

# WHY VOTE IN ODD YEAR ELECTIONS?



## Chair:

Heather Malky

## Vice Chair:

Richard Williams

## Secretary:

Tracey Holst

## Treasurer:

Michael Federici

## District 1:

Arlene Loeffler

Jeff Allen

## District 2:

Sophia Facaros

William Yukstas

## District 3:

Derek Malky

## District 4:

Griffin Conley

## District 5:

Hilary Felix

## District 6:

Jennifer Paris

Bryan Pepper

The saying ***all politics are local*** illustrates why voting in odd year elections is so important. The odd years in PA are when the offices that most closely affect our daily lives are up for election, including those at the **County & Municipal** level.

- These offices have responsibility for police and fire departments, emergency medical services, housing, parks and recreation, municipal courts, transportation and public works (streets, sewers, snow removal, signage, etc.) to name a few.

\***Pages 2-3** of this newsletter feature the **Oakmont Borough Council** race and **page 4** shows the fantastic slate of candidates for the **Allegheny County** offices.

**Judges and Magisterial District Judges** are also elected in odd-numbered years. And this year, the statewide judicial races are more consequential than ever, so it's important to be informed voters.

- The majority on the PA Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth courts hang in the balance and these courts rule on the most critical issues of our time, including Reproductive Rights, Voting Rights and Election cases (such as those filed after the 2020 election).

\***Page 5** highlights the local **Magisterial District Justice** race for the Oakmont & Plum district 5-2-32 and **pages 6-8** provide details on the highly qualified **state-wide Judicial candidates**.

A record number of six **Riverview School Board Director** seats are up for election this year! And the stakes couldn't be higher, especially when extremist groups, like Mom's for Liberty are crusading to ban books from schools, censor curriculum and force politics into classrooms across the country. *Note - An opposing RSD candidate posted on her social media that she is endorsed by them.*

\***Pages 9-11** feature the **Riverview School Board Director** race, including a 2 year seat, added to the ballot to fill a vacancy resulting from Board President Jeanine-Hurt Robinson's resignation.

- We thank Jeanine for her years of service to the school district. Her advocacy made a difference and we wish her the best!

***The diverse slate of local Democratic candidates this year, for Riverview School Board, Oakmont Borough Council, and Magistrate are a mix of incumbents seeking re-election and new candidates, all of whom are running to serve and give back to the communities they love. They are well qualified, experienced and accomplished professionals who will bring a balanced approach to office.***

***We humbly ask for your support of all the candidates featured in this newsletter and remember...***

**WHETHER BY MAIL OR IN PERSON, PLEASE  
VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!**

# 2023 OAKMONT BOROUGH COUNCIL CANDIDATES



## **NANCY RIDE - INCUMBENT**

**\*3 Term Borough Council Member and Current Council President**

**Education:** B.A. Wittenberg University

**Personal:** Life-long Oakmont resident; formerly Oakmont Boulevard Project committee member and Oakmont Carnegie Library Board member.

**Priorities:**

- As a life-long resident with years of public service experience, including three terms on Borough Council, Nancy knows that Oakmont is a great place to live and cares deeply about safeguarding the borough for the future.
- As the head of the Finance Committee, Nancy will continue to work to ensure the best use of borough resources.
- She is focused on delivering upon the council's outstanding goals and priorities, such as: improving the condition of the brick boulevard & the other brick streets throughout town and maintaining the vitality of our local library.



## **DEBORAH ORMAY**

**Education:** Masters of Divinity; Boston University; B.S. in Special Education Clarion State University; Graduate Riverview High School

**Personal:** 25-year Oakmont resident, she served on the Oakmont Carnegie Library Board for 10 years, 5 of those as Board Chair. She currently serves as Chair of the Missions Committee at Oakmont United Methodist Church. Deb is invested in seeing Oakmont thrive and be a great place to live.

**Priorities:**

- Deb is running for Oakmont Council to serve fellow residents and to ensure residents' concerns and ideas are heard.
- Deb wants to keep Oakmont a walkable community with a focus on pedestrian safety.
- Deb will work with Council to advance the Comprehensive Plan in a fiscally responsible and balanced manner.



