

# DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF WILLOW VALLEY

## NEWSLETTER

### March 2025

Paid for by Democrat Club of Willow Valley  
Treasurer, Steve Wright  
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## Addressing the Issues

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Political News:

A Good Start!	2
Distributive vs Integrative Bargaining and Trump	6
If We Want to Stop Trump, We have to Start Now	8
Trump Betrays Ukraine	12
Republicans Transform the PA Supreme Court	13

#### Club/Local News:

Coming Events	18
Meeting Minutes	19

If you are not already on our mailing list, contact Jen Porter at [jenporter@comcast.net](mailto:jenporter@comcast.net).

# A Good Start!

## Today's Edition Newsletter

### A Good Start!

Robert B. Hubbell      February 6, 2025

[A good start! - by Robert B. Hubbell](#)

The resistance to Trump's slow-rolling coup is achieving lift-off. On Wednesday, protestors gathered at state capitols across the nation and in D.C. to raise their voices against the illegal, unconstitutional actions by Trump, Musk, and their techno-vandals.

The protests reached the critical mass necessary for the NYTimes to write an “*above the fold*” story on the growing resistance to the coup. See *NYTimes*, [Thousands Protest Trump Policies Across the U.S.](#) (Accessible to all.)

Per the Times,

*Thousands of people on Wednesday turned out across the U.S. to protest President Trump's flurry of early actions, denouncing his plans for mass deportations, his attacks on diversity initiatives and his efforts to restrict transgender rights.*

*The demonstrations, which popped up in major cities and state capitals in more than a dozen states, appear to have been spurred online, with word spreading via hashtags such as “#BuildtheResistance.” They were loosely organized under an unofficial tagline — 50501, to represent a goal of 50 protests in 50 states on one day, according to various websites and social media accounts. [¶¶¶]*

*“This was organized by people, for people, for the protection of all people,” [Mich. State Rep.] Rheingans said. “There will be more actions. There will be more organizing. There will be more things for regular everyday Americans to plug into. **This is just the beginning.**”*

Dozens of readers of this newsletter attended rallies and sent “reports from the field” with photos and videos. Here is a sampling of their comments:

- *The march **in Sacramento** was freaking awesome. Happy to be part of it. Thanks!*
- *Robert, the march **in Raleigh, NC**, was totally legit. Probably 1500 people of all ages walked peacefully around our Capitol and around our legislative building today for hours! I was so proud of so many patriots who came out to protest what Trump and Musk are doing to our country . . . The MAGA Congress is missing in action. They should not be paid during this time. That will save Musk some money!!!!*

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## A Good Start! (cont'd)

- *I do want to report that I attended one today at the state capitol in **Hartford, CT**. It was so energizing, powerful, inspiring and I was so grateful to be there, with a large crowd of people of all ages, with creative and impassioned signs. What I came to understand and appreciate is the spontaneity of the organizing and turnout for this event. There wasn't one particular organization that issued a call.*

In one state, the effort to organize the rally was hijacked by trolls (I won't provide details to avoid giving the idea to others), so the participants changed plans and headed to the local offices of their US Senators to register their outrage. They received a cool reception from their GOP Senator's staff but a warmer reception from their independent Senator's staff.

See the photos submitted from readers, below.

Denver, Colorado



# A Good Start! (cont'd)

Providence, Rhode Island



## A Good Start! (cont'd)

Readers showed up at the events despite the lack of organization and clear leadership. Or, perhaps readers showed up *because* of the spontaneity and free-form protests.

The energy and “self-help” attitude are similar to that of early 2017 when organizations were creating themselves out of whole cloth on a few days’ notice. Many of those groups are now powerhouse national grassroots organizations that are leading the fight in 2025. Those national grassroots organizations know how to organize effective protests. Follow them, join them, and stand with them!

Many readers of this newsletter are involved in the pro-democracy grassroots groups below. If I failed to include your group, no offense intended! Please feel free to include others in the Comment section (or email me: [rbhubbell@gmail.com](mailto:rbhubbell@gmail.com)):

- [Indivisible](#)
- [SwingLeft](#)
- [Markers for Democracy](#)
- [Field Team Six](#)
- [Sister District](#)
- [Third Act](#)
- [Red Wine and Blue](#)
- [BigTent USA](#)
- [Women’s March](#)

And, of course, *I urge everyone to subscribe* to the essential resource [Chop Wood Carry Water](#) by Jessica Craven on Substack. If you want to take action but are constrained by employment, childcare, health concerns, or geography, Jessica provides daily actionable items that will make a difference.

