



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

DON PAVLAK FOR MAYOR!

President of Wayne School Board chosen to top Wayne Dems' ticket, with Councilwoman Fran Ritter, Dr. Corey McKinney & Dylan Orren-King for Council-at-Large seats rounding it out



From left to right: Dr. Corey McKinney, Dylan Orren-King, Donald Pavlak and 5th Ward Councilwoman Francine Ritter

In a press release on Wednesday, March 12th, the Wayne Democrats announced their choice of candidates for Mayor and Council-at-Large for this year's elections. Donald Pavlak, a long-time Wayne resident and currently the President of Wayne's Board of Education, will be challenging incumbent Mayor Chris Vergano for the top spot. Also on the ticket this year for the Wayne Democrats will be current Councilwoman Francine Ritter. She'll be looking to move from her position representing the 5th Ward to one of the Council-at-Large seats. Should Councilwoman Ritter be elected, a Democrat would be appointed to Town Council to represent Ward 5 for the remainder of Fran's term. And rounding out the ticket for Council-at-Large will be Dr. Corey McKinney and Dylan Orren-King.

If you were able to attend our last Wayne Democratic Club meeting, you got a chance to meet and learn more about our candidates. If not, not to worry. "We've only just begun "I" and we'll be telling you more about them in the weeks to come.

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"ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL."

Some background on our Wayne Candidates

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR OUR CANDIDATES? Send them to our gmail!

WayneDemClub@gmail.com



FOR MAYOR Donald Pavlak

Don is a lifelong Wayne resident and lives with his wife Barbara. Together they raised two daughters, Samantha and Katie

Don began his career teaching at DePaul Catholic High School before pursuing a career in criminal justice. He was hired by the Wayne Police Department in 1986, marking the beginning of a 34-year distinguished career in law enforcement.

Don now runs a consulting company, helping police departments improve evidence management, policy and procedures. He is also an Adjunct Professor at New Jersey City University, Passaic County Community College, and Fairleigh Dickinson University, as well as a Lead Instructor at the Passaic County Police Academy, and has also served as a member of the first aid squad and fire department.

Don has been a member of the Wayne Board of Education for more than twenty years, and continues serving the Township in his role there as president and trustee. He was re-elected this past November for another three-year term, getting the highest vote count of any other candidate.

Don has a Master's degree in Public Administration and Human Resource Leadership, and an EdS degree in Leadership from Seton Hall University. He also has a BS in Criminal Justice from Jersey City State College, and a BA in Education from William Paterson University.



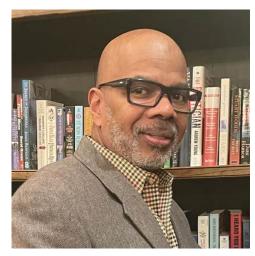
FOR COUNCIL-AT-LARGE 5th Ward Councilwoman Francine Ritter

Fran, the mother of two Wayne Hills High School graduates, began her first term as 5th Ward Councilwoman in 2020, and continues to serve her constituents in that capacity having won re-election in November 2023.

Throughout her two terms, Fran has been a strong advocate for transparency, integrity and accountability in local government. As Councilwoman, her advocacy resulted in the installation of a legal crosswalk and guardrail-protected sidewalk providing a safe crossing from Wayne Hills High School across Berdan Avenue - a much-needed project that protects our children. She was also the driving force behind the procurement of a \$15 million federal road safety grant for the redesign and reconstruction of the treacherous Valley Road, and continues to provide solutions and look for alternatives to stop the further overdevelopment of Wayne.

Fran is an accomplished attorney with over 25 years of experience enforcing antifraud regulation, and has served as President of her homeowner's association (HOA). In that role, she won a \$1.1 million lawsuit as restitution for her HOA.

During her tenure as the lone Democrat on the Council, Fran found herself representing more than just those in the 5th Ward, but residents throughout the township. For that reason, she now seeks a Council-at-Large seat. If elected, a second Democrat would be appointed to the Council to serve the 5th Ward residents for the remainder of her term.



FOR COUNCIL-AT-LARGE Dr. Corey McKinney

Dr. Corey McKinney is a dedicated educator and community leader with a lifelong passion for service, education, and mentorship. After proudly serving the Passaic Public School System for 30 years, he retired in June 2024.

