

Upper Allen Township 2023 Democratic Candidates

Magisterial District Justice candidates can cross-file and appear on both the Democratic and Republican ballots. Mark Martin is a Republican who cross-filed. There is no Democratic candidate.

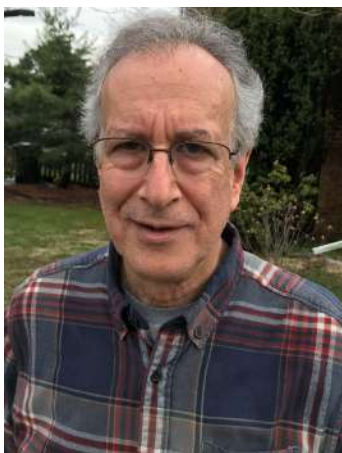
Jurisdiction	Position	Vote For	Term	Candidate Name
Magisterial District 09-3-05 Mechanicsburg Borough, Monroe & Upper Allen Twps	Magisterial District Judge	1	6 YR	Mark Martin (R) Incumbent

2023 MASD SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Jurisdiction	Position	Vote For	Term	Candidate Name
Mechanicsburg Area School District	School Director, Region 1 (Upper Allen precincts 1,2,3, 9 &10)	1	4 YR	Robert Shaffer (D)
Mechanicsburg Area School District	School Director, Region 2 (Upper Allen precincts 4-8, Shiremanstown & Lower Allen 1 Annex)	2	4 YR	Evan Ashby(D)
Mechanicsburg Area School District	School Director, Region 2 (Upper Allen precincts 4-8, Shiremanstown & Lower Allen 1 Annex)	2	4 YR	Jason Kichline (D)

Not sure which Region you live in? [Click here for a map](#) of the School Board Voting Regions.

ROBERT SHAFFER, REGION 1, MASD SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



Robert Shaffer has lived in Upper Allen Township for 25 years and is a retired professor of history and social studies education at Shippensburg University. He is a former high school teacher, and he has published numerous articles on teaching history and social studies. As a professor at Shippensburg, he supervised numerous student teachers in middle and high schools, including many who have become successful teachers in local schools. He earned his Ph.D. in History from Rutgers.

Robert is married to Katharine Kennedy, who taught math at Mechanicsburg Area S.H.S. for two decades, and their three children all attended Mechanicsburg schools: Alan (Class of 2002); Ross (Class of 2004); and Lee (Class of 2009).

Robert has been involved in the Cumberland County Democratic Party for many years, canvassing for numerous local, state, and national candidates, and he is currently a precinct captain (Upper Allen 9). He was active in the faculty union at Shippensburg, including service as secretary of the chapter and as its political action committee representative.

Robert's main goal as a school board member will be to help teachers, librarians, and administrators continue to follow best professional practices to help students broaden their horizons, in reading, social studies, science, languages, and other subjects, and in social development. Through such efforts, all students should be made to feel included as part of a school's learning community, and students can "investigate the intercultural world around us" and "challenge our thinking by analyzing different perspectives," to use the words of a recent presentation to the Mechanicsburg school board by representatives of the district's Elmwood Academy.

EVAN ASHBY, REGION 2, MASD SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



Evan Ashby was born and raised in Central PA and resides in Upper Allen Township. Evan graduated Dean's List from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and a minor in International Business Administration.

Since graduating, Evan has worked with small local businesses to support the Central PA entrepreneurs who fill this region. He has been married for two years to his wonderful wife, Caitlin, spending much of their time with friends, family, and their dog, Ezra.

After working with the College Mentors for Kids and A Gift of Smiles, Evan wanted to get more involved in his local community in a more profound way. He cares about societal betterment and its impact long term on our community. He believes that honesty, compassion, and reason are needed more than ever in moving forward in all of our goals.

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JASON KICHLINE, REGION 2, MASD SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR CANDIDATE



Jason is a serial entrepreneur with a heart for service and community. Ever since he was a kid, he wanted to find a way to "build a better mousetrap" in the spirit of innovation and invention. His faith continues to direct those energies to serve others both in the non-profit and the for-profit sector.

Since graduating from Messiah College in 1999, Jason has been at the forefront of technology leadership in Central PA. He has started three successful companies over the past 24 years and continues to evolve the state-of-the-art in the music industry. He is the creator and co-founder of OnSong, an app that helps musicians bring their music to the world.

Jason moved back to Mechanicsburg in 2001 with his wife Jaime. Together they have two children in the district who are competitive swimmers on the Mechanicsburg Swim Club team as well as scouts in Pack 190 and Troop 190. He comes with no agenda but to serve his community as a rational voice for local families. He believes that creativity, community, and collaboration can make a positive impact on our society.

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2023 Upper Allen Township Democratic Commissioner Candidates

Jurisdiction	Position	Vote For	Term	Candidate Name
Upper Allen Township	Township Commissioner	3	4 YR	Phil Walsh
Upper Allen Township	Township Commissioner	3	4 YR	Clayton Horvath
Upper Allen Township	Township Commissioner	3	4 YR	Eric Fairchild

PHIL WALSH, UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER



Phil Walsh and his wife, Rebecca, have lived in Upper Allen Township for 25 years. They raised their three children in the Township, all of whom were students and graduates of the Mechanicsburg Area School District. Phil is a small business owner and licensed Professional Geologist with over 35 years of experience as an environmental consultant.

Phil has a long history of community involvement including youth soccer coach and host for the Middle School Career Day, and he has previously served on boards including the Bellevue Park Association and the Historical Society of Dauphin County. He was actively involved in the successful effort to preserve Upper Allen Township's Yellow Breeches Historic District, is the former publisher of the *Yellow Breeches Gazette*, (issued quarterly for over 5 years), and collaborated with the late Paul Miller in the publication of his book *Happy Yellow Breeches!* about life in

the Township along Yellow Breeches Creek during the early 1900s.

Phil is a member of the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, the Cumberland County Historical Society as well as the Historic Barn & Farm Foundation of Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists and the Harrisburg Area Geological Society (past president).

Along with candidates Eric Fairchild and Clayton Horvath, Phil is committed to promoting smart growth within the Township and ensuring the safety of its residents. He recognizes the importance of strong Fire and Police Departments and will work tirelessly to support them. Phil's small business and board experience, coupled with his keen interest in the township's history, make him an ideal candidate for the Upper Allen Township Board of Commissioners.

CLAYTON HORVATH, UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER



Clayton is a statistician working at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and has been living in Upper Allen Township for over 7 years. He has spent over 6 years living on Geneva Drive in Precinct 10 and is now residing near Messiah University in Precinct 4. Clayton is 27 years old and is running not just to end the 5-0 Republican commissioner majority but to bring a younger voice to our township's governing body.

Cumberland County is the fastest-growing county in Pennsylvania, and Upper Allen must plan for the future in bold and intelligent ways to make sure our community can prosper. Clayton is particularly concerned about rising home and rental costs in Upper Allen Township and believes that action must be taken to stabilize housing costs so that current residents and prospective residents are not priced out. