



# SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

We Put People First!

## NEWSLETTER

Sept. / Oct. 2024

### Susquehanna Democrats Hold Annual Fall Rally Sept. 28, 2024 in Great Bend, PA





A great time was had by those who attended the 2024 Susquehanna Democratic Fall Rally held at the Great Bend Fire Hall on Saturday, September 28, 2024. Guests enjoyed great meals, engaged in Democratic fellowship, and heard from special speakers, Amanda Waldman, candidate for Congress and Todd Egan, Esq., Member of the DNC.

**Amanda Waldman, Congressional Candidate**



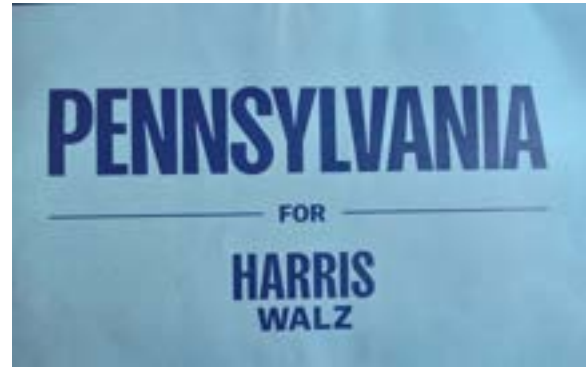
**Todd Egan, DNC**







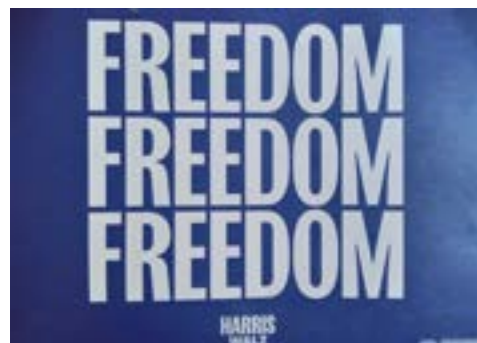




**KATE FRY AWARDED “CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER SERVICE”**



**NANCE BROWN, SILVER LAKE TWP., AWARDED  
“CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR OUTSTANDING  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE” at 2024 Fall Rally**



## **SAVE THE DATE !! 🇺🇸 Nov. 5, 2024 ELECTION DAY**

Polls are **open from 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.

**Visit** [www.vote.pa.gov](http://www.vote.pa.gov)  
**For Voter and Election Info.**



### **Campaign Headquarters**

We have a campaign Headquarters for the 2024 season!

Located at **54 Church Street, New Milford, Open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10-6.**

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**YouTube Video from Susquehanna County Democratic Chair, Ed Zygmunt**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMfeeCdsGSg>  
**Click on link to watch**

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Election Day  
**NOVEMBER**  
**5<sup>th</sup>**

Vote for your  
statewide  
and local  
Democrats

## DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

US President/Vice President

**Kamala Harris**

**Tim Walz**

US Senate

**Bob Casey Jr.**

US Congress District 9

**Amanda Waldman**

PA Attorney General

**Eugene DePasquale**

PA Auditor General

**Malcolm Kenyatta**

PA Treasurer

**Erin McClelland**

**PA DEMS**  
[www.padems.com](http://www.padems.com)



## GET READY TO VOTE!

Register to vote at  
[vote.pa.gov](http://vote.pa.gov)  
or scan the QR code



### **Dates to remember**

**9/28 - Fall Rally**

Come meet the candidates

**10/21 - Last day to register**  
for the general election

**10/29 - Last day to apply**  
**to vote by mail**

Vote safely and securely  
from your home

**11/5 - Last day to return**  
your absentee or mail-in ballot

**11/5 - ELECTION DAY**  
Polls are open 7 AM to 8 PM

If you have any election related concerns  
contact the the Susquehanna County  
Voter Registration office at **570-278-6697**



**WE PUT PEOPLE FIRST**

**Ed Zygmunt, Chair**

**570-637-7843**

**[susquehannadems@gmail.com](mailto:susquehannadems@gmail.com)**

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

**[f](#) [@](#) **susquehannadems****

Paid for by the Susquehanna County Democratic Committee

## **Hispanic Heritage Month and Voter Protection** ***Voluntarios por Kamala*, a new Spanish-speaking voter protection volunteer corps!**

***Voluntarios por Kamala* was founded to protect and empower the Spanish-speaking Latino vote, reduce the Spanish-language information and resource gap, and help elect Vice-President Kamala Harris. Our volunteers will support the highest priority Spanish-language voter protection needs across the Harris for President campaign, including recruiting and supporting rockstar volunteers; working the National Voter Protection Hotline and Textline and State Voter Protection hotlines; staffing Election Day poll sites; and more!**