It was a good start that lifted the spirits of the readers who attended the protests. Stay tuned for more!

from Feminist News as seen on Facebook Feb. 20th:

**“I hope America is like that upside down Delta jet.**

**Everyone survives, but the right wing explodes.”**

# Distributive vs Integrative Bargaining and Trump

## Distributive vs Integrative Bargaining and Trump

David Hong

July 14, 2018

[Distributive vs integrative bargaining and Trump - Angry](#)

[Bear](#)

I'm going to get a little wonky and write about Donald Trump and negotiations. For those who don't know, I'm an adjunct professor at Indiana University — Robert H. McKinney School of Law and I teach negotiations. Okay, here goes.

Trump, as most of us know, is the credited author of "The Art of the Deal," a book that was actually ghost written by a man named Tony Schwartz, who was given access to Trump and wrote based upon his observations. If you've read The Art of the Deal, or if you've followed Trump lately, you'll know, even if you didn't know the label, that he sees all dealmaking as what we call "distributive bargaining."

Distributive bargaining always has a winner and a loser. It happens when there is a fixed quantity of something and two sides are fighting over how it gets distributed. Think of it as a pie and you're fighting over who gets how many pieces. In Trump's world, the bargaining was for a building, or for construction work, or subcontractors. He perceives a successful bargain as one in which there is a winner and a loser, so if he pays less than the seller wants, he wins. The more he saves the more he wins.

The other type of bargaining is called integrative bargaining. In integrative bargaining the two sides don't have a complete conflict of interest, and it is possible to reach mutually beneficial agreements. Think of it, not a single pie to be divided by two hungry people, but as a baker and a caterer negotiating over how many pies will be baked at what prices, and the nature of their ongoing relationship after this one gig is over.

The problem with Trump is that he sees only distributive bargaining in an international world that requires integrative bargaining. He can raise tariffs, but so can other countries. He can't demand they not respond. There is no defined end to the negotiation and there is no simple winner and loser. There are always more pies to be baked. Further, negotiations aren't binary. China's choices aren't (a) buy soybeans from US farmers, or (b) don't buy soybeans. They can also © buy soybeans from Russia, or Argentina, or Brazil, or Canada, etc. That completely strips the distributive bargainer of his power to win or lose, to control the negotiation.

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## Distributive vs Integrative Bargaining (cont'd)

One of the risks of distributive bargaining is bad will. In a one-time distributive bargain, e.g. negotiating with the cabinet maker in your casino about whether you're going to pay his whole bill or demand a discount, you don't have to worry about your ongoing credibility or the next deal. If you do that to the cabinet maker, you can bet he won't agree to do the cabinets in your next casino, and you're going to have to find another cabinet maker.

There isn't another Canada.

So when you approach international negotiation, in a world as complex as ours, with integrated economies and multiple buyers and sellers, you simply must approach them through integrative bargaining. If you attempt distributive bargaining, success is impossible. And we see that already.

Trump has raised tariffs on China. China responded, in addition to raising tariffs on US goods, by dropping all its soybean orders from the US and buying them from Russia. The effect is not only to cause tremendous harm to US farmers, but also to increase Russian revenue, making Russia less susceptible to sanctions and boycotts, increasing its economic and political power in the world, and reducing ours. Trump saw steel and aluminum and thought it would be an easy win, BECAUSE HE SAW ONLY STEEL AND ALUMINUM — HE SEES EVERY NEGOTIATION AS DISTRIBUTIVE. China saw it as integrative, and integrated Russia and its soybean purchase orders into a far more complex negotiation ecosystem.

Trump has the same weakness politically. For every winner there must be a loser. And that's just not how politics works, not over the long run.

For people who study negotiations, this is incredibly basic stuff, negotiations 101, definitions you learn before you even start talking about styles and tactics. And here's another huge problem for us.