Throughout his career, Corey worked as a Teacher, Assistant Principal, and Principal, shaping the lives of countless students. Additionally, he served as an Evening Adult High School Principal at Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI), helping adult learners realize their goal of earning a high school diploma.

Corey's teaching career began at PCTI in Wayne, which future introduced him to the town he would later call home. After four years, he accepted an offer to teach in Passaic, at his Alma mater. However, once he started his family, providing his three children with a better quality of life became his top priority. Having grown familiar and fond of Wayne, he along with his wife made the decision to move from Passaic to Wayne, adopting the township as their new home.

Committed to advancing his career in educational leadership, Corey pursued higher scholastics, earning a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Montclair State University and later a Doctorate Degree in Executive Educational Administration from Seton Hall University.

Beyond his career in education, Corey has remained deeply involved in service, advocacy and leadership. He is a proud member of Silver Star Lodge #45 in Passaic, (F&AM) where he has held several leadership positions. As a 32* Mason, he is also a Shriner, and on March 16th 2025, he will officially earn membership into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., a prestigious Greek - letter organization dedicated to service, advocacy and empowerment.

Corey's journey - from student to educator, from teacher to administrator and from community member to leader – has been defined by his commitment to education, family, and service. He takes great pride in the impact he has made and remains dedicated to uplifting others. He wants to assist and work for Wayne in maintaining the positive family centered attributes that attracted him to adopt this town as his own, over 20 years ago.



FOR COUNCIL-AT-LARGE Dylan Orren-King

Dylan is a lifelong Wayne resident, graduate within the Wayne Public Schools district, and student at Montclair State University studying political science. His studies keep him busy but Dylan still has carved out time to volunteer with various Wayne organizations including Wayne's Community

Emergency Response Team (CERT), and has been a lifelong summer camp counselor working with age groups ranging from elementary to high school students.

Dylan was also involved in the political campaign of Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill, campaigning with her throughout northern New Jersey. Passionate about Wayne's future, Dylan advocates for solutions to Wayne's residential over-development, and working towards attracting younger generations of Wayne to remain in the township as lifelong residents. "We face some very difficult challenges within the coming years ranging from overcrowding to public infrastructure", said Dylan, "and I am extremely confident in the team we have put together. By keeping a people-first attitude and providing new avenues for public transparency, I think that there is no one better than us to represent the needs of this township."



Pictures from our "meet and greet" with our candidates at Gyro Grill here in Wayne on Monday, March 10th. Our thanks to Gyro Grill's owner, Schlomo, and staff for their hospitality.















First row left to right: Don Pavlak, the Passaic County Commissioner candidates Christina Schratz and Michael Ramaglia with our Wayne slate.

Second row left to right: 5th Ward Councilwoman Fran Ritter, Dr. Corey McKinney celebrating his birthday, and Dylan Orren-King.

Third row: Schratz and Ramaglia.



OUR PASSAIC COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES!

Passaic County Democrats



Vote June 10th, 2025 Primary Election

Schratz & Ramaglia

for Passaic County Commissioner

MIKE RAMAGLIA & CHRISTINA SCHRATZ JOIN THE TICKET!

PCDC homepage press release

Passaic Dems tap Ramaglia,
Schratz for county commissioner
(New Jersey Globe - February 25,2025)

MISS THE GUBERNATORIAL DEBATES? TIME TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK!



LINKS TO VIDEOS OF DEBATES

<u>Democratic Gubernatorial Primary Debate</u> Streamed live on Feb 2, 2025

<u>New Jersey Republican Gubernatorial Primary Debate</u> Streamed live on Feb 4, 2025

LINKS TO DEBATE ANALYSIS

"New Jersey's Democratic candidates for governor debated. Here's what they said"
NorthJersey.com (February 3, 2025)

"New Jersey's Republican candidates for governor debated. Here's what they said"
NorthJersey.com (February 5, 2025)

Wayne's 2nd Annual Ramadan Hilal Lighting





On February 27, Wayne Township held its 2nd annual Ramadan Hilal Lighting in front of Wayne Town Hall on Valley Road. Residents, businesses and dignitaries from Wayne Township, Passaic County and NJ Legislature attended this important holiday event marking this holy month in the Islamic faith. For a second year, this event was well attended and a big success.