***Voluntarios por Kamala***

***¡Únase a nosotros para proteger el derecho al voto y ganar en noviembre!***

***Voluntarios por Kamala* was founded to protect and empower the Spanish-speaking Latino vote, reduce the Spanish-language information and resource gap, and help elect Vice-President Kamala Harris, and we need your help!**

**Our volunteers will support the highest priority Spanish-language voter protection needs across the Harris for President campaign, including recruiting and supporting rockstar volunteers; working the National Voter Protection Hotline and Textline and State Voter Protection hotlines; staffing Election Day poll sites; and more!**

**If you are interested in joining our passionate and ever-growing bilingual team, please [Sign Up for Voluntarios por Kamala!](#)**



Malcolm Kenyatta for PA State Auditor Visits Susquehanna County Dems









**KAMALA RALLIES IN NEPA**

**WALZ RALLIES IN LEHIGH VALLEY**



## Troubling Highlights from the 2024 Republican Party Platform

### 1) **Verbiage re: their “ownership” of God & Love of Country** le:

“Today and together, with Love for our Country, Faith in our People, and Trust in God’s Good Grace, we will Make America Great Again!” And,

“Republicans will promote a Foreign Policy centered on the most essential American Interests, starting with protecting the American Homeland, our People, our Borders, our Great American Flag, and our Rights Under God.”

### 2) **Actions impacting Education in American schools**

“Republicans will ensure children are taught fundamentals like Reading, History, Science, and Math, not Leftwing propaganda. We will defund schools that engage in inappropriate political indoctrination of our children using Federal Taxpayer Dollars.” (Gee, I never knew we were pushing “Leftwing propaganda” in our schools. Also, it would seem that if EVERYTHING is “political indoctrination of our children” now, then all the schools using Federal Taxpayer Dollars will be defunded. Where then, will kids go to be educated? And how will they be able to pay for it? ) And,

“Republicans will reinstate the 1776 Commission, promote Fair and Patriotic Civics Education, and veto efforts to nationalize Civics Education. We will support schools that teach America’s Founding Principles and Western Civilization.” (Ok, but what is the definition of “Fair and Patriotic Civics Education?”) And,

“We are going to close the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. and .....let the States run our educational system as it should be run.” (Uh-oh!!!) And,

“Republicans support the restoration of Classic Liberal Arts Education.” (Not a BAD idea, depending on what is considered a “Classic Liberal Arts Education.” THAT could raise a problem.)

### 3) **Religious Freedom protected, but Especially for Christians** le:

“We are the defenders of the First Amendment Right to Religious Liberty. It protects the Right not only to Worship according to the dictates of Conscience, but also to act in accordance with those Beliefs, not just in places of Worship, but in everyday life. Our ranks include men and women from every Faith and Tradition, and we respect the Right of every American to follow his or her deeply held Beliefs. To protect Religious Liberty, Republicans support a new Federal Task Force on Fighting Anti-Christian Bias that will



investigate all forms of illegal discrimination, harassment, and persecution against Christians in America.” **And,**

“Republicans will champion the First Amendment Right to Pray and Read the Bible in school, and stand up to those who violate the Religious Freedoms of American students.”

(Christians must be protected by the government? After many years of separation of Church and State, NOW the Christians need to be protected by the government. What would the Founding Fathers have to say about that? And as a Christian, it is my belief that we already have a Defender, that being Jesus Christ. But maybe I’m just an optimist.)

The bent toward a sort of “we” versus “them” mentality in the Republican Party Platform is troubling. The wording of the “planks” of their “platform” is purposely provocative. For those who have difficulty thinking for themselves, it can make such people feel part of something “heroic;” something big and purposeful and righteous. What bothers me is that our whole HISTORY as a country has been heroic and purposeful and righteous! Look at America in the World Wars. Look at us promoting mechanisms like the United Nations and NATO to stop world violence. Look at us welcoming immigrants from all over Europe over the past 250 years, and accepting other folks from South America, India, Asia and Africa in the more recent past. Look at us working with RUSSIA in the exploration of space. The United States of America is a great nation. We have stumbled here and there.....but we are a great nation, full of great people with plenty of grit. Don’t overlook that.

[Submitted by Karen Mitchell](#)

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**Election 2024: 2 Vying to represent the 9th Congressional District**

[The Reading Eagle](#) Oct. 4, 2024

Republican incumbent Dan Meuser will once again face Democratic challenger Amanda Waldman.

