

Truth Matters NP

Lookingleftnj.com

September 26, 2019
Volume 1. Issue 2

Swing Left Organizes in New Providence

On September 9th a group of 30 met at a New Providence home to hear about the organization Swing Left. The local group of the national organization is known as "Swing Left North Central NJ" and consists of Union, Essex, Morris and Somerset counties. The group is headed by Rebecca Spence, Jayne and Dave Graepel of New Providence. They described the group objectives, accomplishments and plans. The stated purpose of the group is to "Flip all of the houses in 2020, White House, Senate and State Houses". To accomplish this goal the nationally based group has targeted 11 states. Each state has been identified by meeting a set of criteria making it a "super" state. Predictably the states consist of those essential for an electoral college win for President, states identified with vulnerable Republican Senators and those with excessive gerrymandered districts. The group has and will continue to participate in letter writing to encourage voter registration in "super" states, canvassing and fundraising.

SwingLeft

NORTH CENTRAL NJ

Union, Essex, Morris,
Somerset

The local group has expanded rapidly since it started 7 months ago. Growing to over 90 members, writing and sending nearly 2000 letters to 7 states, and raising funds intended for targeted races in 2020. Most of those present took 20 letter packets to include handwritten notes to be sent to unregistered voters in Pennsylvania. The organization has an ambitious plan and detailed supporting documentation. The "super" states are: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.

The groups local web address is: <https://swingleft.org/group/swing-left-northcentral-nj>.

New Voting Machine Demonstration

On September 10, I attended a demonstration of the new New Jersey voting machines with paper back-up. The demonstration was sponsored by Summit Area Indivisible and took place at the St. Teresa of Avila Memorial Hall in Summit.

The machines appear similar to those NJ voters are familiar with. There is nothing especially complex about using the machines unless you need assistance. If you need assistance the procedures become somewhat more complex but not exceedingly so. Expect the election workers to be helpful and patient. The ballot appears very much like those any voter has seen in the past. The selection boxes are a bit sensitive, so be sure to double check your selections prior to pushing the "vote" button. The paper record of your vote is never in your hands. It is placed in the machine by the election staff, prints your vote on a paper form which then is deposited in a locked bin.

My impression is that the new machines should not present any major problems. Hopefully, I am not making a naïve prediction. If you have the time it wouldn't hurt to give the new machines a try at one of the up-coming demonstrations. Check your area or here are two:

October 5: 10AM to Noon Summit High School Cafeteria

October 7: 3PM to 7PM New Providence Library

**Union
County
Votes**



New Providence Borough Council September 9, 2019

The New Providence Borough Council meeting on September 9, 2019 was somewhat uneventful. Prior to passage of the ordinances allowing the redistricting of the areas designated for zoning changes to allow for affordable housing, the council heard from a number of residents. Those speaking to the council were concerned with the immediate impact in their area if development of the housing were to take place. Most questions were difficult for the council to provide specifics since no one knows the exact plans for the tracts of land rezoned for the development. The bottom line continues to be that until such time as a property is obtained by a developer, there is no way of knowing how development will impact the immediate area or the town.

Councilman Peter DeSarno reported that the Sustainability committee was planning on discussing the issue of single use plastic bags and would provide a recommendation to the council in the future.

According to the Attorney General’s office the top five states from which illegal guns have been seized in New Jersey during the first 6 months of 2018 were as follows:

- 1 – Pennsylvania
- 2 – Georgia
- 3 – Virginia
- 4 – North Carolina
- 5 – South Carolina

Note: Nearby states with stricter gun controls do not appear



The last election in New Jersey with the Assembly position at the top of the ballot was 2015. In New Providence that year, less than 25% of the registered voters turned-out for Borough council voting. There was no Democrat on the ballot for New Providence Borough council. This year the Assembly seats are once again at the top of the ballot. The difference this year is that the Republicans have a Democratic candidate running against them. Hopefully, we will see more interest in the election this year.

Gun Control is NOT Political

The politicians who govern Newtown Connecticut never thought they would be tearing down Sandy Hook Elementary school until a gunman with an assault rifle killed 20 first graders and 6 teachers. The politicians who govern Parkland Florida never expected they would be putting out a 22-point anti-assault weapons and universal background check resolution until 17 of their constituents were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The politicians governing Columbine, Co. never expected they would be dedicating town property to a memorial for the 13 killed at Columbine HS. These politicians, like so many, never thought it was their place or duty to “get involved” in political discussions about guns. They all waited until their children, their friends, their constituents were killed by guns before they were forced to take actions. I do not hold my breath waiting for the day when politicians will wake up and “DO SOMETHING! DO SOMETHING!” which is the demand of many attending town halls around the country.



Truth Matters NP is edited by Allen Swanson. All content unless otherwise indicated was written by Allen Swanson. The newsletter is associated with the web site lookingleftnj.com. Email comments, questions, suggestions to: lookingleftnj@gmail.com.