

Newport Township Community Organization

Voters' Guide

to candidates for Newport Township Commissioner

About this Guide

The Newport Township Community Organization prepared this Voters' Guide to help you make an informed decision when you vote. All candidates mentioned here are running for the office of Newport Township Commissioner. The office has a term of four years and pays a salary of \$1500.

We asked all candidates to give their name, date of birth, occupation, education, qualifications, and an answer to the public policy question "What should Newport Township do about the large number of neglected and abandoned buildings in our neighbor-

hoods?" We printed their replies as received, with no correction of spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

Democratic candidates are listed first, in alphabetical order, followed by Republican candidates, also in alphabetical order.

We modeled this guide on that of the Voters' Guide put out by the League of Women Voters. We have worked to make it informative, impartial, and nonpartisan. We hope that you find it useful.

Democratic Candidates for Township Commissioner

Dave "Buzz" Buchinski

Date of Birth: 7-3-1972

Occupation: Corrections officer

Education: 1990 Honor Society Grad GNA High School
Attended Penn State University

Qualifications:

10 years law enforcement experience
president 7 years local little league
volunteer several local youth organizations

Answer to question:

1. Prioritize neglected properties worst or biggest safety hazards should be taken care of first
2. Work with county, state, and federal officials to obtain funding for demolition/cleanup
3. Form a coalition with other local municipalities to pressure state government into changing current laws to assist townships cites and boroughs in fighting property owners who neglect their properties

Frankie Chest

Date of Birth: [Left blank by the candidate]

Occupation: Builder/Developer

Education: Academic honor graduate Newport H/S
Building trades schools

Qualifications:

1. Lic Builder/Developer
2. Lic general contractor
3. Superintendent large corp.
4. Asst plant manager large corp
5. General contractor
6. Knowledge of government loans & grants
7. Ability to negotiate & sell ideas & deals

Answer to question:

1. Change in local government
2. Industrial growth (large commercial growth)
3. Employment growth (large employment growth)

Democratic Candidates (continued)

Paul Czapracki

The candidate did not reply to our questions.

Janine (Makarczyk) Floyshak

Date of Birth: 03 1964

Occupation: Registered Nurse
VNA/Wyoming Valley Health Care

Education: John S. Fine High School
Luzerne County Community College
State Certified Emergency Medical Technician

Qualifications:

Graduate of Luzerne County Community College

Proven Leadership ability:

Past President of Newport Township Women's Activity Group

Past President of the Newport Township Little League
(First female president)

Captain of the Newport Township Firemen's Community Ambulance for 14 years.

One of the "key" people instrumental in starting the part-time paid crew.

Responsible for day-to-day operations, grant writing, personnel, ambulance billing, compliance and licensure

Volunteer EMT for the Newport Township Firemen's Community Ambulance

Volunteer for fund raising events for the Newport Township Fire Department

Answer to question:

In order to effectively get a handle on the neglected and abandoned buildings within the township, all ordinances would be reviewed, amended or changed as warranted as per first class township code. These ordinances would be made readily available to the public thru the internet, or available immediately at the municipal building upon request. These ordinances, or website in which they are contained, would be available to the public for review at their leisure.

A list of properties should be made according to severity of neglect and safety. This list should be updated on a quarterly basis. Included in this list would be all available information on the property – owner – liens – list of violation – etc.,

Contact would be made first by certified letter clearly stating all

the violations and asking the homeowner to contact the zoning officer by a given date to make a plan of action to rectify the situation. A deadline for contact would be included in this letter within three weeks from receipt. If no contact is made by the homeowner to the zoning officer, another letter would be promptly sent indicating again the violations and fines if not adhered to. Again, asking the homeowner to contact the zoning officer. If no contact is made in two weeks then the township would go to the magistrate and press charges as per the law. Each letter would also contain any pertinent ordinances revolving around the violations.

If the homeowner does make contact within the specified time, then a plan of action would be agreed upon with the homeowner, zoning officer and township officials. Included in the plan would be a strict time line that shall be adhered to. The zoning officer would make regular visits (weekly) to the property to see that such corrects are being made as per agreement.

Township residents must be made aware that township officials mean business and that these ordinances and zoning codes will be followed as allowed by the law.

Grants and monies would also be sought after for demolishing all properties that meet the criteria of the grant etc. This would be a long term project, but the end result will be beautiful.

Mike Roke

The candidate did not reply to our questions.

Russell J. Sager

Date of Birth: 11-1-45

Occupation: Retired Dept of Env Protection

Education: College BA Criminal Justice & Sociology

Qualifications:

34 years of working with people in various Env Health Programs such as public water supply on lot sewage system & private well schools, swimming pools, nursing homes

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Democratic Candidates (continued)

Russell J. Sager (continued from page 2)

Answer to Question:

Newport Township has to enforce the ordinances on the books. A full time code enforcement section needs to be implemented & staffed with qualified personnel, providing courteous service to the residents. Office hours have to be convenient for residents to obtain the necessary permits. One Saturday a month office hours 8 to 12 should be available for those who cannot make it during the week.

John Wilkes

The candidate did not reply to our questions.

Republican Candidates for Township Commissioner

Michael J. Figmic

Date of Birth: 7-14-44

Occupation: Retired

Education: Attended Marywood & LCCC in pursuit of a Assoc. Degree in Criminal Justice

Qualifications:

Work related, and supervisory jobs. And negotiating with people on a different than normal situation or level.

Answer to Question:

All neglected properties should be named and given a date to complete appropriate work on these sites, or face fines

Abandoned building should be checked for structural damage and be demolished according to the danger it imposes to the community.

Project Mgr. - Comfort Designs 1995-1997, Business Mgr. - Whitby School & Rectory School 1998-2002, Business Mgr - American Numismatic Society 2004-2006

I have vast experience in construction project management as well a personnel and financial management. I have managed budgets from \$500,000 to \$900,000,000 I served as a Lt in the U.S Navy during Viet Nam War with 8 mo in Viet Nam during my stay.

Answer to Question:

I would continue to seek funds to remove or remodel these properties. In addition I would seek to have legislation passed giving municipalities more control over abandoned property and an ability to procure the properties through legal means which are clear cut and specific regarding the seizure of such properties if proof of ownership can not be determined or known owners can not be located.

William P. Hourigan

Date of Birth: October 1, 1944

Occupation: Retired

Education: B.S. Business & Finance CW Post College

Qualifications:

Business Manager for Wilkes-Barre Times Leader 1969-1982, Director of Fiscal Control, New York City Dept of Correction 1982-1986, Business Manager - St. Bernard's School 1986-1995,

Newport Township Community Organization
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On the Internet: www.newporttownship.com.

Officers

President	Steve Phillips	735-3991
1st Vice President	Russ Sager	736-6823
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