**We asked the candidates to respond to four questions:**

**Q. Name a single problem facing the district you are running to represent and how you would address that issue if elected.**

**Q. What specific actions should Congress take to make life more affordable for the people living in your district?**

**Q. What do you believe is the biggest threat to national security, and what can Congress do to confront it?**

**Q. Whose political career do you most admire, and why?**

**READ THE ANSWERS SUBMITTED BY THE CANDIDATES HERE:**

<https://www.readingeagle.com/2024/10/02/election-2024-2-vying-to-represent-the-9th-congressional-district/>

**Click on link**

**SUPPORT OUR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE, AMANDA WALDMAN**

[www.waldman4pa.com](http://www.waldman4pa.com)

## **Amanda's Key Priorities**

***Women's Rights and Equal Rights:* Ensure equal pay for equal work; equal access to healthcare, including abortion and miscarriage care for all women. Ensure the rights enshrined in the constitution are protected for ALL people, including the right to privacy and bodily autonomy. I will work to protect the people's rights to make their own decisions.**

***Veterans:*** Support military families, deliver easy access to high-quality healthcare, and ensure coverage for ALL service related mental & physical conditions.

***Unions:*** Support their fight for equitable pay, benefits, healthcare, and worker safety. Support legislation like the PRO Act; ensure Pennsylvania does not become a right to work (aka: right to be exploited by your employer) state.

***Farming:*** Support policies such as the PRIME Act and the dairy bill that provide family farms with the ability to compete in the market.

***Jobs and Economic Prosperity:*** Make America a world leader in technology and innovation and create more jobs for hard working Pennsylvanians, especially those in the 9th District. Ensure a living wage, support policies that help small businesses thrive, stop price-gouging, and continue to bridge the gap of high-speed internet access in rural communities.

***Education:*** Work to fully fund public education mandates as promised, guarantee access to high-quality Pre-K, and affordable childcare for working families. Fight for adequate wages for teachers, early learning, and childcare workers, decrease student loan debt, and promote community colleges and apprenticeship programs for people who choose not to go to a four year college.

***Environment:*** Invest in renewable and sustainable energy sources, decrease reliance on foreign oil, and ensure regulatory agencies have the authority and funding to hold environmental polluters accountable.

***Healthcare:*** Lower drug prices, increase equitable access to care, and work on making Medicare an option for ALL who want it, especially as emergency coverage for anyone who loses a job and cannot afford COBRA coverage. Tax dollars pay for elected officials' ridiculously high paychecks, job perks & benefit packages, therefore the taxpayers should be able to benefit from the same healthcare options



and plans that elected officials have access to at the same or lower rates.

Following article from [The Scranton Times](#) :

## Point and counterpoint

# Secure America's borders by reviving Trump-era policies

By U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser  
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE  
9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

When I entered Congress in January 2019, the nation was facing the longest federal shutdown in history. At the heart of the dispute was the \$5.6 billion requested by President Trump for border security. Despite the overwhelming need to secure our southern border, Speaker Pelosi rejected the proposal even when



Meuser

President Trump offered a compromise involving DACA.

At that time, illegal border crossings had been reduced, but were still far from where they needed to be. During my visit to the border in early 2019, I saw firsthand how Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was battling illegal entries. The situation significantly improved by June of that year thanks to an agreement between President Trump and the Mexican government, which deployed 15,000 Mexican troops along their southern and northern borders. Along with the "Remain in Mexico" policy and stricter enforcement of asylum laws, these actions resulted in a sharp drop in illegal crossings, drug trafficking and cartel activity.

In January 2021, the Biden-Harris administration began undoing these successful policies. Over 60 executive actions were taken, halting border wall construction, ending "Remain in Mexico," implementing "Catch and Release," and undermining cooperation with Mexico. These actions triggered an unprecedented surge in illegal crossings, with more than 10 million illegal entries and nearly 2 million suspected "pataways," since January 2021. Further, illegal immigrants are no longer just from Central and South America. Between October 2021 and October 2023, CBP apprehended 659 Iranians and 538 Syrians. Additionally, encounters with Chinese nationals skyrocketed from 1,970 in FY22 to over 31,000 this fiscal year alone. And under border czar Harris, more than 150 individuals on the terrorist watch list have been encountered at the southern border. The crisis has spiraled out of control, overwhelming CBP and making it nearly impossible to enforce immigration laws effectively.

The Harris open-border policies have exacerbated the exploitation of vulnerable populations. The opioid crisis, particularly the spread of fentanyl, has devastated communities across the country and in Pennsylvania. Human trafficking has exploded under this administration, dehumanizing millions. Their agenda has created inexplicable suffering, funded cartels and harmed Americans.

