



# The Town Crier

Abington Township and Rockledge Borough Observations

Feb 2022

**VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1**

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Table of Contents

1. 2021 Election
2. 2022 Election
3. School District
4. Township
5. Rockledge



.....Nov Election

## Welcome

A group of ATRO members feel it is important to share some of our observations and thoughts on what is going on with our community. This is the first issue of our monthly newsletter. We welcome anyone to subscribe and submit a short article for the next edition. Our goal is to publish on the 5th of each month.

## 2021 Election Recap

By Michele Morris and Dolly Dangelo-Wrenn

Rockledge Republicans went undefeated, winning every seat, maintaining their 100-year record. Congratulations to Mayor James Caffrey, Albert Wartman, Vincent Menniti Jr, Kaitlyn Metzinger, & Frank Enderle and Robert Ucci. Thank you for your hard work and to all who voted. WAY TO GO ROCKLEDGE!!!

Commissioner Dennis Zappone (Ward 9) is our only Republican voice. He needs reinforcements in the form of Republican candidates to run & WIN in 2023. Consider getting involved. Joe Papa (Ward 6) lost by 330 votes and Krystle Gerhard (Ward 12), by 421 votes. Thanks for running.

We currently have NO representation on the School Board. GOP candidates, Paul Morse, Robert Wolf, Jocelyn Pickford and John Stadvec III fought the good fight for which we are very grateful. Although they were very competitive with in-person voting they lost to the

overwhelming influx of Dem mail-in ballots.

Bob Kumor did an admirable job stepping up and running for Constable.

Tax Collector – The incumbent Dem won by 6,111 votes of which 4,111 were mail-in ballots. Our candidate Virginia Malloy received 502 mail-in votes. See a pattern?

MORAL TO THE STORY: WE ARE GETTING SLAMMED BY MAIL-IN BALLOTS. WE MUST REVERSE THIS TREND. WHETHER BY MAIL, IN-PERSON, ALONE, AS A FAMILY OR AS A GROUP, BE SURE TO VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!

## 2022 Elections at a Glance

By Chris Mudge

If you are interested in running for office, let us know!

### Abington Township Elections:

Committee people: There are 2 committee people elected per precinct in each ward and they are elected every 4 years during the primary. If someone is interested in becoming a committee person, they can ask for a petition and get 10 signatures so that their name can appear on the ballot for the primary. All current committee people are up for re-election in 2022.

Committee people are responsible for registering Republican voters, cover the polls on election day, circulate absentee ballot applications to shut-ins, college students, military, and those who will be traveling on election day, attend monthly ATRO meetings (held on the third Wednesday of every month at the North Penn VFW), and recruit and support local candidates, among other duties:

There are several open committee positions for 2022:

Ward 1-2, Ward 1-3, Ward 2-2, Ward 4-2, Ward 5-1, Ward 8-2, Ward 10-2, Ward 11-1, Ward 11-2, Ward 14-1.

### ATRO

215-277-5884

<https://ATROGOP.org/>



Many hands make  
work light

## State Elections:

**PA State House of Representatives** are elected every two years. Abington is in district 153. Redistricting has not been finalized; Rockledge, Abington and part of Upper Dublin will be in PA 153. Our current state representative is Ben Sanchez (D). We need a GOP candidate.

State Representatives work out of Harrisburg. They Introduce bills and resolutions at the state level, offer amendments to current bills, work with the Governor to create laws and establish the state budget, and can vote to uphold or override the Governor's vetoes

**PA State Senate** State Senators are elected every (4) years. Abington is in Senate District 4. Art Haywood (D) is our current state senator, and his term will be up in 2022. We need a Republican Candidate.

PA State Senators work out of Harrisburg. They create, debate, and vote on legislation.

Other races for 2022 include: Governor, Lt Gov, U.S. Senator, U.S. House of Representatives.

## School District Updates Joe Rooney

**BUDGET** In the Jan meeting the school district announced its plan to increase all our taxes again (roughly \$175/ house.) ASD has 8300 students enrolled; 134 are enrolled in cyber school and 480 students are classified as special education. The proposed budget for next year is \$182 million! If you do simple math, that means Abington Taxpayers are spending a little under \$22,000 per student every year between K and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Shockingly, the school district is spending the \$40 million fund balance that we have entrusted to their careful oversight despite collecting record tax receipts and \$5 million in Covid relief.

Our school administrators should demonstrate how the millions of dollars spent is improving our kids' education.

Our school district does not suffer from a lack of resources. ASD SPENDS TOO MUCH. There is no tax increase that will solve this problem. The district has got to get its spending under control. There are excellent tables prepared by Mr. Lionetti available on the ASD website [LINK](#) (look at pages 11 - 13;) Please look at this information, attend a meeting and tell the school directors what you think.



MCRC Committee Mtg



Bill McSwain



Rockledge Fire House

**Federal Lawsuit alleging Sexual Assault Filed against ASD** In Dec the Inquirer published an article about a federal lawsuit that has been filed against Abington School District for its failure to act after a student complained about alleged sexual assaults and harassment between 2015 – 18 by another student. According to the lawsuit the staff of the school district was made aware of the problem but failed to protect the victim. I have reached out to both the district and Abington Police for additional information and will print updates as soon as I get responses.

There are three new school directors. There have been two months of meetings since their installation. Amazingly, two of these new directors have already failed to attend one meeting each! Unprofessional!

## Township Update

**Zoning:** The township is considering increasing housing density across much of the township.

**Speaking Rights:** The commissioners have greatly reduced citizens opportunities to address their elected commissioners. They also do not answer questions!

**Taxes:** The commissioners recently voted to increase our property taxes by 22%

**Township Committees:** There are openings for interested citizens on the Economic Development Committee, Environmental Action Committee and Human Relations Committee. Please consider getting involved. [LINK](#)

## Rockledge

Mayor Jim Caffrey

Best wishes to former Mayor Harold Praediger on his retirement. We are thankful for his many years of service and dedication to our community. His time and talents will be missed.

We are happy to report there are no tax or fee increases for 2022. After a 2-year absence, the Rockledge Fourth of July parade will return this year. Planning is underway.

