



CIVIC AND SOCIAL LITERACY

# Municipal Election

## November 2, 2021

Information is not meant to endorse or oppose any political party or candidate. The purpose of this handout is to share information and promote community engagement in the upcoming Municipal Election.

### PETERS TOWNSHIP POLLING LOCATIONS

**Polling places are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.**

A-1 SOUTH HILLS BIBLE CHAPEL - 300 GALLERY DR

A-2 CENTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 255 CENTER CHURCH RD

A-3 SOUTH HILLS BIBLE CHAPEL - 300 GALLERY DR

B-1 PETERS TWP COMMUNITY ROOM - 200 MUNICIPAL DR

B-2 PETERS TWP COMMUNITY REC CENTER - 700 MEREDITH DR

B-3 WRIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 788 VENETIA RD

C-1 ST BENEDICTS CHURCH - 120 ABINGTON DR

C-2 ST BENEDICTS CHURCH - 120 ABINGTON DR

C-3 CENTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 255 CENTER CHURCH RD

D-1 PETERS TWP COMMUNITY REC CENTER - 700 MEREDITH DR

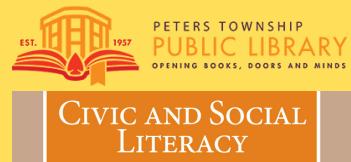
D-2 LAKESIDE CHURCH - 337 WATERDAM RD

D-3 CROSSROADS CHURCH OF CHRIST - 236 THOMAS RD

Not sure of your district? View a map or search by road at

<https://www.peterstownship.com/262/Voting>

# ELECTION FOR PT COUNCIL MEMBERS



Seven members elected by qualified voters of Peters Township make up the Peters Township Council. Four Council Members are elected by District, and three Council Members are elected At Large. Each of the Council Members serves for a term of four years. This November 2, 2021, is the election of the four District seats and one Council At Large.

The terms of Council Members shall begin on the first Monday of January of the year after their election. At this Reorganization Meeting, the Council Members elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman to conduct meetings.

All meetings of the Council in which any formal or informal vote is taken are open to the public. The Peters Township Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month (2nd & 3rd in December) at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 610 E. McMurray Road, McMurray, PA 15317. You can find Council Meeting Agendas, Dockets, Fact Sheets, Minutes, and Recordings of previous meetings at <https://www.peterstownship.com/360/Council-Meetings>

## Current Peters Township Council Members

David M. Ball, Chairman - District A

Monica R. Merrell, Vice Chairman - District B

Frank Arcuri - District C

James F. Berquist - District D

Frank Kosir, Jr. - At Large

Robert Lewis - At Large

Gary J Stiegel Jr. - At Large

## WHO'S ON THE BALLOT?

### Council Ward A

Bill Hittinger (Dem)

Allison Shanafelt (Rep)

### Council Ward B

Donna M Watson (Dem)

Matt Rost (Rep)

### Council Ward C

Frank Arcuri (Dem/Rep)

### Council Ward D

Luke Kelly (Dem)

Tom Pirosko (Rep)

### Council At Large

Donna M Watson (Dem)

Gary J Stiegel Jr (Rep)

PT Library contacted these eight candidates and posed the following questions:

- What is the role of a Council Member? What has prepared you to assume that role?
- What is the most significant challenge Peters Township is currently facing and how do you plan to address it?
- How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process?

Candidates were asked to keep their total responses to two hundred words. Here are their responses. **Please note that not all candidates responded to our questions.**

## Council Ward A

### Bill Hittinger (Dem)

*What is the role of a Council Member? What has prepared you to assume that role?*

The primary function for a Council Members is to provide citizen oversight of the business of the Township. Council needs to provide budget approval for the Township activities which include Police and Fire, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Library, our Public TV network, and our planning department. Along with the oversite function council should serve as a conduit for needs and requests of our citizens.

As a former general manager of a Fortune 500 company, I am well versed in the process of budgeting, managing that budget, and creating and implementing new ideas designed to move the organization forward. I also have broad experience in the area of not-for-profit organizations as well as previous experience as a council member in Glen Osborne Pennsylvania.

*What is the most significant challenge Peters Township is currently facing and how do you plan to address it?*

Peters Township is in the fortunate position of a growing and thriving community. Our issues are mainly involved with managing that growth and transitioning gracefully from a rural to more a more densely populated community. I would like to see a comprehensive plan to address that transition without disturbing the overall urban rural mix Peters Township currently enjoys.

*How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process?*

So many organizations are very proud of their ability to survey their stakeholders and then act on their wishes. I feel this is largely a failed effort. Most people other than the very pleased or the very disgruntled ignore surveys. Acting on the wishes of the few makes for poor decisions. As I have done so far in my campaign directly asking the citizens provides greater clarity as to the communities wishes. I would like to develop ways to directly access the opinions of our citizens and encourage them to speak directly to the council members by any of the many means available today. (Facebook not included.)

## Council Ward C

### Frank Arcuri (Dem/Rep)

*What is the role of a Council Member? What has prepared you to assume that role?*

Members oversee the activities of the Township Administration to ensure that everything is properly functioning and to address issues raised by the Administration or residents. Members are also charged with the formation of the annual budget whereby it prioritizes and identifies wants from wishes in order to avoid tax increases and wasteful spending.

I have been a Township resident for 25 years, a member of council for 16 years, am a practicing attorney and possess an undergraduate degree in accounting.