## **JENNIFER PARIS**

**Education:** MEd in counseling from University of Pittsburgh; Master in Law (MSL) from University of Pittsburgh School of Law; B.A. from Duquesne university - political science and psychology

**Personal:** 20-year Oakmont resident, Member of UPMC-WPH Emergency Management team; Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Certified, serving on the WPH Command Center.

**Priorities:**

- Jennifer made the decision to run for Oakmont Borough Council out of concern for public safety, after a family tragedy occurred in the borough.
- She will draw on her 35 years of experience as a mental health professional to bring forth ideas to ensure that Oakmont is safe for all residents and that the police force is well trained and supported.
- Infrastructure is a priority, her experience in balancing large corporate budgets will enable her to help ensure borough resources are allocated appropriately to prioritize public works projects, such as updated roads and proper storm water runoff measures.
- Jennifer is also passionate about sustainability and building on the initiatives recently implemented by the current borough council.



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## **CURRENT BOROUGH COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

We would like to thank the outgoing Oakmont Borough Council members, David Brankley and Patty Friday, for their service to the community. As Dave finishes his term on Council he would like to share his thoughts with the community.

*It's been my privilege to serve the citizens of Oakmont as a member of Council since January 2020. During this time Council has been composed of 6 Democrats and 1 Republican and this majority democrat government has delivered substantially for the community, without a property tax increase, including:*

### **Public Safety**

- **Police** - Added 2 FT Police Officers, promoted 2 officers to Sergeant, settled a five year contract, enhanced the training budget, obtained body cameras for the entire force, updated computers and cameras in police vehicles and purchased new rifles.
- **Fire Department** - Purchased a new \$1.4 million ladder truck (with bond issue money) and obtained a grant to expand the garage to house the truck.
- **EMS** - agreed to a new partnership with Parkview Ambulance Service with pre-paid subscription benefits for all residents.
- **Traffic Safety** - Obtained a grant for traffic control at 9th & Hulton; made efforts to control the intersection at 3rd & Hulton, which have substantially reduced accidents there.

**Business District** - Approved new ordinance allowing for outdoor seating at restaurants on borough property; updated parking zoning requirements to attract new businesses and keep the business district vibrant; obtained a grant to replace the gas lamp posts with new LED ones.

**Wastewater Treatment** - Obtained a \$16 million municipal bond (at a very low rate) to finance up to six major updates to the sewage plant and associated infrastructure, including, starting a program to re-line our century old sewer lines. All of this is being done while sewer rates are one of the lowest in Allegheny County.

**Parks & Recreation** - obtained grants for projects including; construction of a bike pump track, pickleball courts, basketball court with roof, fenced dog park and an integrated bike trail with surrounding communities.

**Community Projects/Borough Administration** - tripled borough support to RCAC bus service; obtained grant to update the library's HVAC system; installed new audio/online system in council chambers; negotiated a new contract with municipal employees; created new investment strategy to upgrade and maintain the health of pension funds; reorganized the borough office and created a Finance Director position; installed new roof on borough building; approved housing projects at Oakmont Place and Rivers Edge; obtained grants for flood control projects in Oakmont Commons and near Creekside Park; approved plans for a community fireworks display on July 4th in the future.

**Sustainability** - Created a new year-round glass recycling program; installed public electric vehicle charging stations at Riverside Park (grant funded); purchased an electric pick-up truck for the park crew; passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of coal tar sealants; introduced goat-scaping; lobbied state against waste water piping into the Allegheny river and against injection wells in Plum Borough; obtained new fire sirens with reduced decibels.

***This is what good government looks like. If you want to keep Oakmont strong and healthy, please cast your ballots to re-elect Nancy Ride and elect Deb Ormay and Jennifer Paris to have the local government that you want and deserve.***

Thank you,  
*Dave Brankley*

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# Allegheny County Candidates



County Executive

District Attorney

County Controller

**Sara Innamorato**

**Matt Dugan**

**Corey O'Connor**



County Treasurer

Court of Common Pleas

**Erica Rocchi Brusselars**

**Patrick Sweeney**



County Council District 7

County Council At Large

**Nick Futules**

**Bethany Hallam**

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# MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