The Biden-Harris administration claims that new legislation is needed to fix the problem. That's not true. The Trump administration proved the border could be secured without new laws — by enforcing the ones already in place.

What we lack today is not legal authority but political will. However, in response to the administration's insistence that new legislation was necessary, the House passed the Secure the Border Act (H.R. 2), which would restore Trump-era policies that worked. This includes reinstating "Remain in Mexico," tightening asylum laws, ending "Catch and Release," and requiring cooperation with the Mexican government. This bill offers a comprehensive solution to the border crisis, unlike the Biden-Harris administration's proposals, which focus on processing and resettling migrants rather than preventing illegal crossings.

Democrats' latest attempt at immigration reform, supported by Kamala

# Stalled bipartisan border bill offered template for reform

By Amanda Waldman  
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE  
9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

I would support legislation like the bipartisan border security bill, which would have delivered the strongest border enforcement tools in 30 years and was supported by both the Department of Homeland Security and Border Patrol. It would have provided:

■ 1,500 new border agents and given the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) increased hiring flexibility to immediately fill those



Waldman

### EDITOR'S NOTE

MediaNews Group's newspapers in Northeast Pennsylvania invited candidates for Congress in the 8th and 9th Districts to submit op-ed columns on issues in the Nov. 5 election. Today's topic: "What measures would you support to reform the U.S. immigration system?"

thing that is often missing from legislation.

These enforcement tools would significantly decrease the number of individuals attempting the journey to our southern border and provide for the timely removal of individuals who have illegally entered, while also providing humanitarian relief

for those who qualify.

In addition to the above legislation, an overhaul of the H-2A visa program is absolutely necessary. We need to get to work on meaningful guest worker/agricultural worker visa programs for our nation's farms as outlined and supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation. Congress must listen to our nation's agricultural experts and create policies that match the actual needs of the farming communities.

I stand with the people in demanding action on a border bill, even if it means standing up to my own party to ensure action is taken. As elected officials, our duty is to the people who elect us, not to political parties. Only Congress can fix our broken immigration system, and as a member of Congress I will work tirelessly to ensure we do,

My position is in stark contrast to my opponent, Mr. Meuser, who spent months talking about the urgent need to secure the border, but was then silent when it came time to take a stand on a comprehensive, enforceable border security bill. Mr. Meuser doesn't appear to understand that it is the responsibility of Congress to pass legislation to protect our border, not the president, as evidenced in his talking points on the issue.

We deserve representatives who do the work. The people of the 9th District do better everyday, they take responsibility for themselves, their families and their work. We The People deserve elected officials who take responsibility for their work, stop playing politics with our lives and spend more time with their constituents than they do at their beach houses in Long Island.



Border Patrol officers patrol near the border between San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Harris, allows for an average of 5,000 daily migrant crossings before emergency measures would be triggered. That's nearly 2 million illegal crossings per year — an unsustainable number that would further overwhelm our already strained immigration system.

The American people deserve a government that prioritizes their safety and security. Unfortunately, the Biden-Harris administration has placed illegal immigration over the well-being of U.S. citizens. Democrats continue to advocate for policies that encourage illegal entries while failing to enforce existing laws.

As I've often said, we need high fences, but wide gates. Any immigration solution must prioritize securing the border first. Only with a secure border can we effectively manage agricultural and seasonal worker programs like H-2A, H-2B and address other immigration related issues. We need reforms to our guest worker programs to ensure we don't displace American workers and prioritize merit-based immigration that serves to enhance America's economic interests.

Our nation cannot thrive if we allow unchecked illegal immigration to continue. We must enforce our immigration laws and implement the policies included in H.R. 2. By adopting a whole-of-government approach to immigration, we can combat cartels, disrupt human trafficking and drug smuggling, and protect Americans. It's time to put America First, secure our borders, and restore the rule of law.

positions.

■ Increased immigration attorneys and judge teams to cut the length of time asylum seekers await in the U.S. for their court dates from the average of 5-7 years down to six months.

■ Measures to combat the opioid crisis and included the bipartisan FEND OFF Fentanyl Act to fight the fentanyl crisis by targeting the illicit fentanyl supply chain.

■ 24/7 drone coverage of the southern border.

■ An end to "catch and release" and a closing of the loopholes in parole.

■ DHS border emergency authority to close the border as necessary.

This legislation is a first step in securing our southern border. It combines both major policy changes with the resources necessary to enable DHS to implement and enforce those policy changes, some-



Migrants cross the Rio Grande and enter the U.S. from Mexico last October. AP FILE