According to a recent NorthJersey.com article, Wayne is one of 60 municipalities throughout Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic Counties which held Ramadan events in 2025.









Photos by Sal Schifano and Councilwoman Fran Ritter



Wafaa Saad



Meet longtime Wayne Democratic Club member, Wafaa Saad. An accomplished, award-winning social worker, Wafaa is a founder, board president and executive director of the eponymous WAFAA, the Women and Family Ascending Association, based in Paterson, which started in 2010. The nonprofit helps families and/or individuals through various social programs. The WAFAA organization was originally founded as a domestic violence center but broadened is mission into a full-service social safety net program to increase its outreach to a broader client population.

Wafaa services are available 24/7 for those who are in need. It includes a 24/7 hotline for support and counseling, crisis intervention, children's therapy, career development, court assistance, foster parent assistance, traditional social services, and immigrant assistance. Really notable is her pre-license internship program that offers unique opportunities to young women trainees who work throughout the community.

Born in Egypt, Wafaa trained at the Army Hospital in Alexandria, after graduating from Alexandria University. Once she arrived in America, she eagerly continued her education, earning a Masters in Counseling (MS) from Montclair State University and a Masters in Sociology (MS) from William Paterson University. As a licensed social worker, she began her American career in the area of Mental Health at St. Joseph's Medical Center.

She is a member of the Women's Committee at the Islamic Center in Paterson, Sisters Offer Support, the Women Rising Shelter, WEDO (Women Empowered Democratic Organization), and an active member of the Wayne Democratic Club. Oh, did we mention her service as president of the WPU Rotary Club?

If you know her, you know she's tireless; Wafaa never stops! Always organizing, fundraising, offering critical social welfare services, doing food drives, distributing holiday food to those in need, and always volunteering......she's a force to be reckoned with and a true fighter for social justice. Although she has been honored with countless awards, that's not her motivation. She is driven to serve and to make lives better!

Wafaa and her husband Abdelghani are the proud parents of Dalia and Ahmed and are now joyfully involved in spoiling a beautiful grandchild.

The world needs more Wafaas. But sadly, it appears she's truly one of a kind!

Learn more by visiting www.WAFAAorganization.org and follow:

https://www.facebook.com/WomenandFamilyAscendingAssociation/

https://www.facebook.com/thewafaasaad

https://www.instagram.com/wafaaorganization/

https://www.linkedin.com/in/wafaasaad/













...about Wayne government.

At our January Club meeting it was suggested that, in order for our membership to have a better understanding of our Township's government, we provide a tutorial for them. Well, it's in the works but, in the meantime, here's a short multiple choice quiz we put together as a "starter".

Let's get smarter! (Answers on Page 13)

- 1. Wayne is divided into Wards. How many?
 - a) 5
 - b) 6
 - c) 7
 - d) 8
- 2. Every Ward in Wayne is divided into Districts between 6 & 9 depending on the Ward. How many Districts are there in Wayne?
 - a) Less than 40
 - b) 40-45
 - c) 46-50
 - d) More than 50
- 3. Each Ward elects a Council member to represent them on the Wayne Town Council. Who of the following does NOT represent a Ward on the Council?
 - a) Al Sadowski
 - b) Jason DeStefano
 - c) Joseph Scuralli
 - d) all of the above
 - e) none of the above
- 4. In addition to the Ward Council members, all of Wayne elects three Council At Large members. Who of the following is NOT a Council At Large member?
 - a) Jill Sasso
 - b) Jonathan Ettman
 - c) Jason DeStefano
 - d) David Varano

(continued)

...about Wayne government. (cont'd)

| | a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 d) 5 |
|-----|---|
| 6. | How many years are in a council and at-large council member's term? a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 d) 5 |
| , | Each party has Passaic County Committee members that represent every District in Wayne. How many Democratic County Committee members are there in each District? a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) over 3 |
| 8. | Which one is NOT a County Committee member responsibility? a) Attend periodic meetings of the Wayne Democratic Municipal Committee (WDMC). b) Vote to endorse county, state, and national candidates. c) Review and critique designs of the ballot for each year's elections. d) Participate in efforts to register voters and remind them to vote. |
| 9. | If all seats were taken on the WDMC, how many Wayne members would there be? a) Less than 50 b) 50-64 c) 65-80 d) More than 80 |
| 10. | Is there a vacant County Committee seat in your Ward-District that needs to be filled? a) YES b) NO |
| | (Answers on Page 13) |



COMING UP IN MARCH!