## MELANIE PALLONE

### QUALIFIED AND READY TO ASSUME THE DISTRICT JUSTICE ROLE ON DAY 1!



**DEDICATED  
EXPERIENCED  
FAIR**

- Melanie is the only attorney in this race, and the only candidate experienced in the legal areas that a district justice handles: landlord-tenant, criminal cases, private civil claims, traffic hearings, children's issues, and code violations.
- Her work has been in civil firms and non-profits; as prosecutor and defense counsel; as Common Pleas judge's law clerk; and Human Services in our County's criminal courts.
- Melanie knows we can give all voters a fair shake without compromising public safety. With a life's goal of striving for honest government, she believes our District Justice can help assure accountability AND fairness for our communities.
- For 35 years, she's volunteered with numerous charitable groups, helping women and children at risk, and working on environmental projects for the health of all.
- She'll strive to uphold principles of equity and justice and to treat everyone in the courtroom with respect.
- Melanie is the only candidate pledging to be a full-time magistrate

**Professional:** Attorney 30 years, Professor 10 years, Journalist 5 years, Mentor

**Education:** Ph.D, Criminology, I.U.P.; J.D., University of Pittsburgh; B.A., Speech Communication, Penn State University; Valley High School Graduate

**Volunteer Service:** Riverview School Board Director (Legislative Delegate), Western PA Police Athletic League, G.A.S.P., PA Resources Council, St. George Orthodox Church Choir, Hope Domestic Violence Shelter, Carnegie Library of Homestead Music Hall, Oakmont Democratic Committee

**Personal:** 31-year Oakmont resident; loving godmother to 3 godchildren; commitment to friends' children and all kids in need, and our senior citizens.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know?** The esteemed former Democratic Congressman Mike Doyle is NOT the Republican Mike Doyle running for Magistrate!

**DEMOCRAT  
MIKE DOYLE  
(NOT RUNNING)**



**REPUBLICAN  
MIKE DOYLE  
(RUNNING)**

**Did you know?** In order to be qualified to serve as a Magisterial District Justice, a candidate must either be an attorney admitted to the PA Bar as Melanie is, or must successfully complete a training & education program and pass the exam administered by the Minor Judiciary Education Board.

- The opposing candidate Mike Doyle has tried twice, unsuccessfully, to pass the exam. If elected, he would only have one more opportunity to take the exam AFTER THE ELECTION and if unsuccessful, he could not serve in the role.

**THE CHOICE IS CLEAR - PALLONE FOR MAGISTRATE!**



**PA BAR RATING  
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

**PA SUPREME COURT  
Judge Dan McCaffery**

Judge Dan McCaffery is an experienced jurist known for his high degree of professionalism, good judicial temperament and strong work ethic. His legal career has taken several paths that allowed the candidate to attain substantial experience in a variety of areas.

- He served as an assistant district attorney of Philadelphia from 1991 to 1996, rising to a leadership role in the Major Trials Unit.
- He was employed from 1997 to 2000 as an associate and from 2001 to 2013 as a partner in a law firm.
- He served as a judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas between 2014 and 2019, and during his tenure made several important administrative contributions.
- From January 2020 to present, he has served ably as a Superior Court of Pennsylvania judge.

Judge McCaffery has a demonstrated record of community involvement. Before commencing his legal education, he served on active duty in the U.S. Army for two years followed by a four-year commitment in the Army Reserve.

*Because of his broad experience as a practicing attorney, proven record of judicial leadership, high ethical standards and dedication to the legal profession and the community, the commission is confident the candidate would serve with distinction as a Supreme Court justice and, therefore, highly recommends his candidacy. (PA Bar Association 2023)*

**PA COMMONWEALTH COURT  
Judge Matt Wolf**

Judge Matt Wolf is the Supervising Civil Judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court (PMC) and has profoundly impacted the landscape of civil justice in the region. Under his leadership, the court witnessed the inception and evolution of the eviction diversion program, heralded as a “national model,” which has significantly benefited thousands of at-risk households.

- Prior to his esteemed tenure at the PMC, Judge Wolf practiced law in the Delaware Valley, predominantly championing civil rights, wherein his meticulous efforts culminated in several favorable verdicts.
- Judge Wolf’s exemplary military service in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, marked by commendations like the Bronze Star Medal, speaks to his unparalleled dedication and valor.



**PA BAR RATING  
RECOMMENDED**

*His efforts to modernize the Civil Division, and contribution to legal best practices demonstrate a commitment to equity and justice. Given his extensive experience, unwavering integrity, and vast legal knowledge, the commission is confident in Judge Wolf’s capability for outstanding performance as a Superior Court of Pennsylvania judge and fervently recommends his candidacy. (PA Bar Association 2023)*





## PA SUPERIOR COURT Jill Beck

Jill Beck practices in the areas of commercial litigation, discrimination and appellate matters at a law firm.

