

Candidates for Democratic State Committee

May 15, 2018



Bill Scott, incumbent, has been active in the Chester County Democratic Party since 1964. He has long years of service on both the County and State Committees and on their Executive Committees. Bill is now in his third term on the West Chester Borough Council and previously served a term as its President. He has participated in the campaigns of Democratic candidates in every election cycle and is a member of the Democratic State Committee. Bill has voted in 98 primary and general elections in a row.



Alex Teplyakov: Dedicated to electing Democrats at all levels of government, Alex Teplyakov works for the Pennsylvania State House and has worked on and managed numerous political campaigns. Alex believes strongly in grassroots activism and routinely canvasses and organizes to help local candidates and strengthen local party committees. On State Committee, Alex will fight for a progressive party platform and stronger support and more cohesive messaging to aid down-ballot candidates, while strengthening communication between the state and local party committees.



Lisa Longo, treasurer of the CCDC: is a parent, financial and business consultant with a degree in Accounting. Lisa has had her own business and in 2015 was elected to the Phoenixville Area School Board, where she previously served on the Community Budget Advisory Committee. Her message of inclusion, diversity, and transparency has resonated with many people; she is often invited to speak on topics ranging from the political to sustainable living, and including business best practices, campaign management, education issues as well as community development.



Chris Pielli, Incumbent: Chris is proud and grateful to have served & supported Chester County the past 4 years as a member of the Democratic State Committee. He has helped turn our County blue by being the second only Democrat to win a seat on the West Goshen Board of Supervisors in 2015, and now serves as Chairman of the Board. Chris is a U.S. Army Veteran, an attorney, Veterans advocate, and a proud husband and father. He pledges to return Pennsylvania to the progressive state it should be and lead our county and commonwealth to a more fair and just future.



Barbara E. Cooper, incumbent: Barbara (Bunnie) Cooper is a leader in Chester County Democratic politics, and a trailblazer for women in the labor movement. For 45 years, she has been active and engaged in advancing Democratic values and in giving her unwavering support to Democratic candidates up and down the ballot. Not only is Bunnie known throughout Southeast Pennsylvania, and around the state, as a tireless supporter of Democrats and Democratic causes, she is one of only a few women labor leaders in Pennsylvania, and well-respected within the organized labor community statewide.



Diane O'Dwyer: Diane has been a Democratic volunteer since 2004 & a Zone Leader for Central Chester County Democrats since 2011. She was a Team Leader for Lois Murphy for Congress 2006 & local co-Team Leader for Obama for America 2008. Diane was the local Canvass Director of Hillary for America 2016 & is currently the Campaign Chair for Cozzone for PA 2018. She pledges to bring your concerns & a keen sense of fairness and responsibility in representing Chester County.



Elva Banks Baxter: Elva is a 30-year Chester County resident who has lived in Tredyffrin Township for 25 years. She is a local business owner who is an Executive Coach specializing in leadership competencies and works with Fortune 500 companies. Elva proudly "lives, works and worships" in Chester County and has actively been engaged in working as an election worker at the voter polls, and in voter outreach and engagement. Her campaign experience includes a run for the Tredyffrin Board of Supervisors in 2015. Elva currently serves on the Board of Benchmark Federal Credit Union, the Chester County Women's Commission, and the Executive Committee of the Tredyffrin Township Democrats.



John Hellman III: John became a Precinct Committee Person in 2002 & has continued to serve including acting Zone Leader for the West Goshen, PA 156th District Leader, & 158th District Leader. In 2016, he was elected as a Sanders delegate to the DNC & has been part of many campaigns for Democrats for 18 years. A retired electrician, he is a member of the IBEW concerned about the attacks on working families and will fight for working people & the unions that stand for them.



Dennis McAndrews, Esquire: Dennis is a lifelong Democrat who has resided in Chester County for nearly 40 years. Dennis is an experienced attorney who regularly represents children and adults with disabilities and their families and has attained a national reputation in the fields of special education, special needs planning, and estate planning for families. Dennis is committed to progressive public policies, including universal health care, protection for the environment, reasonable/humane immigration policies, gun control legislation, and honesty and civility in government.



