



# The Brandywine Democrat

Birmingham Edition

2007 Primary Election Issue

Spring 2007

A Periodic Publication

Volume 2, Issue 1

Primary is Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Keep the momentum going - GET OUT AND VOTE

## ZONE 10 NEWS – BIRMINGHAM EDITION

Zone 10 is a division of the Chester County Democratic organization, consisting of Thornbury, Birmingham & Pocopson Twps.

A lively Zone meeting was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at Pace One Restaurant with 16 interested Democrats attending. We heartily welcomed a second Committee person for Birmingham 2, *VICTORIA CAPUTO*, and got to hear about Victoria's reasons for throwing her hat in the ring as the Democratic candidate for Township Supervisor. A spirited discussion was held about the Act I referendum question appearing on the ballot in this primary election. *Read on for more details on Act I.*

FYI: We now have (approximately) 663 registered Democrats between both precincts in Birmingham.

Meetings are generally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Check the website for date/time/place of the next meeting and come join us!

The Brandywine Democrats now have a website! Check out [www.BrandywineDemocrats.org](http://www.BrandywineDemocrats.org)

*Thanks for getting us on the Web go to Lee Wheeler.*

## BALLOT INFORMATION

**PLEASE NOTE: Some candidates on the primary ballot are really Republicans!** Candidates for some offices are allowed to "cross-file," meaning they can appear on the opposing party's ballot. There is no indication on the ballot of the cross-filed candidate's party affiliation.

In this election, Republicans have cross-filed for the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The top vote-getter from each party's ballot will go on to November's election. This means it is theoretically possible for the Republican candidate to be the top vote-getter on both Primary ballots, which would create an uncontested race in November. *Make sure a Democrat gets to the November election –*

**VOTE JENNIFER LEVY-TATUM FOR JUDGE  
CHESTER COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

## ACT 1 REFERENDUM QUESTION

All school districts in Pennsylvania are required to place a referendum question on the ballot regarding reducing property tax by adding or increasing personal/earned income taxes, pursuant to the Act 1 Taxpayer Relief Act, a complicated new legislation adopted in July 2006. The decision to permit a tax shift, and the nature of that shift, will be decided by the voters at the Primary on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The question will be similar or identical to this:

*Do you favor your school district imposing a 1.0% earned income tax? The revenue generated from the new tax will be used to reduce taxes on qualified owner occupied residential properties by approximately \$990, and on qualified farm buildings by approximately \$990. The school district does not currently have an*

*earned income tax and the current rate in some municipalities is 0.5%.*

(Birmingham Township currently has no municipal earned income tax.) For more information go to: <http://www.ucfsd.org>

## YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATES

**Township Supervisor: VICTORIA CAPUTO**

Victoria's education (MBA-Management and Finance) and experience in systems analysis afford her great skills for the Supervisor role in Birmingham. She has served in leadership roles in other community organizations and is currently enrolled in both the Citizens Police Academy and Neighborhood University (studying local government.) The issues she will address as Supervisor include:

- Tax relief from the current *tax and spend* regime;
- Open dialog and careful evaluation of all Township issues;
- Listening to the needs of all of the residents of Birmingham Township, and representing those who have been traditionally excluded;

## YOUR (CONTESTED) COUNTY CANDIDATES

**Chester County Court of Common Pleas Judge: (vote for 1)**

**JENNIFER LEVY-TATUM, ESQ.:** Jennifer comes highly qualified for the role of a Judge in Chester County. She serves this area as a civil litigator, notary public, member of the Chester County Bar, and Arbitrator for this court – Court of Common Pleas. She is a principal in the firm of Levy-Tatum & Assoc., a Moot Court Judge at Widener University, and an Adjunct Professor at Eastern University. She brings the ability to speak Spanish to this job which will well serve the diverse nature of our population. She has worked hard to get to where she is, and that fortitude and work ethic will follow her to the judge's bench.

**County Commissioner (vote for 2):**

**KEN KNICKERBOCKER:** Ken brings a good deal of experience in local government leadership, and is currently the President of the Parkesburg Borough Council. In addition to serving a host of leadership positions in his local school board, he is Vice President of Acorn Systems, helping *Fortune 500* companies streamline processes and increase their profitability. He is a skilled leader with fresh ideas. Specifically, he looks to:

- Develop better traffic management plans;
- Rein in spiraling property tax increases;
- Put county service centers where you need them;
- Protect natural, cultural, and historic resources;
- Revitalize town centers and villages;
- Enhance the county emergency response plan;
- Create a countywide economic development plan

**BILL SCOTT:** Bill served his country as a captain in the US Army intelligence/JAG and did one tour of Vietnam. He is a 50 year Eagle Scout. His leadership skills also include experience as the President and Vice President of the West Chester Borough Council, and as District Leader in the Chester County Democratic Party. Bill's commitment to issues includes:

- Stop sprawl – open spaces need urban centers;
- aggressively and effectively confront the staggering over-development that is devouring our county;
- administer the County budget to lessen the significant poverty that exists despite the wealth in the county;
- make the diversity of our population an asset for the county;
- Stop *pay to play*.

