

Camp Hill Borough 2021 Democratic Municipal Candidates

Position	Candidate	Contact
Borough Council	Mercedes Evans	https://www.facebook.com/votemercedesevans/
Borough Council	Michele Forbes	https://www.facebook.com/voteMicheleForbes
Borough Council	Jennifer Hoover	https://www.facebook.com/Hoover4CampHill/about
Borough Council	Emily Smith	https://voteemilysmith.com/
Tax Collector	Amy Baron	
School Director	Joscelyn Buchs	buchs4board@outlook.com
School Director	Melanie Gurgiolo	mgurgiolo24@verizon.net
School Director	Karen Mallah	https://www.facebook.com/Karen4CampHillSchools

Please see our great candidates' bios and links that follow.

Camp Hill Borough Council Candidates



Mercedes Evans

<https://www.facebook.com/votemercedesevans>

I am Mercedes Evans and I am running for Camp Hill Borough Council because this town welcomed me with open arms and I want to reciprocate by serving the community I love. My 14+ years working in the public sector have taught me the importance of transparency and accountability and I plan on bringing both to borough council. As a transplant, I bring an outsider's perspective to Camp Hill and the local organizations I invest my time in. I am a

natural leader, problem-solver, and strategic thinker that can work with people of diverse backgrounds and political affiliations, all qualities necessary in a borough councilperson. I look forward to serving everyone in the community and bridging tradition and change to keep Camp Hill one of the most desirable places to live.



Michele Forbes

@voteMicheleForbes

<https://www.facebook.com/voteMicheleForbes/>

As the spouse of an active-duty soldier, our family has lived in quite a few places over the years. Stationed at Carlisle Barracks in 2012, we found Camp Hill the following summer. Like many transplants, we moved here because of the reputation of the schools and the walkability of the town. We stayed because of the people. In more than twenty years of moving, this is the only place we have wanted to come back to.

Relevant work experience: audited boroughs, townships, and municipalities --including police,

water, and sewer, and taxes, following the standards of the Government Finance Officers Association in Bucks County, PA.

Relevant volunteering: Currently, treasurer for both the Camp Hill Middle School High School Association and the Camp Hill Band Boosters. I was treasurer for Seoul American Elementary School. Through the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP), I assisted the military community (active duty, reserve, family members and retirees) define issues and make changes to their quality of life on both regional and national levels. I have served as a liaison between military leadership and family members on government installations worldwide.

How we may know each other:

- Camp Hill Borough Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- Camp Hill Marching Band (Cavalcade, parade, and football game chaperone, health and safety checks, candy grams, Driven to Give)
- Camp Hill Middle School High School Association (MSHSA)
- Camp Hill Elementary PTO (CHEPTO)
- Junior Achievement at Eisenhower, CHMS, and CHHS
- PSSA Muffins at both Eisenhower and CHMSHS

- Boy Scout Troop 51
- Trinity Lutheran VBS
- Earl Besch
- Eisenhower Elementary Club Leader
- Eisenhower Elementary Drama Volunteer
- Camp Hill Little League Team Mom
- Keystone Kraken and Capital City Vipers hockey teams



Jennifer Hoover

<https://www.facebook.com/Hoover4CampHill/about>
Twitter. #Hoover4CampHill

Jennifer Hoover believes a thriving community makes a difference in our lives—and all Borough residents, regardless of income, address or social status deserve a healthy, safe, and connected community.

As a resident of Camp Hill Borough, Hoover is passionate about helping residents succeed in influencing decisions, ensuring they feel confident to drive change and action within their community, standing up for the safety and welfare of residents, as well as linking the future of our Borough to the foundation upon which it was built.

During her 20 plus years' experience as a government relations and public affairs professional, she has worked for the PA House of Representatives where she examined proposed and current laws, drafted legislation, and assisted constituents. As Director of Governmental Relations for the state's public higher education system, Hoover ushered to completion a System-wide economic impact study and enactment of sweeping reform legislation. She holds degrees from Pennsylvania State University and California University of Pennsylvania in Public Policy/Law and Legal Studies.

