

A Commitment to Hopewell

Hopewell has been my home for over 12 years. I came here as a renter, later bought a two-family house and commercial property, and established deep roots in the community.

For more than three years, I have regularly attended Borough Council meetings, studied local issues, reviewed ordinances and planning documents, and worked to understand how decisions are made and how they affect residents.

I am running as an Independent because I believe our local government needs to do a better job listening to residents, engaging the public early and building community understanding before important decisions are made.

My Commitment:

- Engage our community.
- Ask thoughtful questions.
- Do the due diligence.
- **Always put Hopewell first.**



Learn more

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From Plans to Progress

Since 2000, the Borough has updated three Master Plans, yet recent ordinances and major Council decisions have raised questions about whether their long-term vision is being followed.

Before committing millions of taxpayer dollars, changing how property is developed, approving ordinance changes, granting long-term financial agreements or considering the sale of a public asset, Council should be able to answer three questions.

- How will these decisions affect the community long-term?
- Did we truly examine other alternatives?
- Did Council engage the community early for insight and input?

My Focus Aligns with the Master Plan:

- **Downtown vitality**
Strengthen the business district and support a vibrant local economy.
- **Parking & road safety**
Make parking a priority while improving traffic flow, pedestrian safety and bicycle access.
- **Housing & redevelopment**
Meet housing obligations responsibly while guiding development thoughtfully.
- **Historic character**
Protect Hopewell's scale, architecture and identity.
- **Infrastructure & environmental**
Plan responsibly for stormwater, utilities, flooding and capital needs while protecting natural resources and parks.

One Community. Our Community.



HIGGINS

★ FOR COUNCIL ★

PUTTING HOPEWELL FIRST

**RUNNING AS AN INDEPENDENT
Hopewell Borough Council
November 2026**

VOTE

James Higgins

**INDEPENDENT
CANDIDATE**

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A More Engaged Borough

Strong local government depends on an informed community and a planning process residents can understand and trust. The Planning Board and Borough Council have different legal responsibilities, but their work should connect clearly and consistently to the community's long-term interests.

- **Engage earlier**

Bring residents into the conversation before major redevelopment agreements, ordinances and capital commitments move forward.

- **Use committees & town halls**

Use Borough committees meaningfully and hold town halls for questions and community dialogue.

My standard before every vote

“As your Council representative, I will do the homework, seek resident input and understand the consequences before I vote. If the record is incomplete or the community has not been heard, I will ask to defer or table the matter rather than rush a decision. I will vote no when a proposal is not ready or not in Hopewell’s best interest, and I will stand behind every vote I cast.”

PENDING PROJECTS THAT HAVE MY ATTENTION

- **Van Doren Lumberyard, 24 Model Avenue**

Track the approved townhouse project as it moves toward construction.

- **71 East Broad Street / former Castoro's**

Ensure thoughtful review and public engagement as redevelopment advances.

- **DPW facility**

Require clarity on the roughly \$3.2 million cost, scope, funding and timing.

My Priorities on Council

- **Responsible development**

Support responsible growth and affordable housing while respecting neighborhoods, infrastructure, public safety and Hopewell’s character.

- **A stronger planning process**

Improve coordination, transparency and public understanding of Planning Board and Council actions.

- **Fiscal discipline**

Require clear analysis of spending, debt, reserves, contracts, PILOT agreements and long-term taxpayer impact.

- **Address outdated ordinances**

Review outdated or inconsistent ordinances and make Borough requirements clearer and more practical.

- **Support local businesses**

Work with merchants, property owners and entrepreneurs as partners in a strong, welcoming downtown.

- **Environmental stewardship**

Take stormwater, flooding, natural resources and infrastructure capacity seriously.

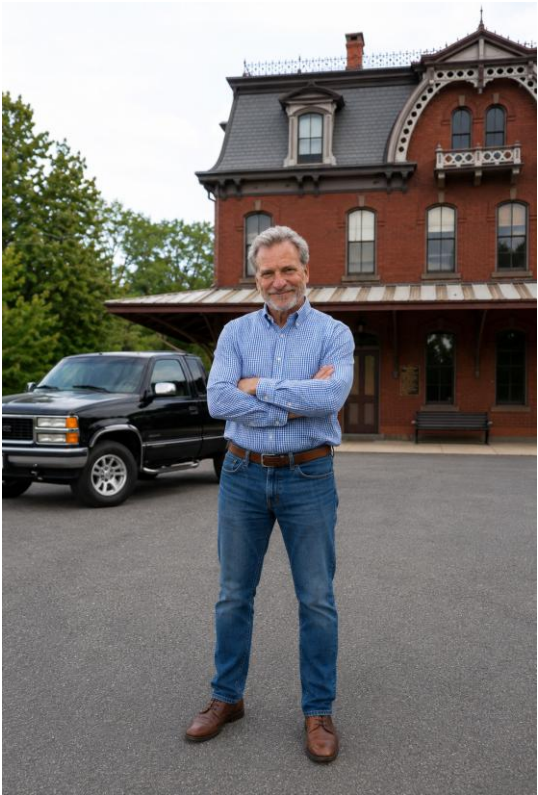
- **Fair and consistent government**

Treat residents, businesses, property owners and applicants consistently, fairly and with an open mind.

AS A PUBLIC SERVANT, I SERVE THE COMMUNITY.

“I believe there is a disconnect today among Council, the Planning Board and the residents they serve. Their roles are different, but the public interest should be the common thread.”

Why I am Running for Council



I love this town and our community. Hopewell is my home, and it is where I have established roots for myself and my family. I never expected to seek elected office, but I believe this community deserves a government that listens carefully and respects the knowledge and involvement of its residents.

Throughout my professional career, I have led organizations and helped companies develop and execute strategic plans. My approach is grounded in due diligence, accountability, open-minded leadership and being available to the people affected by a decision.

I want to help rebuild confidence, reduce division and create a more collaborative relationship between Borough government and the community it serves.

James Higgins