**KATHI COZZONE:** Kathi offers many years of financial management experience and is currently the Corporate Business Manager at Rodale, Inc. She has served as District Leader and Committeeperson in the Chester County Democratic Party. Her goals for the County Commission include:

- Create a long-term strategic plan to bring greater fiscal responsibility to the county;
- Be a strong advocate for citizens and local supervisors in land use matters and control of development;
- Invest in the re-development of our cities, boroughs and villages as a component of maintaining open space;
- Push for the continuance of the voter-verified paper trail in elections;
- Attack the *pay to play* mentality that has strangled our county's fiscal viability.

**VIRGINIA H. MCMICHAEL:** Ginny's experience as (the first Democrat elected) East Whiteland Supervisor has given her the fortitude necessary to push for the important issues despite Republican efforts at obstruction. She is a proven leader who has demonstrated a willingness to work for all residents of the community. Ginny seeks to:

- preserve our farmland and protect our environment;
- clean up the brownfields;
- redevelop the city and boroughs to create livable, walkable communities, not just profits for developers;
- deliver social services in an efficient way that respects human dignity
- Assure open, transparent government.

**WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FOR SHERIFF**

A Democrat has come forward to vie for the Sheriff's office. Please be sure to write in **KEVIN CHRISTIE**. The spelling must be the same for the vote to register properly, so please take your "Official Guide" with you to the polls.

For links to candidates' websites go to: [www.ChesCoDems.org](http://www.ChesCoDems.org)

**Committee People:**  
 Birmingham 1: Donna Landon ([donna@landons.org](mailto:donna@landons.org)) 610-430-3932  
 Mark Landon ([mark@landons.org](mailto:mark@landons.org)) 610-430-3932  
**Polling Place:** Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm  
 Birmingham 1: Twp Building, 1040 W Street Rd (Rte 926)

**Committee People:**  
 Birmingham 2: Dorothy Carroll ([dhlcarroll@comcast.net](mailto:dhlcarroll@comcast.net)) 610-793-1363  
 Victoria Caputo ([vscaputo@yahoo.com](mailto:vscaputo@yahoo.com)) 610-793-3379  
**Polling Place:** Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm  
 Birmingham 2: Birmingham Friends Mtg, 1245 Birmingham Rd.

**CHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**Official Guide To**  
**Democratic Candidates**

**NOTE: Some Candidates On The Primary Ballot Are Cross-Filing Republicans.**

Please Use This Official Guide To Identify, And Vote For, The Endorsed Democrats.

**Make Sure Your Vote Counts!**  
**Choose—And Use—The Optical Scan Ballot.**

**Justice of the Supreme Court (vote for two)**

- G. Darnell Jones, II (Endorsed By CCDC\*)
- Seamus McCaffery (Endorsed By CCDC\*)
- Debra Todd (Endorsed By PADC\*)

**Judge of the Superior Court (vote for two)**

- Ron Folino
- Anne E. Lazarus (Endorsed By CCDC\*)
- John Milton Younge (Endorsed By CCDC\*)

**Judge-Chester County Court of Common Pleas**

- Jennifer W. Levy-Tatum (Endorsed By CCDC\*)

**Chester County Commissioner (vote for two)**

- Ken Knickerbocker
- Bill Scott
- Kathi Cozzone
- Virginia H. McMichael

**Sheriff**

- Write-In Kevin Christie

**Prothonotary**

- John H. Kiefel (Endorsed By CCDC\*)

**Register of Wills**

- Kipp F. Stone (Endorsed By CCDC\*)

**Recorder of Deeds**

- Kevin C. Fitzpatrick (Endorsed By CCDC\*)

**Township Supervisor**

- Victoria Caputo

**Ballot Question**  YES  NO

Birmingham Twp/ Unionville/Chadds Ford Referendum on Act 1 Taxpayer Relief Act  
 Please refer to the UCFSD.org website for more information.

\*Chester County Democratic Committee \*\*Pennsylvania Democratic Committee

Please consider a donation (of any amount) to help defray the cost of this newsletter.

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 Brandywine Democrats, c/o Donna Landon, 905 General Howe Dr., West Chester, PA 19382 PAID FOR BY THE BRANDYWINE DEMOCRATS