Jennifer resides in Camp Hill Borough and is the mother of two children. She is an active member of the community. As a Board member and marketing chair of The Lion Foundation, Jennifer helped the foundation to communicate its value and encourage fundraising. She has also served as advisor and editor for the Camp Hill Elementary

Yearbook. In 2018, Hoover received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Camp Hill Little League for her work as the league's communication officer. She is a lifetime member of the Historical Society of Camp Hill. Already, her regular attendance at Borough Council meetings are a sign of her willingness to fully understand matters that affect not only the residents within our Borough, but also our neighbors in nearby municipalities.



Emily Smith

<https://voteemilysmith.com/>

My name is Emily Smith. I was raised in Camp Hill Borough and graduated from CHHS in 1997. I attended Rochester Institute of Technology where I earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. As a 20 something, I moved around the country, living in California, Arizona, and New York City. After the financial crash of 2008, I moved back to central PA, had a baby, got married, and eventually moved back to the borough

in 2012. I live in College Park, near Fiala, with my husband and daughter, who is a 6th grader at the middle school.

Throughout my career, I have worked in a wide variety of roles. For close to 15 years now, I have run my own graphic design freelance business, working with many clients throughout the country, from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses. In 2016, I also got my real estate license, and have sold real estate since then, while also continuing my graphic design business.

Camp Hill School Director Candidates



Joscelyn Buchs

buchs4board@outlook.com

I have always been an educator at heart. (Even as a child, I often coaxed my sisters into playing “school” for hours on end!) Now, as a parent and a longtime Camp Hill resident, I want to play an active and dedicated role in supporting our schools, our educators, our community, and ultimately, our children along their pathways to growth and success.

Throughout the past year and the COVID-19 pandemic, I have seen firsthand the impact closed schools and hybrid learning has had on our kids at all academic levels. Professionally, I’ve needed to manage very difficult conversations with my staff about equity, diversity, and inclusivity –topics that are showing up in our classrooms and communities more and more. I’ve done a lot of listening, reading, and asking questions because I know the most effective way to get things done is by creating a safe space for open conversations and new connections.

I am confident that my personal and professional experience coupled with my willingness to roll up my sleeves, learn, listen, partner, and contribute will make me an excellent School Board Director.



Melanie Gurgiolo

mgurgiolo24@verizon.net

I have lived in Camp Hill for 24 years, and my husband Mike and I have three children –two Camp Hill graduates and one in 6th grade. I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education, which I currently put to use as the education director at Mount Calvary Episcopal Church in Camp Hill. I initially ran for a seat on the school board because I am passionate about education and committed to maintaining our district's

excellence and independence, and I have devoted myself to these goals over the past four years. As a board member, I have led the Curriculum Committee and the Equity Advocacy Council and served on the Recreation Commission Board, CAIU Board, Policy Committee, and Earl Besch ad hoc committee, and my experience has taught me that being a school director requires a commitment to teamwork, the willingness to listen and learn, and a substantial commitment of time and effort in order to be an effective contributor to the efforts of each group. I believe I have demonstrated the energy, attitude, and dedication required of a school director, and I would be honored to be selected by the residents of Camp Hill to continue to serve on their behalf.



Karen Mallah

<https://www.facebook.com/Karen4CampHillSchools>

Goal for Camp Hill Schools

Be deliberate in the preparation of Camp Hill students for successful, educated, and meaningful citizenship in our diverse, global world through:

- Increased educational equity
- Increased inclusion/belonging for all students
- Antiracist-based changes to curricula

Commitment, Qualifications, and Relevant Experience:

- Camp Hill Borough homeowner since 2010
- Camp Hill Schools parent since 2010
- Current member of the Camp Hill School District Equity Advisory Council
- School Board experience in Aurora, CO 2008-2010
- Ph.D. in clinical psychology - child development minor
- Bilingual (Spanish) Licensed Psychologist
- Clinical and research expertise in child trauma
- Successful grant writing and directing skills
- Recent volunteer work with immigrant families
- Currently behavioral healthcare quality director

Judge of Election and Inspector of Election Job Description

Precinct	Judge of Election	Inspector of Election
Camp Hill 1	Vacant	Adams Greenwood-Erickson
Camp Hill 2	Vacant	Vacant
Camp Hill 3	Mary Kathryn Schmitz	Damian M. Zampogna
Camp Hill 4	Paul White	David J. Lylo
Camp Hill 5	Gregory D. Puskar	Cynthia Nelson