Trump is utterly convinced that his experience in a closely held real estate company has prepared him to run a nation, and therefore he rejects the advice of people who spent entire careers studying the nuances of international negotiations and diplomacy. But the leaders on the other side of the table have not eschewed expertise, they have embraced it. And that means they look at Trump and, given his very limited tool chest and his blindly distributive understanding of negotiation, they know exactly what he is going to do and exactly how to respond to it.

From a professional negotiation point of view, Trump isn't even bringing checkers to a chess match. He's bringing a quarter that he insists on flipping for heads or tails, while everybody else is studying the chess board to decide whether its better to open with Najdorf or Grünfeld.

# If We Want to Stop Trump, We have to Start Now

**THE HILL**

## If we want to stop Trump, we have to start now

by William S. Becker, opinion contributor - 02/10/25 8:00 AM ET

<https://apple.news/AkkgukSyESmWrgAKdf1x7gw>

If you've wondered what a severe constitutional crisis looks like, wonder no more. [President Trump](#) has created one.

It's growing more intense every day as he and Elon Musk find [new ways](#) to violate the Constitution, federal laws, civil servants' rights to their jobs and all Americans' rights to privacy.

Trump threatened to be a dictator [only on day one](#), which would have been bad enough, but he has already wielded his Sharpie [incessantly during his first weeks in office](#). And he's unleashed Musk to [destroy agencies, programs and jobs](#) Congress has created and sustained.

Last year, Trump and [Project 2025](#) foretold the havoc he would wreak on democracy and governance. Republican voters had an opportunity to put the country above MAGA. Too few did, but it was close. Trump [claims](#) voters gave him an overwhelming mandate to ignore the rule of law, seize limitless powers and fill the government with oligarchs. But there was no mandate. He received [less than 50 percent of the vote](#) — meaning most Americans voted against him.

We are witnessing an outright coup against democracy, the rule of law and the Constitution. Trump has [broken the checks-and-balance system](#), [usurped powers from Congress](#), and [won a free pass from the nation's highest court](#). He has bullied the Republican majorities in Congress [into submission](#) and shows signs he will [defy the courts](#) as well.

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## If We Want to Stop Trump ... (cont'd)

Every evening news report delivers more bad news for the republic.

One of Trump's transgressions — his abuse of emergency powers — is getting too little attention. After the oil and gas industry gave [nearly \\$100 million](#) to his campaign and affiliated committees, he declared a nonexistent energy emergency that will create a true energy emergency.

Trump reportedly told oil executives he'd relax environmental regulations and let them drill with abandon if the industry gave him [\\$1 billion](#). They didn't take the deal, but Trump delivered a favor anyway. Hours after his inauguration, he formally declared a national energy emergency, allowing oil and gas producers to bypass the usual permitting and environmental requirements.

Trump [justified this with balderdash](#), blaming the Biden administration for “our nation's inadequate energy supply and infrastructure.” He wants U.S. “energy dominance.” Yet the U.S. is already the world's biggest oil and gas producer; the industry [set production records](#) during Biden's presidency.

Trump ignores reality. America can't dominate something it doesn't control. As energy experts repeatedly point out, the [global petroleum market](#) controls supplies and prices. By prolonging America's dependence on oil and gas, Trump cedes the nation's energy security to that market and, by extension, its economic and physical security.

Trump [promised](#) to fix our aging infrastructure during his first term, but [he failed](#). Biden then worked with Congress to [pass a \\$1.2 trillion investment](#) in energy and other infrastructure and a record [\\$370 billion investment](#) in clean energy technologies.

Trump has now [illegally frozen federal funds](#) for modernizing our energy supplies and infrastructure, putting progress in limbo. That is one dimension of our true energy emergency. The other is Trump's obstinate [refusal to acknowledge](#) and do something about fossil-fueled climate change.

So Trump is not only attacking democracy, the Constitution and the fate of the republic — he is also attacking the nation's [quality of life](#).

We see Trump's dishonesty in other critical areas. He and his incoming Cabinet officers argue that federal employees should be hired [solely on merit](#). Yet Trump has appointed, and Senate Republicans are confirming, the [most unqualified and morally compromised](#) senior government officials in the nation's history.

