

## Mark Heinicke

Mark Heinicke was elected Chairperson of the Greene County Democratic Committee in April 2019. He has voted for Democratic Party candidates for some 50 years, and has been actively involved in campaigns since 2008. Mark brings many years of experience to the Committee and has a keen interest in environmental responsibility and education. He has lived in Greene County for ten years with his partner Cynthia. Prior to moving to Greene, he lived in Nelson County for twelve years. He grew up in Ithaca, New York, and has also lived in Boston, Massachusetts, Washington DC, and suburban Maryland.

Heinicke has a career woven of many threads: Having graduated from Harvard College, he has worked as an advertising copywriter, a journalist in the sport of long-distance running, a bicycle messenger, a landscaper, a proofreader, editor, and blogger. He served our country in the U.S. Army, including thirteen months in Vietnam. It is a sense of duty that has drawn him into politics.

For many years Mark enjoyed long-distance running and racing until a knee injury put a stop to it. Bicycling now answers his craving for endurance exercise, and he has found Greene County the most bicycle-friendly place he has ever lived.

In Nelson County, Heinicke built an environmentally-friendly home, with a passive solar design and radiant floor heat to back up a highly efficient wood-burning stove. Where possible, local materials were used—to include lumber milled with a portable mill on-site from trees on the property. The house was built into a hill, and the rear first-story retaining wall consists of an unusual product made of blocks of recycled wood chips (from old shipping pallets) cemented together.

Heinicke currently works from home as an associate editor and data analyst for *Road Race Management*—an organization serving race directors, athletes, agents, and businesses in the sport of long-distance running. He also edits and proofreads for other organizations. He writes a blog for [Road Race Management](#), as well as a [personal blog](#)

In his free time Mark enjoys reading (especially about science), bicycling, gardening, and conversations with old friends. On occasion he helps out activists on particular issues, such as protesting unnecessary gas and oil pipelines, from the sidelines.

Diversifying the Greene County Democratic Committee's membership is high on Heinicke's near-term priorities, and he encourages all members of our community in Greene to attend our events and learn more about the work we are doing. Besides helping Democratic candidates run for public office, his key priority is expanding support for public education. He believes that understanding and supporting the needs of our teachers, students, and schools is vital for Greene to thrive.

Mark's public service motto is: *Lean forward*. Many of the challenges faced by our community, nation, and the Earth will require changes both small and large. Now is the time to take those steps forward and be the change we want in the world.