

Inter-community Outreach/ Partnership Subcommittee Report September 25, 2018

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS TO DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE SOUTH HILLS, AND OTHER GROUPS WHO SHARE DEMOCRATIC BELIEFS.

- Mt. Lebanon held their Day of Action on September 15. They had a number of excellent speakers on why courts matter, and the ACLU Campaign for Smart Justice. GERALYN AUSTIN provided the following report:

There was a brief introduction including PA State Senator, Wayne Fontana and Congressman Conor Lamb encouraging Democratic participation in all campaigns.

Following is summary of the the day's speakers:

Vote Local PA:

Created by Mitch Kates and Craig Grella. Vote Local was built on the premise that local politics controls local initiatives. There are 67 counties in PA and many counties have 0 resources from the Dem party. The digital platform will support Federal, State and Local candidates with items like post cards, door knockers, donation sites and most importantly a digital home many did not have including a website and Facebook presence. While developing Vote Local they realized that over 4 million candidates had no digital data including school board reps and local commissioners.

The site is www.votelocalpa.com Type in your address (ie geocode address) and you will get polling locations, an email or text vote reminder, a list of all Democratic candidates down to local races.

In our failed 2016 election, too many resources supported only 13 of the 67 PA counties. Votelocal PA is trying to shift this. They recognize the field matters and this will be a huge support to push Dem info into the field for action.

The Vote Local PA goal is - THINK, ACT LOCAL TO GET EVERY VOTE

Engaging Gen Z with the Young Democrats of Allegheny County (YDAC):

The panel of speakers included students, recent college graduates and the Communication Director of the YDAC. Their focus is on giving young people an easier way to get involved. There has been a steady decline in voting from ages 18-24. If 60% of millennials voted they could decide every race. The question is how to mobilize them. Gen Z votes are issue focused vs. candidate focused and need to feel that the candidates match their districts. The talk did not include a solid call to action as Vote Local PA did, it was just a lot of discussion.

Why Courts Matter:

Kadida Kenner spoke about the federal and state courts, giving a summary of how judges are appointed. There is currently 8 vacancies in PA. One judge being considered is David Porter, Rick Santorum's personal lawyer, previously blocked but reattempted in the Trump administration. Ms. Kenner's call to action is to make calls to senators about both state and federal nominees. To do this, go to whycourtsmatterpa.org. The main hope is to block David Porter and Kavanaugh.

ACLU Campaign for Smart Justice:

Terrell Thomas led a discussion about PA sentencing reform. PA has the 7th largest prison population in the US and 50% of incarcerated are in jail for parole violations. There is a clear racial bias. PA and Allegheny County specifically have the **longest parole sentences in the country**. There is no cap on probation or parole. Mr. Thomas's call to action was demanding DA accountability and repealing mandatory minimums and cash bail that disproportionately effect the poor. The ACLU website www.aclupa.org has list of preferred judges and sheriffs that adhere to the Smart Justice standards.

- Conor Lamb sponsored a gun violence roundtable on September 8. Veterans and law enforcement officials spoke about the need for common sense gun regulations.
- On September 12, the Mt. Lebanon library sponsored a session on the proposed 28th amendment to the end outsized influence of global corporation, union, super PACs, and other forms of concentrated money in American politics.
- 412 Resistance held their meeting on September 22. The group will be concentrating their efforts on door knocking and postcard writing to support local candidates.
- The local chapter of Moms Demand Action held their first local meeting on September 24.

Upcoming Events

- The USC Democrats will continue to write postcards for Sharon Guidi every Wednesday from 7:00 until 9:00
- There will be a weekly postcard writing event at the Galleria to support local candidates. This week the group will write for Byron Timmons. Byron is running for PA house 46 which encompasses Bridgeville, Collier, Heidelberg, etc. All are invited to attend the 6:00 to 8:00 pm session. Postcards and stamps will be provided.
- American Promise is working on having all candidates sign the American Promise 28th Amendment Candidate and Elected Official Pledge. They will also be conducting a training session in October.
- The Bethel Park Democratic Committee will be meeting on September 27.
- A debate will be held on October 9 from 7:00 until 9:00 at the Bethel Pard Community Center. Sharon and Natalie will speak for one hour. There are only 49 seats available.