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## If We Want to Stop Trump ... (cont'd)

In the name of justice, Trump [pardoned or commuted](#) the sentences of more than 1,500 men and women convicted of participating in the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot. The most violent are likely to become Trump's own Republican Guard; [National Public Radio reports](#) they already are "whipping each other up online with increasingly dire threats against FBI agents and prosecutors who worked on investigations" of the incident.

Another of [Trump's executive orders](#) declares that Trump is "restoring freedom of speech and ending federal censorship." Yet Trump defames and threatens [unprecedented retaliation](#) against those who speak against him.

Trump is defying and dismantling the Constitution's framework of government. He is replacing the separation of powers and the system of checks and balances among the three branches with a royal [concentration of authority](#).

The judiciary may not be able to stop him. Plaintiffs have already filed a [flurry of lawsuits](#) against his actions, but the nation's highest court is in his pocket, and he has a [history of ignoring lower-court orders](#). We are unlikely to see marshals cuffing Trump and taking him to jail for contempt.

Career federal employees could revolt against illegal orders and firings. The law prohibits strikes by public employees, but they have the right to refuse compliance with unlawful directives. Several have [told Newsweek](#) they intend to do so. However, it is a difficult path. Trump's team would fire them, setting a prolonged appeal process in motion that, again, ends in the courts.

States can defy Trump and implement their own policies. NBC [reports](#), "A growing list of blue-state governors, including several potential 2028 contenders, are already planning legislative sessions, legal actions, and other moves to fight Trump."

However, there is no substitute for a voter uprising that threatens politicians with losing their jobs. It's time to launch the 2026 midterm election campaign to install a Congress willing to remove Trump from office. It's a tall order — removing him from office [requires two-thirds of the Senate](#). But that doesn't necessarily mean a Democrat supermajority. Instead, it requires a supermajority of senators who put country above party.

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## If We Want to Stop Trump ... (cont'd)

Over the next 18 months, the foundations and NGOs willing to defend democracy should launch a coordinated and persistent communications campaign to inform voters of Trump's impacts on grassroots Americans. PolitiFact's ["MAGA-Meter"](#) is tracking the president's promises, including the most egregious. But a much larger effort should help voters track what Trump is doing to the things they value most, like their constitutional rights, security from violence, inflation, consumer prices, public health, the cost of health care, environmental quality, climate change, wealth and wage equality, job growth, and so on.

We need an American equivalent of the Arab Spring — an overwhelming and sustained demand for fundamental rights, good government, a healthy democracy and the rule of law. And because a stable democracy and stable climate go hand in hand, their restoration would be a fitting theme for a massive show of voter power on Earth Day this April in Washington.

*[William S. Becker](#) is co-editor of and a contributor to "Democracy Unchained: How to Rebuild Government for the People," and contributor to Democracy in a Hotter Time, named by the journal Nature as one of 2023's five best science books. He previously served as a senior official in the Wisconsin Department of Justice. He is currently executive director of the Presidential Climate Action Project, a nonpartisan climate policy think tank unaffiliated with the White House.*



# Trump Betrays Ukraine

## Trump Betrays Ukraine While the Coup Continues

February 13, 2025

Robert Hubbell

[Trump betrays Ukraine while the coup continues](#)

Trump's second term is only three and a half weeks old. The press, politicians, and many Americans seem to have forgotten what happened two weeks ago. Here is a quick refresher of what Trump or his minions have done in 25 days:

- Pardoned 1,500 insurrectionists who assisted Trump in his first attempted coup.
- Converted the DOJ into his political hit squad by opening investigations into members of the DOJ, FBI, Congress, and state prosecutors' offices who attempted to hold Trump to account for his crimes.
- Fired a dozen inspectors general, whose job it is to identify fraud and corruption and to serve as a check on abuses of power by the president.
- Fired dozens of prosecutors and FBI agents who worked on criminal cases relating to Trump
- Fired dozens of prosecutors who worked on criminal cases against January 6 insurrectionists
- Opened investigations into thousands of FBI agents who worked on cases against January 6 insurrectionists
- Disbanded the FBI the group of agents designed to prevent foreign election interference in the US
- Disbanded the DOJ group of prosecutors targeting Russian oligarchs' criminal activity affecting the US
- Fired the chairs and members of the National Labor Relations Board, the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, and the Federal Election Commission and refused to replace them, effectively shutting down those independent boards in violation of statute