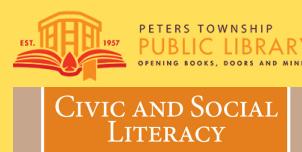
*What is the most significant challenge Peters Township is currently facing and how do you plan to address it?*

While certain issues relating to infrastructure, traffic, etc, still persist, such issues are being compounded by others including the building of an additional firehouse and improvements to the new park. As in the past, council spends months formulating its budget and I will continue to focus on and prioritize the needs of the township and its residents.

*How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process?*

Historically, council has conducted its business in an open fashion. Meetings and agendas are readily accessible to residents. Residents are able to attend meetings in person, provide written comment and view meetings online. I am and have been accessible to residents through my Township email to address concerns and to obtain input irrespective of whether such residents reside in my district.

## Council Ward D Luke Kelly (Dem)



*What is the role of a Council Member? What has prepared you to assume that role?*

Fully consider citizen opinion and concern in all significant decisions and addressing problems. To fully consider the recommendations and concerns in all areas of government of the township executive and staff. To meet and discuss with council and decide whether action should be taken and if so whether the recommended action needs to be adjusted in some fashion. Finally to vote.

I have been in local government for Allegheny County since 1984. I am a practicing attorney emphasizing Family law for that same period of time. In divorce actions we are called upon to analyze and categorize data every day. For the government I have a part time basis been assigned to negotiating, drafting and approving contracts. In the mid-eighties I worked as an executive assistant to Commissioner Pete Flaherty. That work was similar to how I envision the council work. I emphasized accounting in my undergraduate work. I finished in the top third of the class in college and law school. I am tight with a "buck". I am honest and smart enough.

*What is the most significant challenge Peters Township is currently facing and how do you plan to address it?*

Now it seems to be the swimming pool that is being considered. Dormont has had a pool for 60 years. I think Peters can afford one. That said, less is probably more when it comes to how big a project the pool should be. My inclination would be to error on the side of spending on safety and security for the pool if built. I recognize that there is more to learn and hear about the pool.

*How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process?*

Encourage them to attend and participate in the Council meetings. My email address is lk@stockeyandkelly.com; and, my cell is 412-310-5282. At this point in the process I am calling residents and discussing my candidacy and any concerns that they may have.

## Council At Large Gary J Stiegel Jr (Rep)

*What is the role of a Council Member? What has prepared you to assume that role?*

The role of a Council Member is to serve as a representative of PT residents in all township legislative matters. Prior to becoming a Councilman, I was a member of the Peters Twp. Fire Department as a firefighter and a member of the Board of Directors. Through my Fire Department service, I was able to meet many township residents and became familiar with the neighborhoods and issues of the township.

*What is the most significant challenge Peters Township is currently facing and how do you plan to address it?*

The most significant challenge that PT currently faces is the prioritization of the township's "wants" versus it's "needs." Several significant capital expenses are before Council that fall into each category. The Aquatics Center and Fire Station 3 are the two highest profile. I believe that the Fire Station is an absolute necessity, however, I feel that there are many other lower cost "needs" that should be addressed before an Aquatics Center is pursued.

*How do you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process?*

While on Council, I have made myself accessible to anyone who reaches out to me...whether by phone, email, or in-person. While I appreciate residents reaching out to me, I also want them to attend Council meetings and let their voices be heard in that public forum...that is how residents can make the biggest impact on Council's actions.

# GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION



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The following information is from the Washington County Board of Elections. You can learn more at

<https://www.co.washington.pa.us/824/Government-Study-Commission>

**“Shall a Government Study Commission of eleven members be elected to study the existing form of government of the municipality; to consider the advisability of the adoption of an optional form of government or a home rule charter; to recommend the adoption of an optional form of government, or to draft and recommend a home rule charter?”**

The following is a “Plain English” explanation of the question concerning the creation of a Government Study Commission, which will appear on the November 2, 2021 Municipal Election Ballot. This “Plain English” explanation is required pursuant to the Pennsylvania Election Code, 25 C.S.A. subsection 2621.1:

The question of creating a Government Study Commission for Washington County will appear on the November 2, 2021, Municipal Election Ballot because an ordinance passed by a majority of the Board of Commissioners requesting the placement of this question on the ballot has been presented to the County Board of Elections.

The role of the government study commission is to study and evaluate the existing form of County government, and to consider whether it would be advisable to adopt an optional form of government or a home rule charter.

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Once elected, the members of the Government Study Commission will examine the current County government, consider alternatives, reach decisions on how the County government might best be run, and present their recommendations to the voters.

After completing its evaluation, the Government Study Commission may recommend that no change should be made in the existing form of government and it should remain in place, or the Commission may recommend the adoption of a different form of government or a home rule charter, which the commission would draft. Any changes would be brought to an additional vote in November 2022.

## POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT STUDY TIMELINE

There are 51 Candidates on the ballot for the Government Study Commission. A maximum of 11 may be selected when you cast your vote.

### WHAT DOES YOUR VOTE MEAN?

Voting "YES" says that you are in favor of studying the effectiveness of Washington County's government through a government study commission.

Voting "NO" says that you are NOT in favor of studying the effectiveness of Washington County's government through a government study commission.

#### Please note:

*Regardless if you vote "Yes" or "No" on the question, voters should also vote for no more than eleven candidates to serve as members of the government study commission.*

#### VOTERS DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PURSUE STUDY

Figures from Washington County Board of Elections. *Understanding the Government Study Commission Question on the November 2nd Ballot*, Washington County Board of Elections, Washington, PA, 2021.

