

### Message from Our Chair

This is a critical year for our American democracy. Democrats are using a three-prong approach to push back on the current administration—litigation in the courts, legislation on the floor of the House, and communication and mobilization at the grassroots level. There are judges up for election in the upcoming Primary, and there are many judges up for retention in the General Election in November. We need your support of all the judges endorsed by the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee and the Allegheny County Democratic Committee. Our courts remain one of our last guardrails for preserving our American democracy.

All municipal candidates included in this newsletter were endorsed by the Churchill Democratic Committee at their meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025.

Paul G. Gamrat, Chair  
Churchill Democratic Committee

### Candidates: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

PA Superior Court (1 position) - **Brandon Neuman\***  
PA Commonwealth Court (1 position) - **Stella Tsai\***

### Candidates: Allegheny County

Court of Common Pleas (8 positions)

<b>Heather Schmidt Bresnehan</b>	<b>Amanda Green-Hawkins</b>
<b>Quinta Bridges</b>	<b>Jaime Hickton</b>
<b>Julie Capone</b>	<b>Dan Miller</b>
<b>Anthony DeLuca</b>	<b>Matt Rudzki</b>

Sheriff - **Kevin Kraus\*\***

*\*endorsed by the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee*

*\*\*endorsed by the Allegheny County Democratic Committee*

### Candidates: Churchill Election Boards

<b>District 1:</b> Judge of Election - <b>Velma Leocadio</b>	Inspector of Election - <b>Leona Borellis</b>
<b>District 2:</b> Judge of Election - <b>Jerrelle Boston (write in)</b>	Inspector of Election - <b>William Colbert</b>
<b>District 3:</b> Judge of Election - <b>Anne Countouris</b>	Inspector of Election - <b>Kimberly Martin</b>
<b>District 4:</b> Judge of Election - <b>Robert Rinsma</b>	Inspector of Election - <b>Phyllis Rinsma</b>

### Important Dates

Last day to register or change your registration before the primary: **May 5**  
Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot: **May 13**  
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted absentee or mail-in ballots: **May 20**  
Municipal Primary: **Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

### Helpful Resources for Churchill Residents

Churchill polling locations: <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx>  
PA voting information: <https://www.vote.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>  
League of Women Voters voting information: <https://www.vote411.org>  
Allegheny County Election Bureau: <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/elections/index.aspx>  
Allegheny County sample ballots: <http://apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/ElectPollPlace.aspx>  
Churchill Borough Office: 412-241-7113  
Allegheny County Elections Division: 412-350-4500

the **CHURCHILL BURRO**  For more information see our website  
<http://churchilldemocrat.wixsite.com/burro>

Join our Facebook group  
**Churchill Dems**

## Municipal Primary Election Tuesday, May 20, 2025

### Meet Your Municipal Candidates

#### Mayor of Churchill - Paul G. Gamrat (Incumbent, Four-Year Term)



Paul Gamrat has been serving as Churchill Mayor for the past nine years. He was appointed Mayor of Churchill Borough on January 10, 2016, then successfully ran in 2017 and again in 2021. He is now running for a third four-year term beginning in 2026. He has also chaired the Churchill Democratic Committee for the last seven years, and before that served as Democratic Committeeman for District 3 for three years.

As Mayor, Paul has committed his time and energy to serving the community of Churchill. His duties include working with the Chief of Police to continue providing the highest standards of professional protection and service by our police force; maintaining the Borough's green spaces; expanding means of communication with Churchill residents; and conveying residents' concerns to Borough Council. He regularly attends Borough committee meetings, including Communications, Public Safety, Infrastructure, Tree, Climate Action, and Recreation Board. Paul is a volunteer in his parish—St. Joseph the Worker. He works to maintain the Common Gardens, the areas around the entrance signs at the corners of Lewin Lane and Thornberry with the help of his wife, as well as several other areas. Paul also organized volunteers from the Churchill Garden Club and other area residents to Adopt-a-Highway for litter clean up, which meets monthly. As a member of the Churchill Garden Club, he has served as Program Coordinator, edited/published an annual photo album, and held the office of President for five years.

A Churchill resident for 41 years, Paul retired in 2010 after 35 years as a public school teacher. He has been married to Patricia for 44 years, and they raised two children who attended Woodland Hills High School. Paul especially enjoys his role as Mayor and personally welcomes every new resident into the Borough with a visit and a welcome packet.

Paul has participated in the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, Active Transportation Plan, and Southwest PA Traffic Incident Management Program. He attends all Council workshops, and regular monthly meetings, and regularly meets and talks with **all** Borough officials. He is a member of the Pennsylvania State Mayors' Association and the local Eastern Area Mayors' Association. Paul participates in the Allegheny County League of Municipalities, Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments, Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT), and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD).

#### Churchill Borough Tax Collector - Danielle Weaver (Incumbent, Four-Year Term)



Danielle Weaver is running for another four-year term as Tax Collector. For those who don't know her personally, here is a little background. Danielle met her husband Toby in 2000, and they were married and bought their first Churchill home in 2002. The couple downsized to their current home one year ago. They have six grown children, three boys and three girls in their joined family, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Danielle retired in 2012, after working 28 years for the U.S. Postal Service, the last 10 as a Postmaster. She is actively involved in the Churchill/Wilkins Rotary, Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Garden Club of Forest Hills, Churchill Recreation Board and the Woodland Hills Tax Collectors Group.

