



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Release No. 2022-06

State House Challengers Enjoy Unanimous Support from the Berks County Republican Committee

Apr. 23, 2022, Leesport, Pa.—The Berks County Republican Committee (BCRC) held its annual Endorsement Convention and, for State House challengers, unanimously endorsed Jim Oswald for Legislative District 126, Vince Gagliardo for Legislative District 127, and Barry Llewellyn for Legislative District 129. The Convention also unanimously endorsed incumbent State Representatives David Zimmerman (Rep., L.D. 99), Mark Gillen (Rep., L.D. 128), and David Maloney (Rep., L.D. 130).

“The Democrats controlled the Legislative Reapportionment Commission and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and did everything they could to give Berks County the shaft,” County Chair Clay Breece said, “Despite every setback, our Party continues to field highly-qualified candidates and present Berks County voters with real alternatives.”

Jim Oswald for Legislative District 126.

Jim Oswald is a Lower Alsace Township Supervisor, a post he’s held for roughly 16 years. “From my experience as a Township Supervisor, an important issue if elected as State Representative is that we need to figure out how to eliminate bureaucratic red tape,” Oswald said, “From what we’re paying in fuel taxes, we should be driving on some of the best roads in the world. But that isn’t happening.”

Oswald supports a repeal of mail-in voting under Act 77 and property tax elimination, noting that Antietam School District has some of the highest tax rates in Berks county.

“Jim Oswald served our country for 20 years as a U.S. Navy reservist. He’s a small businessowner. And he understands how municipalities should be managed. He’s the most qualified candidate one could hope for,” County Chair Clay Breece said, “Republicans, moderate Democrats, and independents in House District 126 can change the direction of Harrisburg by electing Jim.”

Legislative District 126 is roughly 54.3% Democrat, 28.5% Republican, and 17.1% other. The district includes Exeter precincts 4, 5, and 11, Laureldale, Lower Alsace, Muhlenberg, Saint Lawrence, and twelve precincts from the City of Reading.

After the Primary, Oswald will face the incumbent, Democrat Mark Rozzi.

“I’ve spent my whole life as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the benefit of the community around me and I will continue to do that,” Oswald said, noting that he understands the broader needs of the community than does Mark Rozzi.

Vince Gagliardo for Legislative District 127.

Vince Gagliardo is a Councilman for Kenhorst and a former Reading councilman. He spent roughly half of his adult life in Reading and half in Kenhorst.

“He’s a proven servant for the public, more responsive to constituents than Manny Guzman,” Breece said, “As a small businessowner himself, he directly felt the pain and disruption by COVID-19 lockdowns and will take that experience to Harrisburg.”

After 45 years of work in a family-owned truck repair and towing business, Vince’s Auto Sales and Services, Inc., Gagliardo was compelled to sell off the Reading branch because of the COVID-19 pandemic. “It was rough. People didn’t want to work. The Government told us to shut-down but we couldn’t. The Government only wanted us to continue towing for the City, but that wasn’t enough to continue operations,” Gagliardo said.

“My team and I sincerely appreciate the BCRC for its endorsement,” Gagliardo said, “I promise to do whatever is needed to ensure that our elections are conducted fairly and securely with voter ID. I will continue my support for Second Amendment rights and protecting the unborn.” Gagliardo is also committed to reforming property taxes with the goal of easing the burden on senior citizens and military veterans.

Legislative District 127 is roughly 60.2% Democrat, 19.9% Republican, and 19.9% other. The district includes Cumru precincts 6 and 7, Kenhorst, Shillington, and 21 precincts from the City of Reading.

After the Primary, Gagliardo will face the incumbent, Democrat Manny Guzman, Jr.

Barry Llewellyn for Legislative District 129.

“Barry Llewellyn shares our commitments to property tax relief for senior citizens and cutting government spending,” Breece said, “While many people talk public education, Llewellyn has lived through it as a teacher.”

Llewellyn, a resident of Sinking Spring, taught 4th graders in Twin Valley School District for 14 years. He then taught social studies for middle schoolers in the St. Ignatius Loyola Regional School for roughly four years before retiring. He previously worked for 18 years as an environmental scientist.

Llewellyn supports transparency in public school curricula. If elected, he will help the Republican legislature pass House Bill 1332, which Governor Wolf vetoed last December, requiring public schools to publish their curricula on the Internet for inspection by parents and taxpayers. “Online learning as a result of COVID-19 was a wake-up call for parents that certain

things being taught in school are not age-appropriate for their kids,” Llewellyn said, “Parents need to be the deciders of what their children are being taught. That’s really important.”

Llewellyn expressed gratitude for the BCRC endorsement.

As a result of legislative reapportionment, Legislative District 129 went from 48.6% Republican and 33.9% Democrat to 29.7% Republican and 53.2% Democrat. The district includes Sinking Spring, most of Spring Township, West Reading, Wyomissing, and 11 precincts from the City of Reading.

