

# Democrat Digest

## Eric Fischer Brings Experience to the Magistrate Race



Eric Fischer, a local attorney with 34 years experience, is the democratic candidate to fill the wide-open seat left behind by the retirement of Judge William K. Wagner. Fischer is running because he sees being a judge as the highest form of service that an attorney can aspire to. In his years as an attorney, he has practiced law in all areas which would come before a magistrate judge. If he wins the Nov. 7th election, his focus will be on making the magistrate court more accessible. This includes extending the hours of the court into the evening so the public does not need to miss work or school in order to attend.

## Incumbent Town Council Races Highlight Cooperation and Coordination



Trish Cloonan in **Ward 7** and Kathy Roppa in **Ward 5** have been working together on McCandless Town Council since 2021. Although they were initially representing different parties, both found unity through **non-partisan** cooperation. Since Roppa's record won her the democratic nomination in the May primary elections via write-in, they are both seeking another term in their respective wards in order to continue the positive direction of Town Council. Both of these public leaders bring years of valuable experience and collaboration to the council to encourage informed decisions in our community.

## Want to vote by mail? Time is running out!

Voting by mail is legal, safe, secure, and can be a huge time saver compared to in-person voting! The deadline for applying to vote by mail is **October 31st**. However, we recommend applying as soon as you can, to ensure that your ballot will arrive on time. Apply online through [alleghenycounty.us/elections](http://alleghenycounty.us/elections).



## Town Council Candidate Weighs In on North Park Rumors



In Early October, rumors spread on social media faster than pierogies racing around PNC park about possible development near the “gateway” to North Park. Some blowhard GOP candidates were quick to jump into the fray, pointing fingers without facts on their side.

**Claudia Buonocore**, running for Town Council in Ward 1 where the property is located, investigated the situation. After a few calls to town officials, it turned out that no one had placed a bid to develop the land which includes Chubbs, Tomato pie, and the bike shop. While the area was in fact recently rezoned, it was changed to only permit small shops or townhouses, rather than large commercial development as was previously allowed. To see her entire statement, please visit her Facebook page “Claudia Buonocore for Town Council Ward 1”. **Kathy Roppa**, who was on town council when the the new zoning was passed, also released a statement addressing the rumors which can be read on [kroppamccandless.com](http://kroppamccandless.com).

# Local Elections Take Place November 7, 2023

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Are you fired up about what happens with the North Park properties? Do you want to ensure that our schools support every student and maintain excellent academics? These are great reasons to vote in November!

Nominees for this year are:

### Town Council

Claudia Buonocore- **Ward 1**

Nick Giorgetti- **Ward 3**

Kathleen Roppa- **Ward 5**

Trish Cloonan- **Ward 7**

### School Board:

Bob Gibbs

Anisha Shaw

Jaime Martinez

Sylvana Bonner

Elizabeth Warner

**District Magistrate:** Eric Fischer  
**County Council District 2-** Todd Hamer

**County Executive:** Sara Innamorato

**County Controller:** Corey O'Connor

**County Treasurer:** Erica Brusselars

**District Attorney:** Matt Dugan

**County Council At Large:**

Bethany Hallam

**Court of Common Pleas:**

Patrick Sweeney

**PA Supreme Court:** Daniel McCaffery

**PA Superior Court:** Jill Beck and Timika Lane

**PA Commonwealth Court:** Matt Wolf

For information on events, donations, or platform of each candidate, please visit their website.

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## Deadline for Charity Drop-off is October 31st

With October drawing to a close, the drop-off for Jeremiah's Place at town hall will end on October 31st. Jeremiah's place is a non-profit which provides 24 hour childcare services for children from birth-6 years old free of charge. We are currently collecting **new** children's clothing from ages birth-size 8 as well as **new** sensory and toddler toys, diapers, and wipes.

They are additionally looking for formula including Similac Soy, Similac Advance, Similac Alimentum, and Nutramigen Hypoallergenic. They will also accept baby food that is nut-free. Donations can be dropped off in our bin in the Town Hall foyer on weekdays from 9am-5pm. We will have a new collection for The Veterans Leadership Program starting in November and December.

## Making Sense of the November Ballot Question

*“Shall Article III, Subsection 7(a) of Allegheny County’s Home Rule Charter be amended to provide Council members with an annual salary of \$10,939, to be increased no more than 5 percent every 5 years?”*

You may be asking yourself “What’s with this question? Are elected officials looking for a pay raise?” The tricky thing with ballot questions though, is that they are often more than meets the eye. Committee members reached out to County Council Democrat at-large Bethany Hallam for the real scoop behind the question.

“We are currently paid a \$10,900 a year stipend. That stipend is dependent upon your attendance at the biweekly council meetings. You can currently miss 2 meetings before you start losing pay. It aims to turn the council stipend into a salary so that you could never come to a single council meeting and still get your \$10,900 per year. I Don’t think we should reward elected representatives who Don’t take their job as seriously as they should!”

She recommends voting **NO** on the question.



Please consider donating to assist our efforts in elections communication and supporting quality candidates.

## Judge Retention: The Annual Head Scratcher

Every ten years, judges must run for retention. Since judges are a non-partisan position, it can be difficult to find information on each judge to make an informed decision. However, with the GOP pledging to remove more liberal judges in favor of conservatives, it is imperative to make the best decisions on judges moving forward. Here is the information we have from the group Partners for Progress SWPA on the judges running for retention this year;

### Superior Court

#### Jack Panella- YES

Jack is a strong democrat who is working on judicial education regarding crimes of sexual violence.

#### Victor Stabile- No

Victor is a republican and former chair of the Cumberland County GOP.

### Court of the Common Pleas

#### Elenor Bush- Yes

Democrat, 10 years of child advocate experience

#### Lawrence O’Toole- Yes

Democrat, protected voters’ rights in 2020

#### Paul Cozza- Yes

Democrat working primarily juvenile cases

#### Jennifer Satler- Yes

Democrat with prior Public Defender experience

#### Christine Ward- Yes

Democrat; Helped to streamline process to protect identities.

#### Jill Rangos- No

Republican. Named in a class-action lawsuit currently before the Western District of Pennsylvania alleging discrimination in imposition of Probation Detainers.. Overuses Probation Detainers.



The McCandless Democratic Committee typically meets the first Thursday of each month at Town Hall. The meeting starts at 7pm with guests starting at 7:30. The next meeting will be on November 2nd.