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# Churchill Borough Council Candidates

## 3 Four-Year Terms, 1 Two-Year Term

### Valerie Reinthaler (Incumbent, Four-Year Term)



Valerie has served on Borough Council since October 2020. With a background in social work, nonprofit management, and a Master’s degree in Public Health, she has always been passionate about giving back to the communities where she’s lived. Born in Barranquilla, Colombia, and raised in Florida, Valerie attended Florida State University before making Pittsburgh her home.

Serving on Council has been the perfect way for Valerie to apply her professional experience to strengthen the community. She became Council President in January 2024 and currently chairs the Management and Government Committee while serving on the Public Safety and Finance Committees.

Valerie is married to her high school sweetheart and is a proud mom of two young children, ages 6 and 2. She believes in creating a welcoming environment that attracts young families to the Borough.

Professionally, Valerie works as the Director of Team Transformation at the Allegheny County Treasurer’s Office. In her free time, Valerie enjoys cooking and golfing—you may catch her at Edgewood Country Club or another local course.

### Matthew Castiglia (Incumbent, Two-Year Term)



Matthew Castiglia felt called to public service from a young age; it’s what inspired him to collect food for the needy with his Boy Scout Troop and raise funds and install a playground at Gouldsboro State Park for his Eagle Scout project. Matt has been a Pittsburgh convert since 2005, when he attended the University of Pittsburgh’s engineering school. He has been a resident of Churchill since 2017. He and his wife Jenny have three “amazing” kids aged 12, 14, and 16 who are passionate about theater and keep the family busy watching their performances.

Matt currently chairs the Public Safety committee and serves on two others: Management & Government and Infrastructure. As Public Safety chair, Matt has worked with staff and the Police Chief to proactively plan and recruit new officers so there are no gaps in protection or overburdening of other dedicated officers. Outside of council, he works on the media team of McKeesport Alliance Church, is treasurer for ASCE PGH Scholarship Foundation and mentors small business owners through CBMC Pittsburgh Chapter.

Since first being appointed to Churchill council in 2020, Matt has only missed six out of 83 scheduled workshop and Council monthly meetings. He believes that to serve well one must be present and commit to doing the work, not just talk without action. Further, since the Council functions as a team, he believes in the importance of working collaboratively towards goals and building support among his peers, even when there are disagreements. Matt has committed to hosting regular open office hours to engage with our community members to answer questions and listen to concerns. He believes that every resident of Churchill has a voice, and every voice deserves to be heard. Matt is committed to being accessible to our community and continuing his dedicated service if re-elected.

### Debra Casini-Klein (Incumbent, Four-Year Term)



Debra Casini Klein grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and attended John Carroll University, majoring in psychology, sociology and journalism. She is a six-time Emmy Award winning television producer and has worked in both Cleveland and Pittsburgh, with national credits including PBS, ESPN, ABC News, Good Morning America and The Food Network.

Married with two grown children, Debra has lived in Churchill for 20 years and is heavily involved in her community. As a council member, she has served on the Infrastructure and Public Safety committees, and is Chair of the Climate Action and Communications committees. She is on the board of Pace School and member of the Churchill Recreation Board and the Churchill-Wilkins Rotary. She is also (shh!) The Churchill Easter Bunny :)

### Gregory Prodonovich (Incumbent, Four-Year Term)



Greg Prodonovich is running for a Churchill Borough Council Seat. He is a lifetime Pittsburgher who has called Churchill home for six years. He is an appointed member of council seeking election for his first term. In his brief tenure on Council (appointed in September 2024), he has helped advance the Borough in many ways.

His participation in the Communications Committee resulted in more community-based events, including the first Borough “Light Up Night,” which was a huge success. Greg helped decorate and personally donated many of the items that adorned the Chambers and building exterior. He was also a key member in the planning of a Pet Photo with Santa event, which also drew strong attendance.

Greg is also a member of the Infrastructure Committee. He is very pleased to report that after a dry spell, the Borough’s roads will be getting paved. Within the Deer Committee, which he chairs, the Borough established a permanent committee, operating under Council-approved guidelines that will soon be turned over to a citizen-run subcommittee because of the strides made in the past couple months.

Greg’s future plans for the Borough include getting infrastructure needs met while staying fiscally responsible, and devising more community-driven events that aim at building bonds to strengthen our community. Greg is asking for your vote. He is a young, passionate, and dedicated person who came from humble and hard-working roots. In his words, “My hands are rough, I drive a hard compromise, and I believe in Churchill. Please grant me the pleasure of working for YOU and the borough. Thank you for your consideration.”

## Churchill Democratic Committee

District 1:

**Kathleen Schenkel**

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**Carl Rothenberger**

email: rothenb@comcast.net

District 2:

**Jay Dworin**

email: jay@fhp.org

**Barbara Bell**

bbell2016@gmail.com

District 3:

**Adele Lawhead**

email: nawheads@aol.com

**Matthew Castiglia**

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District 4:

**Ilona Tassone**

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**Denny Damico**

email: coachd31@comcast.net

Chairperson:

**Paul Gamrat**

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Vice-Chair:

**Patricia (Pattie) Gamrat**

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Scan here to  
become a supporter!



### Thank you for your support!

Monetary donations to the Churchill Democratic Committee are greatly appreciated to help to defray the cost of printing the newsletter! Make checks payable to: **Churchill Democratic Committee c/o Sharon Pedrotti, Treasurer, 3816 Henley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**