

Bedford County Democrats' Newsletter

Fall 2023

“No president of the United States, no senator, no governor can take away your rights with a stroke of a pen, but judges can.” ... Judge Dan McCaffrey

When the U.S. Supreme Court rolled back long established rights, it opened the door for state legislatures to pass laws to preserve or limit those rights and judges to interpret the constitutionality of the new laws. This fall we will elect four judges to statewide office and vote on the retention of two sitting judges.

Dan McCaffrey is our candidate for **Justice of the Supreme Court**, **Jill Beck** and **Timika Lane** are running for **Judge of the Superior Court**, and **Matt Wolf** is running to be a **Judge of the Commonwealth Court**. We are proud of the personal and professional backgrounds of our nominees. You can learn more about each at our Web site: <https://bedfordcountydems.org/>

Pennsylvania judges must stand for a retention vote every ten years. This year **Democrat Jack A. Panella**, President Judge of the Superior Court, and Republican Victor P Stabile will be on the ballot for retention.

Democrat Judge Candidates Outperform Republicans in Qualification Ratings by the PA Bar Association

The Judicial Evaluation Commission of the Pennsylvania Bar Association evaluates the qualifications of judicial candidates before each election. They evaluate paper submissions from the candidates and conduct personal interviews. Candidates are then rated as highly qualified, qualified, or not recommended.

For the Supreme Court, Democrat candidate **Dan McCaffrey** and his Republican opponent both received **highly qualified** ratings.

For Commonwealth Court Democrat **Matt Wolf** and his Republican opponent received **qualified** ratings.

We will elect two judges to the Superior Court. Democrats **Jill Beck** and **Timika Lane** both earned **highly qualified** ratings from the PA Bar. The two **Republican** opponents were rated **qualified** and **not recommended for failure to participate**.

The Superior Court judges standing for retention, **Democrat Jack A. Panella** and Republican Victor P. Stabile, have both been recommended for retention by the PA Bar.

The PA Supreme Court Has Stopped

- efforts of Tump allies to throw out votes in Democratic Pennsylvania counties after the 2020 election
- the Republican gerrymander of PA Congressional Districts which gave Republicans an unfair majority of representatives with a minority of voters
- a Republican voter ID law which would have required people who don't have drivers licenses to go to a license center to get a picture ID, a move that makes voting harder for people who don't own cars.

Our Countywide Candidates

Deb Baughman is among the most consequential County Commissioners in the past 50 years.

How many past County Commissioners can you name? We may have forgotten their names, but there is a group of commissioners who served the county as *visionaries*, leaving a legacy of improvements that changed the quality of life in Bedford County.

Some examples would be the Commissioners who worked to create **Old Bedford Village**, create the **Bedford County Development Association**, and those who worked to bring businesses to Bedford County, such as the **Walmart Distribution Center** and the **Omni at Bedford Springs**.

Deb Baughman is a *visionary*. She came to the Commissioner's Office with a vision of **expanding broadband internet access** to the underserved homes in Bedford County and has worked tirelessly to achieve that vision for us.

Deb is probably the most knowledgeable person in Bedford County on the issue of broadband and how to use the levers of county government to continue expanding broadband service. Her work has and will improve the lives of countless Bedford County residents.

Matt Wilt for County Commissioner

Matt is a senior political science and legal studies double major at Elizabethtown College. He has served in Elizabethtown's student Senate, is a political contributor to the school newspaper and has been involved in campus news video broadcasts.

Matt *interned* with Commissioner Deb Baughman in 2019 before joining Bedford County's elections office as an *intern* in the summer of 2021. He then was an *intern* for U.S. Sen. Bob Casey in the summer of 2022 before returning to Bedford County to help with the fall election.

Visit our web site for more information about candidates and updates about our fall dinner.
<https://bedfordcountydems.org/>

Robert Roland will bring years of experience and in-depth knowledge of county government to the Office of Bedford County Auditor.

He has worked in the Assessment Office/Tax Claims Bureau of Bedford County for the past eighteen years, where he administers the "**clean and green**" program. Over the course of those many years he has met and assisted many residents and property owners from all of Bedford County. Prior to that, he served as a **4-time elected tax collector** for Monroe Township. He is a life long resident of Bedford County, having grown up in the Clearville area and graduating from Everett Area High School in 1986.

BAD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE DO NOT VOTE!

In 2010, 48% of Democrats voted while 57% of Republicans went to the polls. **The result was a complete Republican sweep of state government.** They controlled both houses of the state legislature, Tom Corbett was the governor, and there was a Republican majority on the state's supreme court. **Republicans pushed an aggressive agenda and Democrats could do nothing because too few of us showed up to vote!**

You are invited to the Bedford County Democrats Fall Dinner, Tuesday, October 17.

Our annual Fall Dinner will be held at Whispering Hollow Estates, a lovely venue off Route 96, between Pleasantville and New Paris. At this time **State Representatives Malcolm Kenyatta and Scott Conklin** are scheduled to speak. Malcolm will be running for PA Auditor General in 2024. Scott is our closest Democratic representative, representing most of Centre County and is also Treasurer of the PA Democratic Party.

Music will be provided by Matt Otis and food by Chef Mandisa Horn of the Horn O'Plenty. Check our web site for directions to and updates to the speaker list.

Purchase tickets for \$30 by contacting Mary Ann Martz at 814-494-5702, martzmaryann@yahoo.com or Valerie Pawuk at 814-327-6383, valeriepawuk@gmail.com.