# Transforming PA Supreme Court

## Republicans have a chance to transform the Pa. Supreme Court this year

Spotlight PA

by Stephen Caruso of Spotlight PA and Carter Walker of Votebeat | Feb. 21, 2025



*This article is made possible through [Spotlight PA's](#) collaboration with [Votebeat](#), a nonpartisan news organization covering local election administration and voting. [Sign up for Votebeat's free newsletters here.](#)*

HARRISBURG — Control of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is on the ballot this year, with three Democratic justices up for retention elections.

These yes-or-no elections are normally sleepy and almost never result in a justice being forced off the court. But Republican operatives, who have chafed at the Democratic-majority court's decisions for a decade, say that with a flip within reach, they're getting ready for an expensive political fight.

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# Transforming PA Supreme Court (cont'd)

Judges on all three of Pennsylvania's statewide appellate courts — [the Supreme, Superior, and Commonwealth Courts](#) — are elected in partisan, statewide elections and serve 10-year terms. The number of terms they can serve is unlimited, though they must retire at age 75.

Judges get successive terms via a [retention election](#). These elections are not partisan, and don't involve an opposing candidate; voters are simply asked to say yes or no to giving a judge another decade on the bench. If the vote is yes, the judge stays on. If it is no, the governor can appoint a temporary replacement subject to the approval of the state Senate. An election for a replacement to serve a full 10-year term is then held in the next odd year.

Appellate judges' decisions [have an enormous impact on state politics](#), and on Pennsylvanians' daily lives.

In the past 10 years, members of the state Supreme Court's Democratic majority have overseen and intervened in the commonwealth's [congressional](#) and [legislative](#) redistricting; allowed a case challenging the state's education funding system to go to trial; [upheld](#) COVID-19 mediation efforts; and backstopped the state's voting laws [against](#) a slew of conservative challenges, most notably from [Donald Trump's 2020 campaign](#).

They've also made [a number of quieter moves](#) that have inflamed opposition from business interests, including loosening restrictions on [where a plaintiff can file costly malpractice lawsuits](#) and opening the door to [gig workers becoming full employees](#) rather than independent contractors.

The seven-member court currently has five justices elected as Democrats and two as Republicans. The three Democratic state Supreme Court justices on the ballot in November are Christine Donohue, Kevin Dougherty, and David Wecht.

The lower appellate courts also have an election apiece. Superior Court Judge Alice Dubow is up for retention, as is Commonwealth Court Judge Michael Wojcik. Both are Democrats.

## **GOP seeks 'decade-long impact'**

Combined with the increased politicization the judiciary has seen during the Trump era, this handful of usually obscure, low-turnout elections is set to attract major attention and funding from both parties, according to political operatives.

Republicans in particular see it as a huge opportunity.

"This has been circled on my calendar for a long time," veteran GOP political consultant Christopher Nicholas told Spotlight PA.

Open elections for seats on Pennsylvania appeals courts have [increasingly become expensive affairs](#), attracting millions of dollars from trial lawyers, labor unions, business interests, and megadonors within and outside the state.

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## Transforming PA Supreme Court (cont'd)

Retention elections so far have been unaffected by this trend. But nine months out, that appears to be on track to change.

In a recent memo, the Republican State Leadership Committee, a national group that helps finance state races, highlighted Pennsylvania's retention elections, noting those justices would oversee state and federal electoral maps during the next redistricting cycle.

The high court routinely intervenes to commission a congressional map if Pennsylvania's legislature and governor deadlock, and it almost invariably steps in to choose a nonelected tiebreaker that draws state legislative maps.

"That's why the RSLC's [Judicial Fairness Initiative] is already committed to spending seven-figures in 2025 and raising even more resources is necessary to win and could make a decade-long impact," the memo said.

