

# Susquehanna County Democrats Newsletter



## 2024 Issues Forum to be Held Saturday, April 27

Do you have ideas about how public education should be funded? Should we be mandating a civic education for all of our students and teaching about systemic racism? What about the state of our democracy? Do you have ideas about how that can be changed? Removal of the filibuster? Guaranteeing the fair and free vote for ALL Pennsylvanians? With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, many of you have expressed outrage. Why are legislatures across the country in so-called red (and purple) states determined to legislate women's healthcare? If you are interested in learning the facts about these issues, expressing your views and hearing the views of others, then please attend our event!

### 2024 Issues Forum

Saturday, April 27th from 1:00-3:00 pm  
Montrose Library Community Room  
458 High School Road, Montrose

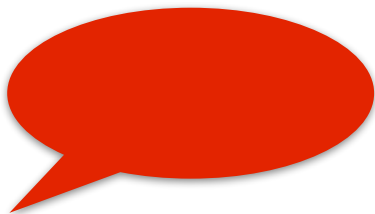


Photo from 2022 Issues Forum

# Highlights from This Year's Petition Breakfast



It was a terrific turnout at this year's petition breakfast at the Montrose VFW on Saturday, January 27.

Statewide candidates stopped by to give remarks and speak with local Democrats to discuss important issues affecting our democracy. Everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast in between signing petitions. Many thanks to all who attended!





## Join Us for Our Patriotic Picnic

Mark your calendars for the



Susquehanna County Patriot Picnic! This year's event will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2024, at the Hallstead Ballpark under the pavilion. This is just off Route 11 and close to the Great Bend exit off I-81. We'll enjoy a potluck-style meal, with burgers, hot dogs, a huge variety of salads, desserts and surprises. There is no charge to attend this event. We hope to have federal, state-wide and other candidates in attendance. All are welcome!

### Save the Date!

Harford Fair  
August 12-17, 2024



## From the Chair

For some strange reason, I've always had an affinity for bumper stickers. I'm always on the lookout for a catchy sticker, while being careful to avoid a rear-end collision, of course.

Throughout my driving career, I've displayed my share of personal messages on the tail end of my vehicle. Most of the time they let the world know my passion for protecting the environment. Sometimes, I showed my support for my favorite political candidate. But in today's caustic political environment, I don't display that type of sticker anymore out of fear of having my vehicle vandalized. How sad is that?

Lately, my favorite bumper stickers aren't political or environmental. They are ones with an important life lesson that catch my eye. Like the one I saw a couple of years ago in a parking lot at one of my favorite national parks. Its message stopped me in my tracks: "DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT."

I would have loved to meet the owner of that car. I'm sure we would have had a long conversation. In the age of Trump, our democracy is under threat like never before. That anonymous owner will never know how much his simple bumper sticker touched me. I hope it touches you as well.

Recently, I came across a column written by Steve Corbin, professor emeritus of marketing at the University of Northern Iowa. The title of his op-ed was, believe it or not, "Maintaining a Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport." Of course, it got my undivided attention.

Professor Corbin recalled the post World War II confessional written by Martin Niemoller, a German Lutheran pastor entitled, "First they came..." That essay explained how the Nazis rose to power by methodically silencing German intellectuals and clergy. Then, Professor Corbin transformed those ominous words to fit our

## The Achievements of President Joe Biden

*By Christian Chludziński*

This year, we have the opportunity to vote for a President who has helped bring America back from a devastating pandemic; invested massively into repairing our country's aging infrastructure and defended our civil rights and democracy. From his childhood just south of us in Scranton, to his days as a US Senator, Vice President, and now President, Joe Biden has always been a fighter for decency and fair treatment under the law. As we close out President Biden's first term and look towards a second, let's remember some of the policies the Biden administration has enacted to make our lives better and prepare America for a brighter future.

Swift distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines, coupled with intensive public health monitoring, helped to

frightening modern times. Here are some excerpts of what he wrote.

**First they came to restrict women's reproductive rights, the rights of the LGBTQ, people with mental health issues, the physically disabled, and the homeless and I did not speak out. Then they came to ban books and dissing public education and I did not speak out. Then they came to denounce "Black Lives Matter" and people from other countries while accepting white nationalism and I did not speak out. Then they came to free the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrectionists, threatening the lives of volunteer election workers, identifying legal judicial actions as witch-hunts, claiming presidential immunity reigns supreme, and I did not speak out. Then they came to elect politicians who put their party before the people and claim to be your revenge and retribution candidate and I did not speak out. Then they came to realize that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men (and women) to do nothing. And knowing that "DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT" vowed to vote on November 5 so America would not revert to dictatorial-authoritarian control – because, if not... then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me.**

Truer words were never spoken. Who knew so much could be said on a simple bumper sticker?