- She previously served in clerkships for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, where she gained a decade of appellate court experience drafting hundreds of opinions related to civil, criminal, family and juvenile law and orphan's court matters.
- Prior to her clerkships, Jill practiced at KidsVoice Inc., managing an extensive caseload of matters related to abused and neglected children.

**PA BAR RATING  
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

*Jill is active in organized bar associations and is highly regarded by members of the bench and bar. She is intelligent, focused and displays a temperament exhibiting patience, open-mindedness, tact and humility. She possesses the highest combination of legal ability, experience and integrity. The commission is confident the candidate is capable of outstanding performance as a Superior Court of Pennsylvania judge and highly recommends her candidacy.*

(PA Bar Association 2023)

## PA SUPERIOR COURT Judge Timika Lane

Judge Judge Timika Lane has served on the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia County since 2013. Her trial court experience is extensive.

- She has overseen criminal appeals from the Philadelphia Municipal Court, presided over criminal cases in the Major Trials program, and handled investigative grand jury matters.
- Currently, she is assigned to the court's Civil Trial Division, handling civil motions and jury/bench trials.
- Prior to her tenure on the court, she spent more than a decade in private practice with a majority of her practice related to family law.
- She also previously served as a public defender, civil arbitrator, child advocate and chief counsel.



**PA BAR RATING  
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

*She demonstrates her commitment to the legal profession by serving as an instructor for continuing legal education courses and other educational activities. The candidate has extensive community involvement, demonstrating her commitment to public service. The commission is confident the candidate is capable of outstanding performance as a Superior Court of Pennsylvania judge and highly recommends her candidacy.*

(PA Bar Association 2023)

**WHETHER BY MAIL OR IN PERSON - VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!**

## JUDICIAL RETENTION

You will see several Judicial retention questions on the general election ballot. Allegheny County Democrats encourage you to vote **Yes to retain Judge Jack Panella on the Superior Court**

**Judge of the Superior Court**

Shall **Jack Panella** be retained for an additional term as Judge of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?

Yes

No

**HOW TO RETURN YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT**

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**



**INNER SECRECY ENVELOPE THAT INDICATES OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT**



**PRE-ADDRESSED OUTER RETURN ENVELOPE**



SIGN & DATE HERE

Make sure to seal your ballot in the inner secrecy envelope that indicates official ballot AND seal that into the pre-addressed outer return envelope. Complete, sign and enter today's date on the outer return envelope. Your ballot will only be counted if it is sealed in both envelopes, and the outer return envelope is completed, signed and dated. You can only return your own ballot unless you are a voter with a disability who has designated an agent in writing.

[vote.pa.gov/MailBallot](https://vote.pa.gov/MailBallot)


The Oakmont Democrat's monthly regular committee meetings are normally scheduled on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

Email us at [oakmontdemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontdemocrats@gmail.com) for info or to volunteer your talents, time, and energy to help elect good candidates, or to run for local office!

**Support us through donations by:**

- Online by scanning the Act Blue QR code with your smartphone camera
- Check made payable to and mailed:

**Oakmont Democratic Committee**  
 c/o Treasurer  
 700 Fourth Street  
 Oakmont, PA 15139





## 2023 RIVERVIEW SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTION

This year there are **STARK DIFFERENCES** between the values and priorities that each party has for local school boards and public education in general. The Riverview Democratic candidates stand for:

- **Holistic and equitable** approach to support students, teachers, staff, administration, and the community.
- **Collaborative, proactive, and ethical** decision making in the best interest of the district for the greatest growth potential.
- **Open communication and transparency** to serve the diverse needs of the families of Oakmont and Verona.

School Director Riverview 4 Year Term Vote for not more than Five	
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Jennifer K. Chaparro Democratic
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Antonio Paris Democratic
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Leanne Jacobs-Rohan Democratic
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Erin Schuetz Democratic
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Roger Pogoda Democratic
<input type="radio"/>	Nick Paradise Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Colette Saxon-Kmetz Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Seth Wermager Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Melissa Botta-Havran Republican
<input type="radio"/>	Isabelle McDade Republican

**2 YEAR TERM**

 **BRIDGET SEERY**

## CURRENT SCHOOL BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We would like to express gratitude to the outgoing Riverview School Board Directors for their time and efforts serving the district.