One GOP activist, Scott Presler, said that he has already hired 23 staffers in the state and expects to add more to register voters and raise awareness on the retention races. Presler [is among Trump's most vocal supporters in the commonwealth.](#)

"This is a political election, and this is going to be an election about justice and accountability," Presler told Spotlight PA and Votebeat.

On the Democratic side, state party officials have begun sending out fundraising emails highlighting the races. One from late January said 2025 was "one of the most important election years for our future."

"This is our chance to put up another roadblock to MAGA extremism in our state," the email added.

State Sen. Sharif Street of Philadelphia, chair of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, told Spotlight PA that justices would "have the resources that are needed to win, and we understand what that's going to require."

Philadelphia's powerful trial bar has also said it will back the retention of the three justices. Andrew Duffy, president of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, told Spotlight PA that Donohue, Wecht, and Dougherty have "unquestionably demonstrated that they are more than worthy of a vote for retention." The group's membership regularly pours millions of dollars into statewide elections.

The political spotlight on these races is troubling some court watchers, such as Deborah Gross, president of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, a Philadelphia nonprofit that educates citizens about the judiciary and advocates for an appointed, rather than an elected judiciary.

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## Transforming PA Supreme Court (cont'd)

"I'm scared," Gross told Spotlight PA. "I'm really scared."

Retention elections are meant to be a nonpartisan referendum on a judge's performance, Gross said, which is why the party affiliation the judge was originally elected under does not appear on the ballot.

"There's going to be a lot of money spent," she added. "I think unfortunately what is going to happen is partisan campaign advertising that is going to be topic-based as opposed to merit-based."

A unique election process

Campaigning can be difficult for judges seeking retention because the [Code of Judicial Conduct](#) sets strict rules on what they can do, in order to maintain their impartiality. While they are allowed to talk about their approach to the law, they're barred from discussing specific cases before them, or definitively saying how'd they rule on any given topic.

"Judges can't really talk," Gross said. "They can't say 'I'm going to decide this way.' ... So many of them don't really speak on decisions they handed down."

That can make campaigning against retention a simple prospect.

"This is a political consultant's dream, because your message is just one thing, and that's 'No,'" Nicholas said.

If Republicans are successful in defeating the three Democrats, it could provide an opportunity for them to flip control of the court in open elections in 2027. Those contests will be partisan races in which Democratic and Republican judges go head to head for the seats.

Judges normally don't come close to losing retention, with most winning a new term by 30-plus percentage points. Just one statewide judge has ever lost retention — Supreme Court Justice Russell Nigro in 2005.

Tim Potts, an activist who campaigned against Nigro's retention, said it all started when the Supreme Court upheld the state's 2004 slot machine legalization, which the legislature approved [over the span of 48 hours](#) by inserting the language into a semi-related bill.

Activists opposed to gambling, like Potts, argued that the rapid timeline and means violated the state constitution, which places strict rules on how bills pass the General Assembly.

After the state Supreme Court upheld the law, Potts said he and a grassroots network of good-government groups and activists began to organize against two retention elections that year.

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## Transforming PA Supreme Court (cont'd)

"We were all just using our own individual networks," Potts said.

Then lawmakers used a similar process to pass a sizable pay hike for the legislature, executive, and judiciary, which flared smoldering grassroots skepticism into a wildfire of opposition to the commonwealth's political establishment. From there, Potts said, "it was easy."

They spent little money, relying on news coverage and word of mouth. They also weren't just after Nigro. Another justice, Sandra Schultz Newman, was also up for a new term that year. But while Nigro lost by a 2-percentage point margin, Newman won by about 8 percentage points.

Potts doesn't have a good explanation for the different outcomes.

"I couldn't make a better case against one than the other," he said.

Newman didn't reply to a request for comment, but Nigro told Spotlight PA that he thought he lost for a number of reasons, including opposition from the Philadelphia political machine — he performed slightly worse than Newman in the commonwealth's biggest city.

As for the pay raise, which he said he had nothing to do with, he thought that the public's anger was misplaced and stoked by the press.

Voters, Nigro said, were mad at the pay raise and "voted accordingly. And they blamed me because Justice Newman and I were the only ones on the ballot."

Looking back, he said he has no regrets. But he added, "I would have liked it better if 80% of voters turned out instead of 16%."