Ed Zygmunt, Chair  
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end the crisis period of the pandemic and allow our economy and lives to restart.

A colossal 1.2 trillion dollar infrastructure funding bill has allowed our country to start to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, filling potholes, replacing bridges and upgrading our energy grid to diversify away from fossil fuels and prepare for an increasingly erratic climate.

Defense of civil rights and standing up for decency and fairness in many facets of our government has been a hallmark of the Biden administration. Defending healthcare access for women, bolstering federal protection of queer Americans, successfully overturning illegally gerrymandered congressional districts, and nominating nearly 200 diverse and highly qualified federal judges, including our newest Supreme Court justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson.

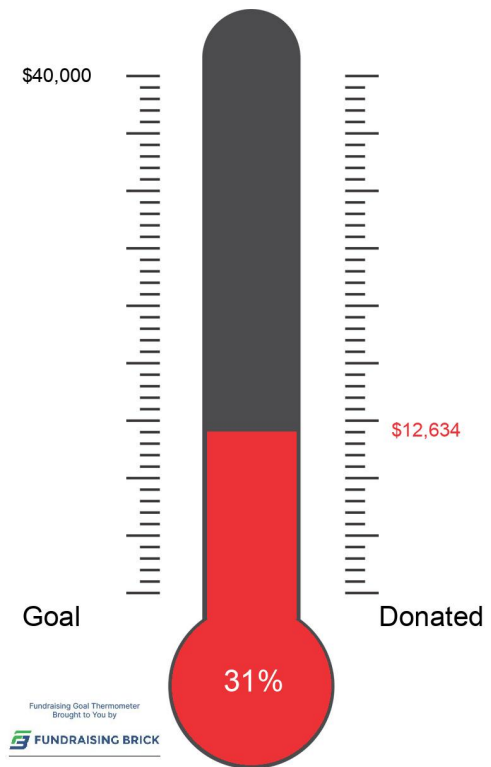
# Report from the Fundraising Committee

*By Johannah Barry and Eddie Smith*

Our committee, and indeed all of the volunteer committees of your Susquehanna County Democratic Committee, recognize the importance of raising funds for the important work associated with major campaign years as well as local and regional races.

Democracy relies on transparency in receiving and recording funds and deploying those funds in the most effective manner possible. We are committed to doing just that, with the help of our committee colleagues, and our donors.

We are keenly aware that 2024 is a watershed year. Susquehanna is a small, but mighty part of Pennsylvania's commitment to keep our Democratic presence in the Senate, House, and of course, the White House. We thank you for every dollar that has been donated so far. We have monthly donors, occasional donors, matching funds donors, and donors who support us through our various events. Your dollars helped to get Biden elected in 2020, and we need you again even more this round. Donations this spring are needed in order that we can continue the very important work as outlined in this newsletter. Timely work by the Events Committee will feature an issues forum on April 27 to discuss topics critical to our platform and the public good. We hope



As we fill out our ballots this year, let's come together to build upon the past four years of President Biden's accomplishments, and keep America moving forward!

### **Come Visit the Susquehanna County Dems Headquarters!**

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Keep an eye out for the grand opening of our new headquarters in early May

54 Church St.  
New Milford,  
PA 18834

(Located inside the former New Milford Consolidated School)



to continue to host donor gatherings, place newspaper ads, and write letters to various newspaper editors on issues that affect our local and national issues, such as climate change and women's reproductive rights. We should all be alert to the very real threat of false or inflammatory rhetoric used during this race for the White House (our Campaign and Communications committees are particularly focused on keeping the dialogue clean and fair), and to do that, we continue to ask for your strong financial support.

Our fundraising goal this year is rather aggressive at \$40,000. As of April 21, we have reached \$12,634.42, which is 31.6% of our goal. We will keep our donors informed through various mailings and updates (and our website) of what we are doing and as importantly, how our fundraising is progressing. We encourage you to reach out to us for information and suggestions as to how we can continue to best reach our supporters, Independent voters, and perhaps even our disaffected Republican colleagues in Susquehanna County. Please talk with your family and friends and see what you can contribute. Our future depends on it.

Mail your donation to:

**Susquehanna County Democratic Committee**  
**c/o Rick Ainey**  
**PO Box 471**  
**New Milford, PA 18834**

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