- Thank you Maureen McClure, Jane Miller and Melanie Pallone.

Riverview's enrollment has increased 9% since the 2020-2021 school year with 906 students to the current 2023-2024 school year where we now have 989 students. The current school board is proud of that and what has been accomplished over the past four years, including leading the district through an unprecedented pandemic.

- Actively pursuing collection of unpaid taxes while making it easier for taxpayers to pay in two installments
- Lobbied for improved state funding with statewide partners
- Obtained state, federal, and special ESSERS funding to upgrade HVAC and bathroom facilities
- Upgraded phone and door lock systems for integrated safety
- Replaced digital devices for all students and upgraded staff computers
- Updated curriculum for career/technical and electives options
- Created space where all students feel comfortable with who they are and added individual bathroom stalls
- Increased training on trauma-informed interaction, social learning, and restorative punishments
- Revised bullying and vaping policies
- Added mental health support staff through a state grant
- Increased equity among our in-house special education students

**WHETHER BY MAIL OR IN PERSON - VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!**

# 2023 RIVERVIEW SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



## **JENNIFER CHAPARRO - INCUMBENT**

### **\*School Board President & Marketing Communications Delegate**

**Education:** B.A. Communication and History of Art & Architecture, Univ of Pgh

**Personal:** 12-year Oakmont residents, Jennifer and her spouse are proud parents of a daughter who is a Sophomore at Riverview Jr. Sr. High and a son who is in 6th grade at 10th Street Elementary.

### **Board Accomplishments & Priorities:**

- In her first term she helped accomplish several initiatives; hiring and transitioning the district to a new Superintendent, High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director, many new quality teachers, coaches, paraprofessionals and other personnel. Also, enhancing the district's communications channels, including adding a Twitter account, consistently updating the website, ensuring timely email communications and creating consistency in the academic and athletic brands and guidelines.
- Her priority continues to be ensuring the highest quality of education and extracurricular activities are provided to our children from kindergarten through 12th grade.
- She has worked hard to promote all that Riverview has to offer and is thrilled to see our student population growing!



## **ANTONIO PARIS, ESQ - INCUMBENT**

### **\*School Board Director & Student Life Delegate**

**Education:** J.D. from Ave Maria School of Law; Master of Studies in Law from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law; B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology from Baldwin Wallace University; Graduate Riverview High School

**Personal:** 21-year Oakmont resident

### **Board Accomplishments & Priorities:**

- While on the board, Antonio has been instrumental in re-writing the bullying policy and advocating for and revising the vaping policy.
- As the Student Life delegate, he draws on his experience at Riverview, where he was involved in everything from musical to cheer to track & field, including serving as Key Club President, Yearbook Editor and 4-year champion of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS).
- He knows the value that sports and activities provide in the development of students and will ensure that resources continue to be allocated to these programs to ensure Riverview students always have opportunities to showcase their talents inside and outside of the classroom.



## **LEANNE JACOBS-ROHAN**

**Education:** Bachelor's degree from Eastern University; Graduate Riverview High School.

**Personal:** Born and lived in Oakmont for 21 years, returned 4 years ago to raise her two sons, one in third grade and another in Kindergarten at 10th St. Elementary School. Leanne's parents have been Oakmont residents for over 50 years.

### **Priorities:**

- School safety will be at the forefront of her every thought and decision. She will draw on her 20 years of experience in the mental health/social work field to make wise decisions for the students, faculty and staff.
- As a Riverview School Director, she will advocate for open communication, history education to include everyone's history, and to ensure that books remain accessible to students.



# 2023 RIVERVIEW SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



## **ROGER POGODA**

**Education:** B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Robert Morris University

**Personal:** 5-year Oakmont residents, Roger and his spouse are proud parents of two daughters who attend 10th St. Elementary. Roger is a Twin Boro Soccer Club Board Member, Field Coordinator and Coach

**Priorities:**

- Roger is running for Riverview School Board Director to ensure that Riverview continues to provide an environment for its students and faculty that is welcoming, safe and engaging.
- When deciding on critical matters, he is committed to taking a student-first approach, always putting the welfare of the students first and foremost.
- His vision is for Riverview to be a district where students have the space to be the best versions of themselves.