## Coming Events (cont'd)

**Understanding Our Democracy**  
**Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10am**  
**Cultural Center Education Room**

**Minority Rule: How Our Constitution Imperils Our Democracy.**

We will look at what scholars of democracy say about how our constitution enables minority rule, allowing partisan minorities to consistently thwart & even rule over popular majorities. And what can be done to address this.



**Join our General Meeting**

**on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 2025**

1 PM Cultural Center Education Room  
to hear Lancaster City mayoral candidate Jamie Arroyo.

# Meeting Minutes

## Democratic Club of Willow Valley General Meeting February 25, 2025

Attendance: 61

President Jen Porter opened the meeting at 1 p.m. and introduced guest speaker John Heinly, Director of Donor Advising for the Lancaster Public Library. (Scheduled speaker Lissa Holland, Executive Director, was unable to attend due to flooding at the downtown library.)

### Guest Speaker John Heinly

Mr. Heinly began with a brief history of the Lancaster Public Library, existing since 1759 with different locations and names, as the oldest public library in the Commonwealth. He presented the library's Mission and Vision statements and a list of the 14 independent libraries in Lancaster County that are members of the Library System of Lancaster County. More information can be found at [lancasterpubliclibrary.org](http://lancasterpubliclibrary.org).

Each public library must meet state requirements set out by the Library Code. Requirements include number of hours open, percent of new collections added each year, and equitable access, among others.

The Library operates under a Statement of Welcome and Respect, welcoming all who wish to use the services. This statement may be found at the address above.

Book banning and censorship is a current issue among all libraries. He announced the upcoming documentary *Banned Together: the Fight Against Censorship* to be presented on Tuesday, March 4, 5:30-8p.m. at Zoetropolis Cinema, 112 North Water Street.

Funding for the library comes from two major sources: 62% from various donations, fundraising, and use of library services and resources. The remaining 38% comes from government funding from state, county, and municipal – the largest. Recent county funding cuts have affected programs such as summer reading programs.

In comparison to other libraries nationally, Lancaster Public Library ranks low in per capita financial support. Mr. Heinly encouraged attendees to contact their elected representatives to advocate for increased funding.

Ways to support the Library include donations, volunteering, bequests in wills, and Qualified Charitable Donations (QCD) from IRA accounts. (70+)

Demand for electronic resources has skyrocketed. Millennials (born 1981-1996) make up the largest percent of the 62,000 cardholders.

Mr. Heinly closed with current enhanced services and hopes for future developments. A Q&A followed.

### Business Meeting

President Porter announced petition signing for candidates will take place on Thursday, March 6, on both campuses 9-11a.m.

**Advocacy:** President Porter and Barbara Bonanno

- In March, the Club will begin *Jimmy Carter 2025*, a monthly campaign to honor the former President's service to our country during and after his term. Each month members will be given information on how to advocate for issues dear to Mr. Carter. Recommendations include Jessica Craven's website *Chop Wood, Carry Water* where each day a specific advocacy action is posted.

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# Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

- Members may record their contacts to our elected representatives and report the number at subsequent meetings. Barbara provided a list of all contact info and Jen a chart that members may use if they wish to record. To avoid the main menu, click on *contact/email*.
- Barbara reported two downtown rallies this past weekend – a Saturday town hall for Lloyd Smucker (who did not appear) and a Sunday rally for support of those affected by the cuts to Church World Services.
- Two signup sheets were provided: one for office visitations to elected officials, and one for letter writing to Senators and Congressmen. Sample letters will be available.
- Friday, February 28, is National Boycott Day urging citizens to boycott any spending to large corporations either online or in person. Local small businesses are exempt.

**Website:** Vice President Fairweather met with GoDaddy on February 18<sup>th</sup> to start the re-development process. New code must support existing screens and support online membership and donation processes. The expected duration is four weeks.

## **Voting for officers:**

Two positions, Treasurer and Vice President are up for election.

President Porter asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none.