On March 23rd, incumbent State Representative Jim Cox announced his decision not to seek re-election. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz and Mark Detterline filed nomination petitions for the Democrat nomination.

Incumbent State Representatives.

The Convention unanimously endorsed incumbent David Zimmerman for State Representative in the 99th Legislative District. As a result of legislative reapportionment, the population of Legislative District 99 is roughly 71.8% Lancaster County and 28.2% Berks County. From Berks County, Zimmerman’s district includes Brecknock, portions of Cumru, Mohnton, and portions of Spring Township. After the Primary, Zimmerman will face Democrat challenger Joshua Caltagirone.

The Convention unanimously endorsed incumbent Mark Gillen for State Representative in the 128th Legislative District. Gillen is unopposed for the Republican nomination. His district includes Amity, Birdsboro, Cumru precincts 1, 2, and 4, Caernarvon, Douglass, most of Exeter, New Morgan, Robeson, and Union. No candidates from the Democratic Party filed a nomination petition for this seat.

The Convention unanimously endorsed incumbent David Maloney for State Representative in the 130th Legislative District. Maloney is unopposed for the Republican nomination. His district includes Alsace, Bally, Bechtelsville, Boyertown, Colebrookdale, District, Earl, Fleetwood, Hereford, Longswamp, Lyons, Maiden creek, Oley, Pike, Richmond, Rockland, Ruscombmanor, Topton, and Washington. No candidates from the Democratic Party filed a nomination petition for this seat.

Supermajority Rules for Endorsements.

The Bylaws of the BCRC require a candidate to receive at least 60% of the vote by members who are constituents of the office being sought. The top two vote-getters on the First Ballot proceed to a successive ballot. If no candidate receives 60% by the Third Ballot, then the top two vote-getters are deemed to be “recommended” by the BCRC.

Related Press Releases.

Berks County Republican Committee Endorses Barnette for U.S. Senate, Mastriano for Governor, Saccone for Lt. Governor, Press Release No. 2022-01 (Apr. 25, 2022).

Berks County Republican Committee Endorses David Golowski for State Representative over Incumbent Barry Jozwiak, Press Release No. 2022-02 (Apr. 25, 2022).

For Congress, Berks County Republican Committee Recommends Regina Mauro and Ron Vogel, Endorses Dan Burton and Dan Meuser, Press Release No. 2022-03 (Apr. 25, 2022).

Berks County Republican Committee Believes a Competitive Primary Will Benefit Republicans in State House 124, Press Release No. 2022-04 (Apr. 25, 2022).

Berks County Republican Committee Endorses Tracy Pennycuick and Chris Gebhard for State Senate, Press Release No. 2022-05 (Apr. 25, 2022).

Fact Sheet on Endorsements.

Public Office	Candidates	Outcome
U.S. Senate	Kathy Barnette Jeff Bartos George Bochetto Sean Gale David McCormick Mehmet Oz Carla Sands	Barnette is endorsed on the Second Ballot.
Governor	Lou Barletta Jake Corman Joe Gale Charlie Gerow Melissa Hart Doug Mastriano Bill McSwain David White Nche Zama	Mastriano is endorsed on the Second Ballot.

Lt. Governor	John Brown Jeff Coleman Teddy Daniels Carrie DelRosso Russell Diamond Chris Frye James Jones Rick Saccone Clarice Schillinger	Saccone is endorsed on the Second Ballot.
U.S. Representative, Congressional District 4	Dan Burton Christian Nascimento	Burton is endorsed on the First Ballot.
U.S. Representative, Congressional District 6	Guy Ciarrocchi Steve Fanelli Regina Mauro Ron Vogel	Mauro and Vogel are recommended after the Third Ballot.
U.S. Representative, Congressional District 9	Dan Meuser (i)	Unanimously endorsed.
State Senate, District 24	David Moyer Tracy Pennycuick	Tracy Pennycuick is endorsed on the First Ballot.
State Senate, District 48	Chris Gebhard (i)	Unanimously endorsed.
State Representative, District 5	Barry Jozwiak (i) David Golowski	Golowski is endorsed on the First Ballot.
State Representative, District 99	David Zimmerman (i)	Unanimously endorsed.
State Representative, District 124	James Barton Ellen Rulavage Jill Saunders	No endorsement is made.
State Representative, District 126	James Oswald	Unanimously endorsed.
State Representative, District 127	Vincent Gagliardo	Unanimously endorsed.
State Representative, District 128	Mark Gillen (i)	Unanimously endorsed.

State Representative, District 129	Barry Llewellyn	Unanimously endorsed.
State Representative, District 130	David Maloney (i)	Unanimously endorsed.

Note: (i) means incumbent.

Party Office Endorsements.

The BCRC endorsed the following candidates as the Berks County delegation in the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania:

Annette Baker
Linda Brancadora
Kelly Lee Held
Donna Merritt
Lisha Rowe
John Fielding
Shawn Gamble
Dean Klopp
Dwight Wegman
John Wojcik

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