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## **WINTER 2024**



The temperatures may be cooling, but the Cumberland County Democrats' efforts to defend democracy are not.

The Cumberland County Democrats hope you're enjoying the transition to winter and the approach of the holiday season. We understand that you may feel frustrated by the outcome of the November election, but we invite you to work with us to ensure that Cumberland County remains a great place to work, live and play in Pennsylvania and protect democracy in our county and state-wide. We hope that you will consider volunteering with us, write letters to the editor or to your local representatives, and even think about running for office. With your help, we can work towards a brighter future!

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### **Note from the Chair: Reasons to Be Thankful**

Fellow Democrats,

As we emerge from our Thanksgiving food comas and have had some space to process the results of this year's election, I'm reflecting on reasons to be thankful. I'm thankful for the work we collectively continue to do, thankful for new and old friends who join us in our efforts and thankful for the progress we have achieved.

While the outcome of the election wasn't what we were hoping for, there is still reason to celebrate:

- Cumberland County was one of the few places in Pennsylvania where the Democratic ticket improved its performance as compared to 2020. In fact, our county swung toward Democrats by a larger margin than any other county in the Commonwealth, with a full-percentage-point improvement over President Biden's performance in the last presidential election. This marks the third consecutive presidential election cycle in which we have successfully decreased Republican margins of victory.
- We came closer to winning in the 10th Congressional District than ever before. In Cumberland County, Janelle Stelson cut Scott Perry's 2022 margin of victory in half. This district will remain one of the most flippable for 2026.
- We have achieved record fundraising for the county party, on pace to

raise nearly \$50K this year, which has enabled us to support our candidates in ways we never have before. In support of our state legislative candidates, we executed a direct-mail campaign focused on public education that reached tens of thousands of households in the days leading up to the Nov. 5 election.

- We have expanded our organization and infrastructure, connecting with hundreds of new volunteers and organizing in parts of the county that have been less active in recent years, including Big Spring. There our new Area Leader Michael Fratantuono was able to activate local Democrats to have a presence at eight polling locations in a part of the county where Democrats traditionally have been invisible.
- We demonstrated that Cumberland County is ready for prime time when it comes to high-profile campaign stops, with special thanks to Rick Coplen, who worked with the coordinated campaign and the governor's political team to host three amazing events at his farm. These events included Veterans United for Democracy with Retired Lt. Gen Ben Hodges and two visits from Gov. Josh Shapiro. The second Shapiro event showcased governors from across the battleground states, such as Gretchen Whitmer, Tony Evers and Janet Mills. These well-executed campaign events garnered international media attention. In addition, we hosted Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak (in his personal capacity) and Sen. Corey Booker (D-NJ) for events at our party headquarters.
- We fielded an amazing slate of candidates, including Sara Agerton, Rick Christie, John Flood and Mark Temons, whose efforts demonstrated that we aren't going to let Republicans walk away with electoral victory without a strong fight.
- Finally, we did our part in securing an ongoing majority for Democrats in the Pennsylvania House by helping to elect Nate Davidson as state representative for the 103rd district, replacing Patty Kim, who is now State Senator-Elect Patty Kim, representing Dauphin County.

We are already hard at work to build on our momentum in 2025. Let's use this year's election as a call to further action. Run for office, stay involved, get more involved, engage others who want to do more. Our work is long term; each election is a milestone as we build and sustain a strong Democratic party in Cumberland County and close in on our goal to turn Cumberland blue!

I am thankful for you and for the contributions you have made and continue to make to our cause.

Matt Roan  
Chair, Cumberland County Democratic Committee



### **Help Build Strong, Fair Schools**

If you have ever considered playing a bigger part in your local school district, sign up for the Neighbors for Public Education School Board Training Jan. 24–26, offered for free in Mechanicsburg.

Neighbors for Public Education is a nonpartisan consortium of organizations dedicated to fostering inclusion and empowering parents, caregivers, educators and community leaders to competently and compliantly campaign for election to their local school boards.

Find out more about this free, in-person here:

[neighborsforpubliceducation.com](https://neighborsforpubliceducation.com).

Apply for the training sessions by filling out this form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHt33pUT-q-z6LYXsAKFfk4EpMLDyE1OixzXVGwUZReXWuQ/viewform>



### **Defend Our Democracy: Be a Precinct Committee Person**

A precinct is the smallest political unit in the country. Each precinct corresponds to one polling place, where residents of that precinct go to vote. Each precinct can have up to two committee people elected by the Democratic voters or appointed by the Cumberland County Democratic Committee (CCDC) chair.

The role of precinct committee person (PCP) is at the core of political party activity; it's our ground game. The CCDC is seeking interested and committed

volunteers to become PCPs in unrepresented precincts.

PCPs circulate a petition and obtain at least 10 valid signatures from eligible electors in their home precinct to place their names on the ballot. If elected, PCPs serve two-year terms. The CCDC chair may also appoint individuals to fill vacancies. Once appointed or elected, PCPs represent Democrats in their precinct at full county meetings to elect the CCDC chair and executive officers.

### **Responsibilities**

- Identify Democrats of all ages in the precinct to help during election season
- Recruit new voters; promote early voting and absentee voting
- Help fill election-judge vacancies for the precinct's polling location
- Circulate petitions for candidates before the primary
- Canvass the precinct in support of our candidates
- Recruit poll watchers for inside and poll greeters for outside the polls on election day
- Set up poll-greeter tables on election day and schedule greeters.

### **How much work is it?**

Most PCPs devote about five to six hours per month to party activities (including attending meetings).

Ideally, a PCP, with the help of other Democratic volunteers, will canvass their precinct during election season and work inside or outside the polls on election day.

During election season, PCPs may work more hours, but there is no minimum requirement. We expect only what you can give.

If you are a registered Democrat interested in serving as a PCP or a co-PCP, or are willing to assist the PCP in your precinct, please email Liz Reilly at [vicechair@cumberlandcountydems.com](mailto:vicechair@cumberlandcountydems.com)

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Patriot-News published this letter to the editor by Karl Marchut, the CCDC's second vice chair, on Nov. 21.

## **Democrats Must Be Bastions of Truth**

In the aftermath of Nov. 5, the one question that I ask people is, where do you get your news? Often, their answer is Fox News or OAN.

Looking at a media-bias chart, there is no left-wing equivalent to Fox News or OAN, nor should there be. Ronald Reagan eliminated the Fairness Doctrine. Fox News was fined and agreed to pay \$787.5 million for repeatedly reporting on one story (Dominion Voting Systems) and agreed to call itself an entertainment channel. That does not resonate with its viewers.

Donald Trump began his political career on a lie: the birther issue. His career

escalated to over 30,000 lies while in office. His recent campaign evolved to not only lies but total absurdities. Haitians eating pets! For 50 years, I have been taunted by the fact that both sides lie.

Yes, Tim Walz lied about being in Tiananmen Square. But is that lie equivalent to all the lies the Trump campaign presented as truth?

To get an individual to switch their news source is next to impossible. I fear the right-wing news sources will go further to the right with a Trump presidency.

Project 2025 advocates eliminating NPR, which remains at the center of all media- bias charts.

The Republicans feel that they are correct, reinforced by the results of the most recent election. I wish that I could sum up this letter with a solution. I cannot. The only thing that I can say to Democratic politicians is: Be a bastion of truth.

Karl Marchut  
Carlisle

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## We are the Democratic Party of Cumberland County.

We are working year-round to elect Democrats to positions of power at every level of government.

Your contributions help us organize, train and mobilize the 64,000 Democrats in Cumberland County from Shippensburg to Camp Hill and everywhere in between!

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