



Democratic Club of Willow Valley

General Meeting
May 27, 2025

Guest Speaker

Chris Baxter



SPOTLIGHT PA



Treasury

Scholarship

Advocacy: Key Issues for PA

Website

Election Results

Upcoming Events



Treasury

- **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**

2025-26 Budget: Key Spending Areas

- **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 12th 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 24th

General Meeting

Izzy Smith-Wade-El
PA Representative



Thank you for
coming!



See you on

Tuesday,

June 24th at 1