## **ERIN SCHUETZ**

**Education:** M.A. in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania; B.A. in Broadcast Communications with Speech Minor from Westminster College.

**Personal:** 6-year Oakmont resident, Erin's spouse has worked in Oakmont for over 10 years and they are proud parents of a son attending Riverview High School.

**Priorities:**

- Erin's choice to run for School Board Director comes down to ideals around the letter E. Equitable and Engaging opportunities supported by Efficiency and transparency to create an Educational Environment where Everyone can thrive.
- In her years guiding college students, from their first year of undergraduate study to earning PhDs, she has seen the impact that preparation, co-curricular, extracurricular activities and human development has on a student. These areas are impacted by the foundational Pre K-12 experience and Erin is committed to ensuring Riverview continues to set students up for success.

## **2 YEAR TERM**



## **BRIDGET SEERY**

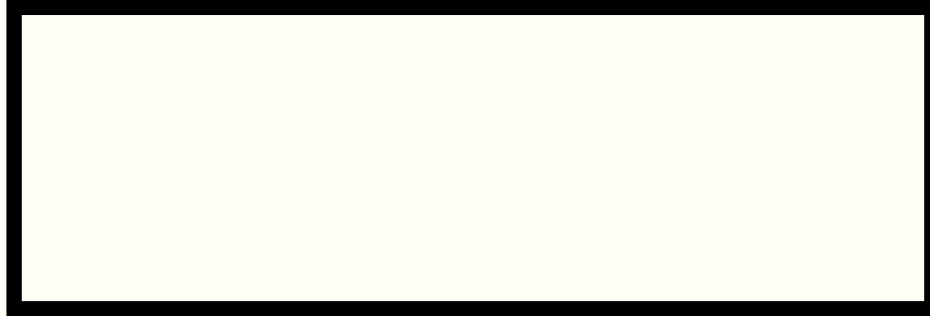
**Education:** Indiana University of Pennsylvania, College of Health and Human Services Masters of Arts in Human Resources & Employment Relations (In Program) Slippery Rock University, College of Education Elementary Education Certificate, Slippery Rock University, College of Education Master of Education in Special Education; Marymount University, College of Education and Human Services Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

**Personal:** Member of the Verona Shade Tree Commission & Community Group, she is In a 24-year committed relationship and is a cat mom to two domestic grays. Bridget is an avid scrapbooker, Creative Memories Consultant and a reader of ALL BOOKS!

**Priorities:**

- Create and maintain partnerships that further student's educational opportunities and experiences.
- Ensure fiscal viability and plan for the future of the district.
- Facilitate a positive culture for students to learn, employees to work and parents to engage with the district.
- Make measured decisions considering all stakeholder's points of view.

**Oakmont Democratic Committee**  
756 Allegheny River Blvd  
Oakmont, PA 15139



[oakmontdemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:oakmontdemocrats@gmail.com)

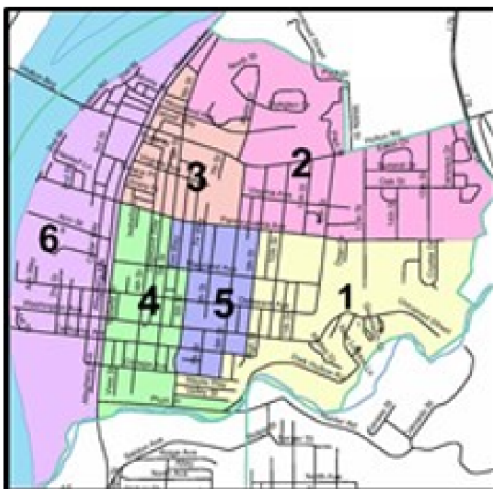


<https://oakmontdems.com>







OakmontDemocrats

## Oakmont Districts



## ON ELECTION DAY - TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

-  Tenth Street Elementary School  
501 Pennsylvania Ave. (Districts 1 & 2)
-  Oakmont Borough municipal building  
767 Fifth Ave. (District 3)
-  Oakmont United Methodist Church  
419 Maryland Ave. (Districts 4 & 5)
-  Riverview Community Action Corporation  
501 Second Street (DISTRICT 6)