



The Brandywine Democrat

Thornbury Edition

2007 Primary Election Issue

Spring 2007

ZONE 10 NEWS – THORNBURY 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 in attendance. We had the opportunity to meet and hear from MICHAEL GAST, the Democratic candidate for Thornbury Township Supervisor, and 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) 591 registered Democrats between both precincts in Thornbury. We're gaining on them!

Meetings are generally held on the 3rd 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

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

HELP WANTED

Thornbury 1 precinct is looking for a 2nd Committee person. Great benefits, good working environment. No experience required. Equal opportunity a must!

Also looking for person(s) to work (for real pay!) inside the polling place at the Concept School as a clerk in November's election.

Contact Mary Ann Good for more information.

BALLOT INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE: Some candidates on the primary ballot are really Republicans! Candidates for certain offices are allowed to "cross-file," which means 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 15th. The question will be similar or identical to this:

DO YOU FAVOR CONVERTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CURRENT EARNED INCOME TAX TO A PERSONAL INCOME TAX AT 1.1%? THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE PERSONAL INCOME TAX WILL BE USED TO REDUCE TAXES ON QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY BY \$533 AND TO REPLACE THE REVENUE FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CURRENT EARNED INCOME TAX. THE CURRENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EARNED INCOME TAX RATE IS .5%

Residents in the West Chester Area School District (like Thornbury residents) now pay a 1% Earned Income Tax, of which ½ goes to the School District, and the other ½ goes back to the Townships. The proposed tax shift is a progressive tax: lower income property owners, like retirees, will get some overall tax relief through the reduction in property tax, while higher income families, and renters, will potentially bear a greater tax burden.

For more information go to: <http://www.wcasd.k12.pa.us/news>

YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATES

Township Supervisor: MICHAEL GAST

Good government depends on communication and understanding the needs of constituents. The unique position of township government as an interface between its residents and county, state and other townships requires constant attention to all issues that potentially impact our community. Listening to all points of view, accurately assessing problems, and acting responsibly to execute the right solutions defines the good representative. During my 18 years as a faculty member at Washington University, 14 years as an executive in the pharmaceutical industry, and as a director, advisor, or officer of a wide range of organizations, I developed the listening, negotiating and mediation skills which ensure communication between organizations and individuals. With your help, I will bring those skills to Thornbury's Board of Supervisors.

Two years ago, township voters began correcting the deficiencies in our township government with the election of Ed Travis as Supervisor. We now have the opportunity to continue that momentum: to establish a responsible, responsive Board that keeps the best interests of all Thornbury residents in mind. I hope you'll join me in that effort.

West Chester Area School Board Director:

(Vote for 5)

DEB LICZWEK: WASCD parent, Ph.D. in chemistry with 25 years of industrial and managerial experience, she has been vocal at School Board meetings over the need to seriously upgrade the science and technology curriculum in the district. *“Our community values education and our district has many of the ingredients needed to excel. To achieve we must support educational efforts in the classroom. Science literacy is important!”*

JOHN J. TREVISANI: Father of 2 who have been in the WC schools, John has been active in approaching the School Board over the following points:

- upgrading the technology curriculum;
- raising the educational experience for minority students;
- reducing the homework overload;
- opposing the strict new dress code, breathalyzer tests, and school lock downs for drug/alcohol searches.

For more information on the candidates' positions, please visit the BrandywineDemocrats.org website.

YOUR (CONTESTED) COUNTY CANDIDATES

Chester County Court of Common Pleas:

(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.

Committee People:

Thornbury 1: Susan Gast (ssgast@aol.com)

Thornbury 2: Mary Ann Good (goodmas@comcast.net) 610-455-0776

Melanie Baer (mbaer27@verizon.net) 610-455-0217

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

Polling Places: Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm

Thornbury 1: The Concept School, Rte 926 & Westtown Rd

Thornbury 2: Brandywine at Thornbury Clubhouse, Chaps Ln

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

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make check payable to *Brandywine Democrats* AMOUNT: _____

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