



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

"MAGA" WINS BUT SO DO OUR WAYNE AND PASSAIC COUNTY CANDIDATES

Harris falls short but all other Democrats on the Passaic County ticket sweep!



"Row A...All the Way!"

Clockwise from upper left: Andy Kim wins a seat in the U.S. Senate and gets congrats from wife, Kammy Lai. Mikie Sherrill holds her seat in Congressional District (CD) 11 for a fourth term. Nellie Pou gets the "thumbs up" in CD9 replacing the late Rep. Bill Pascrell. And, left to right, Tommy Adamo is elected Passaic County (PC) Sheriff, along with PC Commissioner winners Sandi Lazzara, Rodney De Vore and John Bartlett.

Surprised? Angry? Depressed? Scared? There was no shortage of words to describe our feelings as the night wore on, and it became clear from the election results that it was going to be a long one for Democrats. And it was. Kamla Harris and Tim Walz went down to defeat, and the "red wave" ended up giving Republicans control of both the Senate and the House. What that means for our country as we live through the next four years is reason enough to feel all of those feelings, and also a good reason why we need to talk about it at our next meeting on November 25th.

But, as bad as that was, there was good news here in Wayne as all of our other Democrats on Row A of our ballot swept to victory. Andy Kim led the way, running a campaign free of PAC money and successfully challenging the use of "The Line" in New Jersey politics. Kim wins the seat vacated by Robert Menendez. Meanwhile, our candidates for the House finished strong, incumbent Mikie Sherrill handily winning a fourth term in CD11 by 14 points, and first-time CD9 candidate Nellie Pou winning the seat left vacant with Bill Pascrell's passing. And our Passaic County candidates finished things off, Tommy Adamo succeeding the late Richard Berdnik as Passaic County's Sheriff, and incumbent Commissioners Sandi Lazzara and John Bartlett being re-elected. Newcomer Rodney De Vore joined Lazzara and Bartlett in the winners circle, filling out the trifecta for the Passaic County Commissioners. So...feeling better? You should be, but regardless of how you feel, there could be no worse time to "throw up your hands".

Once again, let's talk about it at our next meeting!

TO ALL OF OUR WDC MEMBERS, NEWSLETTER READERS & THEIR FAMILIES...



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BREAKING NEWS

Our CD11 Congresswoman is running for Governor!

Mikie Sherrill “throws her hat in the ring”.



Mikie Sherrill for Governor
mikiessherrill.com

On November 18th, Representative Mikie Sherrill confirmed the “worst kept secret” and announced that she will be running to become the next Governor of NJ, replacing Governor Phil Murphy whose term expires in 2026. The news came on the heels of Josh Gottheimer, CD5’s representative in the House, also declaring his candidacy. That brings the total of Democrats running for Governor to six! (Can you name them? See page 6.)

Watch Mikie Sherrill’s “Build Something” video on YouTube announcing her candidacy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1sQXEu5tkE>

Governors Safeguarding Democracy

Democratic governors join forces to resist Trump’s extreme policies



Democrats Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (left) and Colorado Gov. Jared Polis

On November 13th, fearing the inevitable clash between the incoming Trump federal system and Democratic-led states, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) and Colorado Gov. Jared Polis (D) announced a nonpartisan state-level initiative - Governors Safeguarding Democracy (GSD) - to foster collaboration with fellow governors to protect against threats to democracy and strengthen government institutions.

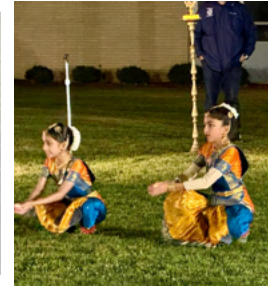
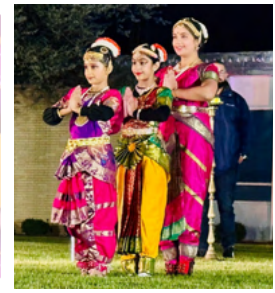
Read GSD’s Press Release: <https://govsfordemocracy.org/articles/gsd-press-release/>

Visit GSD’s website: <https://govsfordemocracy.org>

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On November 11th in front of the Wayne Township Municipal Building the community came together as one to celebrate Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights. For the second year in a row, dignitaries joined Wayne's residents in unity for the ceremony, one of religious significance to the Indian community.

