

Presented by Jerry Henige

The Structure Of The Pennsylvania Democratic Party

Committee Persons (CPs)

- CPs are the foundation of the party
- These are locally elected officials (two per voting precinct)
 - Elected in the primary of the year of the PA Governor's election
 - Four-year terms
- They serve as the direct link to community members
 - Distribute literature
 - Canvas for the candidates
 - Advocate for important issues
 - Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort
 - Facilitate greeter coverage on Election day
 - Etc.

Our Newly Elected CPs

- Locust precinct (including Manor campus)
 - Susan Highfield re-elected
 - Ross Fairweather – 80 write-ins
 - Elected upon completion of the write-in process
- Lakes precinct (including Lakes campus)
 - Jerry Henige re-elected

Districts

- The next level above precinct is districts
- In Lancaster County, our districts mostly map onto school districts
- We are part of the Lampeter-Strasburg District (L-S Dems)
 - 10 precincts (7 in West Lampeter Twp, 2 in Strasburg Boro, & Strasburg Twp)
- The CPs elect the district leaders (chair, vice-chair, secretary & treasurer)
- District chair can recommend appointments to fill vacant CP positions within the district
 - They must be a district resident

Districts

- Districts responsibilities include
 - Recruit local candidates
 - Raise funds
 - Support candidate campaigns
 - Advocate for important issues
 - Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort
 - Facilitate greeter coverage on Election day

Districts

- Current L-S District officials:
 - Chair: John Maina
 - Vice-Chair: Jerry Henige
 - Secretary: Michael Schumacher
 - Treasurer: Debbie Houck
- L-S Dems have two meetings each month
 - A CP & elected officials meeting
 - A community meeting ... typically third Sunday each month, 6pm at the West Lampeter Twp Bldg

County Parties

- The 16 districts in the county tree up to the Lancaster County Democratic Committee (LCDC)
- The CPs, elected officials, and state committee reps elect the county officials (chair, vice-chair, treasurer, & secretary)
- Current LCDC officials:
 - Chair: Tom O'Brien
 - Vice-Chair: Stella Sexton
 - Treasurer: Cherl Holland-Jones
 - Secretary: Brad Bergman

County Parties

- LCDC has 7 subcommittees focused on administration and 10 caucuses focused on constituencies & advocacy
- The county-level organizations:
 - Coordinate grassroots efforts
 - Raise funds, and
 - Recruit local candidates.

LCDC Subcommittees

- Bylaws
- Campaign
- Communications
- Issues
- Finance
- Organization
- Technology

LCDC Caucuses

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Asian American & Pacific Islander | • LGBTQ+ |
| • Black | • Seniors |
| • Environmental | • Veterans |
| • Labor | • Women's |
| • Latino | • Young Dems |

PA Democratic State Committee (PADSC)

- These are elected officials at the county level
- The number of State Committee members from each county is determined by its share of registered Democrats in PA
 - Lancaster elects 7 members
- State Committee members are elected to four-year terms in the primary of the year the Governor is elected
- They meet in full three times each year
- Members must reside in the county they represent, and party bylaws mandate an equal division of men and women

Role of the State Committee

- The state party is governed by the State Committee
- The State Committee is charged with steering the direction of the party and organizing for Democrats across the ballot
- The State Committee
 - Elects party leadership
 - Holds nominating conventions
 - Pass and promotes a party platform, and
 - Helps lead organizing efforts across the Commonwealth

PA Democratic Party Leadership

- Following the State Committee election, the full State Committee together with County Chairs and Democratic National Committee members meets to elect the top state party officers (including the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer)
- The party officers oversee the day-to-day operations & employ professional staff to run statewide coordinated campaigns
- The current state party officers:
 - Chair: Eugene DePasquale
 - Vice-Chair: Peggy Grove
 - Treasurer: Scott Conklin

State Party Caucuses

- There are eight regional councils which coordinate within and advocate for their region
 - Lancaster is part of the Southeast Caucus
- There are also caucuses representing various constituency groups such as the Black Caucus, the Senior Caucus, the Labor Caucus, the Rural Caucus, and the LGBTQ+ Caucus
 - They coordinate within the groups and advocate for their constituents

Democratic National Committee (DNC)

- PA is represented on the DNC by members elected by the State Committee
- They help shape the national platform and select dates for presidential primary events

Party Elections Calendar

- May 19th primary:
 - Elect up to 2 Committee Persons per precinct
 - Elect State Committee members for each county
- June 12th & 13th: PA Democratic State Committee meeting
 - Elect State Party Chair, Vice-Chair & Treasurer
- June 14th – Lancaster County Democrats Reorganization
 - Elect LCDC Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, & Treasurer
- July ?? – Lampeter-Strasburg District Reorganization
 - Elect L-S District Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, & Treasurer

Democratic Club of Willow Valley

**Not An Official
Democratic Party
Organization
But A Very Similar
Focus**

Our Vision Statement

**The Democratic Club of Willow
Valley strives to be a relentless force
in empowering voters to overcome
injustices.**

**We believe that the economy should
work for everyone, health care is a
right, our diversity is our strength,
and democracy is worth defending.**

Overlap of Dems Club & L-S Dems

- Jerry Henige:
 - Dems Club: Education Chair
 - L-S Dems: Vice-Chair & Committee Person
- Susan Highfield
 - Dems Club: member
 - L-S Dems: Committee Person & Inspector of Elections
- Ross Fairweather
 - Dems Club: Vice-Chair
 - L-S Dems: soon to be Committee Person
- Every Willow Valley resident is invited to participate in L-S Dems
 - Share events such as L-S Community Meetings & West Lampeter Fair