Christopher Kowerdovich: Christopher was a medic in the Pennsylvania National Guard and deployed to Iraq. He earned a degree in Organizational Leadership at Pennsylvania State University. He is the Chair of the Young Democrats of America Veterans & Military Affairs Caucus. He is running on 1) taking a bottom-up approach to listening to Democrats in Chester County, 2) being present at every State Committee meeting to represent your concerns, 3) proven leadership in the military, academics and the Democratic party



Kevin Houghton: Kevin has as an extensive history of political experience. He went to New Hampshire in 2004 and 2008 to work on the primary campaigns for Howard Dean and Barack Obama. He created the West Bradford Democrats and worked to merge with the East Bradford Democrats to become the Bradford Democrats. Kevin served as the Chair/Zone Leader of the Bradford Democrats for the past two years. With nearly 1 million more Democrats in the state than Republicans, Trump should not have won in 2016 and we should not have lost the State Supreme Court race in 2017. Kevin wants to work to bring PA back to being a Blue State.



Dave McLimans, incumbent: I have worked tirelessly for Democratic and Labor issues. I have lobbied Congress for Fair Labor practices. I serve as a Rapid Response Liaison to Congressional Campaign Committee. I have worked on campaigns in Wisconsin, Indiana and Pennsylvania. I have organized Labor walks and phone banks for more than 20 years. On Pa. Dem. State Committee, I am involved in the Labor Caucus, Senior caucus and Southeast Caucus. I have been a committee person since 1982 in 3 different precincts (E. Fallowfield W, Parkesburg S and Sadsbury N). I am currently the Zone leader of the Western Chester County Dems. I have been Labor Council President for 22 years. I serve on the CCDC Executive Committee.



Stephannie McLimans, incumbent: Many of you know me because of my work in the Offices of both Andy Dinniman and Kathi Cozzone. I am proud of that service. I have also served our Party as the only elected Delegate in CC to our Party's National Convention in 2004. I've been Party Secretary, on Executive Board member, Asst. Zone Leader, and CP working on many campaigns. Among other duties, I serve on State Committee's Bylaws and Veterans Affairs committees. I am active with the Labor Movement and work on many environmental causes. I am very proud to have received the "Legacy in Progress" award from the NAACP for my work and will always fight for fairness and justice



Lani Frank, incumbent: Lani is a life-long Democrat has been a voice in Chester County for 8 years. A two-term elected State Committee Member, Lani is the Vice Chair of the Chester County Democratic committee, chaired the 2014-2016 Progressive Caucus PA, and is currently a Willistown Precinct committee person. Lani will continue to work tirelessly to steer the Democratic Party in a progressive direction. Lani is endorsed by Admiral Joe Sestak.



Debra A Sulenski: My name is Debbie Sulenski and I am running for change. I am a wife, mother, advocate, and activist. I love working with my community, whether for social justice or on the Barley Sheaf Players' stage. I have lived in 6 states, from New York to Florida, and I am running because I cannot stand by and watch our already great America sink under the weight of hatred and ignorance.



Michele Vaughn: Michele Vaughn serves as Regional Director for the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women and the Chair of the Chester County Democratic Women's Leadership Initiative (CCDWLI). The organization was founded in 2015 to bring the issues that concern women, organized labor and working families to the forefront of the political process. Michele is especially proud of CCDWLI's support and role in the 2017 historic elections of our four Chester County Row Officials. Michele would like to bring her experience leading CCDWLI to other counties across Pennsylvania by providing women an opportunity to be become engaged leaders in our communities, in the political process and in the Democratic party and Progressive movement.



Mary R LaSota: Mary intends to carry the message of progressive values & an inclusive vision to the Pennsylvania State Democratic Committee. A practicing attorney, Mary has been involved with the Sunrise Rotary, PA Bar Association & is a member of the Brandywine Conservatory. Knocking on thousands of doors during her successful campaign for West Goshen Township Supervisor, she realized that her message of hope, new leadership and a fresh vision for Chester County was needed.



Hans van Mol, incumbent: Hans is the next generation of leadership that Pennsylvania so desperately needs! He believes the role of a good State Committee member is to make your needs known in Harrisburg, and to bring both information and resources back down to the county level. Hans ran for County Recorder of Deeds in 2015 and for State Representative in 2016. A proud graduate of West Chester University and lifelong resident of Tredyffrin Township, he is the President of the Chester County Young Democrats and the State Secretary of the Pennsylvania Young Democrats. Hans asks for your support so he may continue to advocate for Chester County Democrats in Harrisburg.