**Motion:** Steve Wright be elected as Club Treasurer (Jerry Henige, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Bonanno) **Carried.**

**Motion:** Ross Fairweather be elected as Vice President (Gary Rosecrans, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Henige). **Carried.**

## **Bylaws Revision:**

Up for second vote were four changes to the current Bylaws:

1. name change from “Lampeter-Strasburg Democratic Club” to “Democratic Club of Willow Valley
2. rewording of Mission Statement
3. clarification of Membership
4. election of officers

**Motion:** Bylaw revisions be accepted as written (Sharron Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Clydene Edmonds). **Carried.**

**A copy of amended Bylaws is attached.**

## **Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, March 13, 6-8p.m.**, a meet and greet with Jaime Arroyo, Democratic candidate for Mayor of Lancaster, at the home of Pamela Haver, 2840 Butter Road, Lititz

**Tuesday, March 18, 10 a.m.** Cultural Center Education Room *Understanding Our Democracy: Minority Rules: How Our Constitution Imperils Our Democracy*

**Tuesday, March 25, 1 p.m.** Cultural Center Education Room, General Meeting. Speaker will be Jaime Arroyo.

Lucy Painter  
Secretary

# Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

## HANDOUT PROVIDED in the January 2025 General Meeting

### Bylaws of the Democratic Club of Willow Valley

#### ARTICLE I: Name

The name of the club shall be: The Democratic Club of Willow Valley, it is herein after referred to as "Club."

#### ARTICLE II: Mission

Our mission is to tackle broad-based issues while protecting and lifting up our vulnerable populations via:

- Offering educational programs aimed at widespread issues;
- Providing guest speakers who can help us progress;
- Encouraging local Democratic candidates and providing financial assistance;
- Offering a scholarship to local high-achieving students;
- Helping our constituents informed through monthly presentations;
- Promoting more progressive legislation and government at all levels.

#### ARTICLE III: Membership

All eligible voters, regardless of party affiliation, who support the purpose of the Club, who are Residents of Willow Valley or Escondido, and who reside in the Lakes or Local precincts are qualified for membership. Interested parties may request membership in the Club to any of its officers. All members are requested to show their commitment to the Club by making an annual voluntary financial contribution. Any contribution is welcome, but a suggested amount will be determined by the Executive Board. Membership in the Club enables paid-up members to vote on officers and vote on changes to these bylaws.

#### ARTICLE IV: Officers/Executive Board

The Club shall be led by an Executive Board that is empowered to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purpose of the Club.

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All officers shall be elected by members and will serve for a term of two years.

- The President shall plan and conduct meetings, prepare agenda for meetings, and keep members informed of pertinent news or decisions. The President approves expenditures.
- The Vice President shall assist the President in program planning and expenditures, and fulfill the duties of the President when the President is unavailable. The Vice President may approve expenditures.

- The Secretary shall prepare and submit minutes for each meeting, handle any necessary correspondence, retain and file Club documents. The Secretary may approve expenditures.
- The Treasurer shall manage and disburse funds as approved for Club-related expenses, keep and maintain an accurate record of all financial transactions and report such transactions at Executive Board meetings. The Treasurer shall also file financial reports as required by law.

Committees and their leaders are appointed by the President. The committee leaders may become part of the Executive Board upon approval by the Officers; they shall then participate and vote in meetings.

#### ARTICLE V: Elections

Officers shall be members of the Club during two-year terms. They are normally elected at the first meeting of the calendar year. The President and Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years; the Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Executive Board will nominate a slate of candidates that will be distributed by email to the membership at least two weeks prior to the election meeting. At the meeting at which any election takes place nominations from the floor will be entertained. Officers may serve multiple terms. In the event that a vacancy does occur, the officer chosen to fill that position shall be appointed by the President and will serve for the remainder of that term.

#### ARTICLE VI: Amendments to Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority attending any regular meeting provided that the proposed amendment(s) has/have been emailed to the membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

After adoption, these bylaws shall be reviewed at least every two years.

#### ARTICLE VII: Dissolution of the Club

Dissolution of the Club shall require approval of the Executive Board and subsequent approval by a majority of the membership present at a meeting held after two weeks notice by email to all current members. After approval by the membership, assets shall be dispersed to the Lampeter-Straburg Democrats or its successor. This final dispersal of the assets shall be the responsibility of the last remaining designated bank signatory.

Adopted on February 13, 2025

These are the Bylaws you'll be voting on in February.