As is customary, it was a night filled with singing, dancing, eating and celebrating the triumph of good over evil, along with the lighting of the Diyas (the brass lamps) as part of the Diwali tradition.

In addition to the religious significance, Diwali has become a cultural festival that promotes unity and togetherness among people from all walks of life. With that in mind, another Indian tradition - Anna-Daanam - was added to the event. Anna means food and Daanam means donation and, simply put, feeding the hungry or less fortunate is an integral part of every Indian celebration. Said Kamala Anupindi, an organizer of the event, "This Diwali celebration was no exception. We collected donations for the Wayne Interfaith Network (WIN) food pantry at the event. We ended up with \$1875 in cash and over 20 boxes of non-perishable food collected at the event in two hours!"

A big "thank you" to the organizers and those that attended for making this year's Diwali celebration such a huge success. See you next year!





"ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL."

What's going on in Wayne?

The Township's Master Plan is undergoing an overhaul

Page 1: Questions

What are Wayne's greatest strengths?

Select up to three choices

<input type="checkbox"/> Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> High-Quality Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> High-Quality Jobs
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Spaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Places to Gather	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe Community
<input type="checkbox"/> Schools	<input type="checkbox"/> Sense of Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Stores and Shops

Did you know the township is updating the 30-year-old Master Plan for 2026?

Our Township Master Plan has been reexamined over the years. This current update started in August 2024 and will be an 18-month process, according to the Township's website.

Three public sessions are scheduled throughout December: two in-person and one virtual meeting.

The township administration is querying residents through an online survey through three timeframes: September-December 2024, February-April 2025 and June-August 2025.

Wayne Township Master Plan Update Survey

Page 2: Places in Wayne

Enter up to ten places you love and ten places you would like to see improvement.

What places do you love in Wayne? (10)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Enter the address of your favorite place

Please select up to 10 locations by entering the address or clicking on the map below. After

What places in Wayne need improvement? (10)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Wayne Township Master Plan Update Survey

Page 3: Additional Questions

Would you be willing to answer some questions about your age, sex, race, place of residence, and place of employment to help us understand who is taking the survey? By providing this information, the project team can more effectively assess the reach and impact of public engagement.

-Please select-

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Public Meetings:

The first two meetings will be in-person at the Wayne Township Community Center, the former Wayne YMCA and YM-YWHA of North Jersey, located at 1 Pike Drive (off of Ratzer Rd).

- Wednesday, December 4 at 5:00 p.m. (in-person)
- Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. (in-person)
- Thursday, December 12 at 5:00 PM (Virtual on Zoom)

Township's first survey:
Wayne's Strengths and Challenges
(click here)

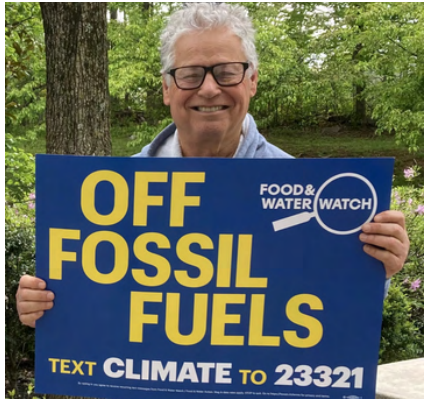
Survey 1 of 3 due by December. Four pages of questions.

<https://waynetownship.com/planning-and-zoning/master-plan-update/>

Read More



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Photos courtesy of Martine Suid Jaffe and Sam DiFalco

Our longtime Wayne Democratic Club member, Jeff Rapaport, probably wasn't that well known among many currently in our club. Yet the passion and dedication he demonstrated for environmental causes that were so important to him for many years embodied everything that all of us should strive for.

Jeff was involved in multiple conservation and environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club, where he served as Climate Change Chair; Food & Water Watch, and a dedicated and active Franciscan Response to Fossil Fuels member for over 10 years.

Jeff was a presence in Trenton, interacting with legislators to support clean renewable energy bills, and oppose fossil-fuel bills that would worsen climate change. Well known for his social and environmental activism, he was also active in the safety of rail trains transporting highly explosive fossil fuels through unsuspecting communities.

Prior to retirement, the 4th Ward resident was a financial advisor. A devoted, father and grandfather, Jeff passed away on October 14 leaving behind a legacy of activism that all of us should emulate. Rest in peace, Jeff.



"Jeff will be remembered for his passion to fight climate change in his quest to create a better world for his grandchildren and future generations. He would always say, 'I'm doing the best that I can'. A good man – a life well lived – Jeff will be missed by all who knew him."