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

WAYNE DEMOCRATIC CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, March 18th

(Contact us for time & location)

<u>WayneDemClub@gmail.com</u>

And coming in April...



LOCAL & COUNTY MEETINGS

WAYNE GOVERNMENT

Council Meetings - March 5th and March 19th.

Planning Board Meetings - March 10th and March 24th.

Zoning Board of Adjustment - March 3rd and March 17th

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

WAYNE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting - March 6th and March 20th.

Meeting starts at 7:30pm in Town Council chambers

PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Meetings - March 11th and March 25th.

Meetings start at 5:30 p.m. inside the County Commissioners Board Room at 401 Grand St, 2nd Floor, Paterson





"Don't tune out. It's easy to be exhausted, but America needs you now more than ever."

Senator Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)
Democrats' rebuttal to the President's joint address to Congress
March 4, 2025



Candidate for Council-at-Large Dylan Orren-King answers questions from Wayne Dem Club members.

QUIZ ANSWERS

| 1. | b) | 6, b) |
|----|---------|------------|
| 2. | b) (41) | 7. b) |
| 3. | b) | 8. c) |
| 4. | b) | 9. d) (82) |

5. b)

10. For that answer, you'll have to e-mail Bob Nulman at

WayneDemClub@gmail.com

to find out if there's a vacant seat in your Ward-District that you can fill!

Yes, we're all exhausted, but the good news is that more and more people are coming out to join us and getting involved. Don't tune out. "Get in the picture!"

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT WAYNE DEMOCRATIC CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, March 18th

For times & locations, please e-mail us at <u>WayneDemClub@gmail.com</u>.

To join, complete our APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP which follows.



973-650-8839 908-432-4159



WayneDemClub@gmail.com



P.O. BOX 4492 WAYNE, NJ 07474

VISIT US at WayneNJDems.org & FOLLOW US:



facebook.com/Wayne NJDemClub



Instagram.com/Wayne NJDemClub/



@WayneDemClub
.bsky.social

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!

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

for the Calendar Year 2025

Complete this form and *mail*, *fax or e-mail* to the WDC (*see right*)

Make checks payable to the "Wayne Democratic Club"

Other payment options: *Act Blue, Venmo or Pay Pal (see below)*

(Completed forms with check or currency may be given to any Club Officer.)



"Get in the game!" TO CONTACT US:

P.O. Box 4492, Wayne, NJ 07474

VOICE/TEXT: 973-650-8839 FAX: 973-595-7785 *WayneDemClub@gmail.com*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Adult \$40 Student/Senior \$20

| Your Personal Information | n: | | | |
|--|--|--------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| NAME1: | | | BIRTHDATE | : |
| NAME 2: | | | BIRTHDATE | · |
| ADDRESS: | | | | |
| E-MAIL 1 *: | | | | |
| E-MAIL 2*: | | | | |
| | owing telephone numbers will o ses and will not be provided to ar | | | |
| HOME: | CELL 1: | | CELL 2: | |
| Membership Dues: | N | 1ethor | d of Payme | nt (check one) : |
| • | | | | |
| AMOUNT OF DUES: \$ | | ACT BL | | CASH: |
| AMOUNT OF DONATION:\$ | · | VENMO |): <u></u> | CHECK: |
| TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED:\$ | | PAY PA | L: | CREDIT CARD: |
| Pay Online: | | | | |
| CLICK HERE FOR ACT BLUE | CLICK HERE FOR VENMO | l | | RE FOR PAY PAL MSCLUB after log in) |
| Photo Release: | | | • | • , |
| I agree to allow the Club to use r social media, brochures, r | my photo for publicity reasons, in newspaper and magazine stories | | | d to CHECK TO ACCEPT: |
| | | | | |

I certify that the above-named applicant(s) reside(s) at the above stated address; that the applicant(s) is/are registered to vote in the primary election of the Democratic Party; and that no applicant is a member of any club or organization of any other political party.

| APPLICANT 1'S SIGNATURE: | | DATE : |
|--------------------------|-------|------------|
| APPLICANT 2'S SIGNATURE: | | DATE: |
| DATE RECEIVED : | WARD: | DISTRICT : |