



# Democratic Club of Willow Valley

General Meeting  
May 27, 2025

# Guest Speaker

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## Chris Baxter



# SPOTLIGHT **PA**

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**Treasury**

**Scholarship**

**Advocacy: Key Issues for PA**

**Website**

**Election Results**

**Upcoming Events**



# Treasury

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- **Current Balance**                      **\$ 2,522.22**
  
- **Amount “owed” to  
Scholarship Fund**                      **\$ 3,432.00**

**Difference**                      **\$ 909.78**

Unchanged from last meeting


# Scholarships



- **Truman Horst** -- community-service scholarship winner.
- **Mason Heiserman** -- technical-school scholarship winner.
- Each will be awarded \$1,000.

# Advocacy

## Three Key Issues for PA

- **2025-26 Budget**
  - **Education Funding**
  - **Housing Action Plan**
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- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

# 2025-26 Budget:

## Key Spending Areas

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- **Workforce Development**
  - Invests in childcare and healthcare
  - Increased funding for career/technical education and apprenticeships
- **Healthcare**
  - Funds hospitals, especially rural hospitals, behavioral and mental health
  - Prioritizes care for elderly and disabled
- **Public Safety**
  - Supports law enforcement and first responders
  - Invests in violence prevention & support for victims
- **Economic Development**
  - Initiatives to attract new business, support entrepreneurs, and promote business growth
- **Infrastructure and Public Transportation**
  - Increased funding for public transportation and invests in roads & bridges
- **Energy**
- **Revenue Sources** – legalize cannabis, regulate/tax skill games



# Education Funding Proposal

- **Increases Basic Education Funding by \$75 million and the Adequacy Supplement by \$526 million, focusing on underfunded schools**
- **Allocates \$40 million for special education**
- **Proposes a base cyber charter tuition rate of \$8,000 per student**
  - **Today, cyber charter schools are awash in excess funding which is wasted and hoarded while public schools struggle with inadequate funding**
- **Includes funding for school safety and mental health grants, as well as student teacher stipends.**

*Another step toward adequate, equitable, and constitutional funding for our public schools*





# PA Housing Market

- 20% of PA homeowners are “housing-cost burdened” \*
- Almost 50% of PA renters are “housing cost burdened” \*
- Shortage of 122,000 deeply-affordable rental units
- *Note: Budget proposal calls for a \$15 minimum wage*
- *What’s coming:*
  - On Sept. 12, 2024, Gov. Shapiro signed an executive order directing the development of a comprehensive Housing Action Plan to address high housing costs by:
    - Increasing affordable housing
    - Addressing homelessness
    - Making the Commonwealth more competitive
  - A draft plan is due by Sept. 12, 2025

\* pay more than 30% of their income for housing

# Advocacy (cont'd)



Letter-Writing Group

Visitation Advocacy Group

# Website Status

Ready to demonstrate our new website.

Implementation planned for June 1, 2025.

Future enhancements to include forthcoming  
political events.

# **New Business: 2025 Primary Election Results**

- **All our candidates went safely through to November**
  - **Brandon Neuman – PA Superior Court**
  - **Stella Tsai – PA Commonwealth Court**
  - **Sarah Cook & Kirk Williard – L-S School Board**
  - **Tracy Arnold – W. Lampeter Supervisor**
  - **Elaine Austin (Lakes) & Susan Highfield (Locust) – Insp. of Elections**
- **Our turnout was a high mark!**
  - **The county average turnout was 21%**
  - **Locust turnout was 39% - Excellent!**
  - **Lakes turnout was 46% - once again highest in the county!!**
- **We continued to see high rates of vote by mail**
  - **57% of L-S Dems voted by mail**

# Primary Election Greeters

## May 20, 2025



Patti Abernathy  
Mary Lou Alsentzer  
Margaret Babb  
Gail Beard  
Chuck Beers  
Barbara Bonanno  
Nancy Borremans  
Robin Buccos  
Carole Calhoun  
Marian Caroselli  
Pat Carroll  
Suzy Davis

Elaine Fisher  
Jayne Fowler  
Joe Friend  
Ellen Haas  
Jerry Henige  
Denise Hennessey  
Peter Keller  
Peg Kostopoulos  
Jolene L'Tainen  
Eileen Laurence  
LaVera Leonard

Edith May  
Carol MacAllister  
Marcia Mayor  
Ellen McCabe  
Linda McGrath  
Mike McGrath  
Don Nelson  
Sharron Nelson  
Michael Pancione  
Vesta Phiel  
Jen Porter

Jackie Powell  
LaTrelle Renaud  
Carole Repici  
Gary Rosecrans  
Kathi Sabino  
Betty Schweitzer  
Marti Staton  
Susan Tobie  
Al Tusing  
Jan Tusing  
Terry Webb  
Susan Ziegler

Apologies if we missed anyone!

# **Upcoming Events**

**Understanding Our Democracy**

**Monday, June 9 1:30 - 3:00 PM**

**Education Room**

**Topic is “Billionaires win! Families lose!**

**We will look at the Reconciliation Bill that just passed the US House.**

**Everyone is welcome.**

# **Upcoming Events**

## **Understanding Our Democracy**

**Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 1:30 - 3:00 pm**

**Cultural Center Education Room**

**Members of the Lancaster Quaker Meeting House will share with us their advocacy efforts with our elected officials.**

**Everyone is welcome.**

# Upcoming Events

**June 24<sup>th</sup>**

**General Meeting**

**Izzy Smith-Wade-El  
PA Representative**





Thank you for  
coming!



See you on

Tuesday,

June 24<sup>th</sup> at 1