- Barbara Stomber, good friend & Club member

Lets Get SMARTER



Do you know your candidates? In June 2025, we will be voting in the NJ primary election to pick our Democratic candidate for governor. (Governor Murphy is term-limit restricted.)

So far, six potential candidates have indicated their interest.

Do you know who they are? Do you know anything about them?

So to get the conversation started, here's a little challenge.

How well do you know your candidates? Can you match each candidate to his/her bio blurb?

Give it a try!

(Answers on last page)

1.



RAS BARAKA

[To WEBSITE \(Click\)](#)

2.



STEVE FULOP

[To WEBSITE \(Click\)](#)

3.



SEAN SPILLER

[To WEBSITE \(Click\)](#)

4.



**STEPHEN
SWEENEY**

[To WEBSITE \(Click\)](#)

5.



**MIKIE
SHERRILL**

[To WEBSITE \(Click\)](#)

6.



**JOSH
GOTTHEIMER**

[To WEBSITE \(Click\)](#)

- a. NJ11 Congress member since 2019
- b. NJEA Pres.; former Montclair mayor
- c. Jersey City mayor since 2013
- d. Past NJ Senate President
- e. Newark mayor since 2014
- f. NJ5 Congress member since 2017



?

BONUS QUESTION

Who is this Republican - the Newsletter's pick as the Dems probable gubernatorial opponent?

[To WEBSITE \(Click\)](#)

(No cheating!)



UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

PASSAIC COUNTY EVENTS

Saturday, November 30

Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly 60th Birthday Celebration Fundraiser at The Brownstone, Paterson.

Saturday, December 14

Assemblyman Wimberly's Annual Holiday Dinner & Toy Drive at The Brownstone, Paterson.

Wednesday, December 18

Assemblyman Wimberly's Annual Dinner for the Community at Eastside High School, Paterson

LOCAL & COUNTY MEETINGS

WAYNE GOVERNMENT

Council Meetings - November 20th, December 4th & 18th

Planning Board Meetings - November 25th, December 9th

Zoning Board of Adjustment - November 18th, December 2nd & 16th

All meetings start at 7:30pm in Township Council Chambers

MASTER PLAN

The first two meetings will be in-person at the Wayne Township Community Center, located at 1 Pike Drive in Wayne.

Wednesday, December 4 at 5:00 p.m. (in-person)

Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m. (in-person)

Thursday, December 12 at 5:00 PM (Virtual on Zoom)

PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Meetings - December 10th 5:30pm, December 30th 10:30am

401 Grand St, 2nd Floor, Paterson

WAYNE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting - December 12th

Meeting starts at 7:30pm in Town Council chambers

[Read More](#)



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"DO SOMETHING!"



In 2025 we'll be voting for a mayor...and three Council-At-Large members too. We've begun the screening of six candidates, but are there more out there? Right now, the mayor and eight of the nine members on the Town Council are Republicans. That's not exactly fair and balanced! If you or anyone you know are interested in running for office, or would like more information about the position and the process, let us know!

WayneDemClub@gmail.com

OUR NEXT MEETING: Monday, Nov 25th, 7pm



SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Well, that probably depends on *all* of us. It was eight years ago after the former guy was elected for the first time, defeating Hillary, that the Wayne Democratic Club held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. For so many years before then, our meetings were attended by somewhere around a dozen dedicated Democrats. But then a funny thing happened as the meeting was getting close to starting. A few new people came in. And then some more. And then more, until we had a "standing room only" crowd of about 50-60 people. As they say, the rest is history, as Mikie was elected as our Representative in the House, and Joe our President. How many will be at our next meeting? Well, that depends on how many of us "throw up our hands", and how many of us "roll up our sleeves".

Hope to see you there. We have lots of chairs!

Plan on attending? E-mail us for more info...

WayneDemClub@gmail.com

"Let's Get Smarter" ANSWERS: 1e, 2c, 3b, 4d, 5a, 6f

Jack Ciattarelli



973-650-8839
908-432-4159



WayneDemClub@gmail.com



P.O. BOX 4492
WAYNE, NJ 07474

and visit our website at WayneNJDems.org

**Club Vice-President Sal Schifano & Secretary Steve Parsons
are responsible for the content of our Newsletters.
Do you have any ideas or suggestions for future editions?
Let us know!**