



**GSPCGP**

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*"A multi-partisan organization with a multi-decade history educating candidates and encouraging support for LGBTQIAA+ and women's rights."*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 16, 2021

**PITTSBURGH, Pa.** On April 11, 2021, members of the Gertrude Stein Political Club of Greater Pittsburgh (GSPCGP) endorsed, as follows, candidates for the May 18th Primary Election.

**Maria McLaughlin (D)** receives our endorsement for the sole **Pennsylvania Supreme Court** seat. **Jill Beck's** superior answers won her our endorsement for the **Pennsylvania Superior Court** (one open seat, contested D primary). For **Commonwealth Court**, we received particularly excellent answers from two old and trusted friends, thus happily endorse **Amanda Green Hawkins (D)** and **David Spurgeon (D)** for the two seats in that race.

Never have we seen nine seats open on the **Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas**, nor so many excellent candidates. With much discussion, some regret (good candidates who did not submit responses; past endorsees and other worthy contenders whose answers didn't make the cut) we reached agreement on an **Endorsed Excellent Eight**. In ballot order, they are: **Lisa Middleman, D/R** (voters will remember her as a recent, excellent, reform-minded candidate for DA). **Chelsa Wagner, D/R** (our eagle-eyed County Controller since 2012). **Nicola Henry-Taylor, D** (who makes equity and inclusion cornerstones of her campaign). **Brian Malkin, D** (whose contracts & numbers / computer-sci & ecology background fills a hole on the court--and does not obscure his egalitarian heart). **Mik Pappas, D/R** (as magistrate, he as reduced evictions 40% by leveraging social service support and mediation). **Giuseppe Rosselli, D** (who brings a similar focus on putting in the extra effort, to help people help themselves out of life's holes). **Patrick Sweeney, D/R** (who talks the talk--his answers for us were excellent--and 100% walks the walk). **Sabrina Korbel, D/R** (bringing her experience as Legal Director for the Women's Center and Shelter of

Pittsburgh, and training on how trauma affects testimony). All have grappled with the sad fact that "Justice" has not always been justly applied. For **Allegheny County Council**: Good-natured, "can-do" educator **Steven Singer (D)** gets a gold star (and our endorsement) in the **9th district**. (Most seats are uncontested in the primary.)

With a measure of sorrow for what we'd envisioned over (many) endorsements for Peduto—but a greater measure of hopeful anticipation—we endorse **Ed Gainey (D)** for **Mayor of Pittsburgh**. For **School Board**, we continue to endorse **Sylvia Wilson, D/R** in Dist. 1 and **Terry Kennedy, D/R** in Dist. 5 (honest, hard-working, and staunch on our issues). **Matt Rudzki, D/R** (Sharpsburg-area) and **Hilary Wheatley Taylor, D/R** (Mt. Lebanon-Dormont area) are endorsed for magistrate.

**Please help us counter a problematic misperception.** In school board and local judicial races, filing with both major parties is a common choice for campaigns with the time and resources to gather two sets of signatures. Traditionally intended to demonstrate impartiality, cross-filing has never been a gauge of how "left" or "right" the candidate's political leanings are.

**Initiatives:** The state legislature should not usurp the governor's emergency powers! We therefore beg you to vote **"No" and "No"** on the two **Emergency Declarations Amendments (PA Question 1 and PA Question 2)**. We endorse **"Yes"** on the **Equal Rights** initiative (**PA Question 3**) proposed by Vincent Hughes. **"Yes"** on the **Pittsburgh "No-Knock Warrant Ban."** **"Yes"** on the **Allegheny County Initiative to Prohibit Solitary Confinement** at the county jail (exceptions for lockdowns, emergencies, protective separation requests).

**Note that any voter can still request a Mail-In Ballot** (different from "absentee"). Please VOTE BY MAIL (reducing virus risk for all) or on Tues May 18.

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