquehanna County Library!

Let's keep “As Seen Around Your County” going! In future issues of our newsletter, we'd love to showcase other positive things you see around our county that reflect democratic ideals. If you come across something that you think others would love to know about, please email me at kfry12484@gmail.com so we can include it in a future issue of the newsletter.

Victor P. Stabile is a member of the Republican Party. If you want to read more about his opinions in Superior Court cases, [click here](#).



Heads Up on This Year's Mail-In Ballots

It was brought to our attention by the Susquehanna County Elections Office that all of this year's mail-in ballots that were outsourced to a private company have a yellow secrecy envelope instead of a white one. The instructions tell voters to put their ballot in the white envelope. Please know that the yellow envelopes are okay and if you receive one, please place your mail-in ballot in that yellow secrecy envelope.

www.susquehannadems.com
   [susquehannadems](#)

Meet Your PA Judicial Candidates

PA Supreme Court

Dan McCaffery

judgemccaffery.com

facebook.com/McCafferyforSupremeCourt



PA Superior Court

Jill Beck

jillbeck.com

facebook.com/electjillbeck



Timika Lane

judgelaneforpa.com

facebook.com/LaneforSuperiorCourt



Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court

Matt Wolf

judgemattwolf.com

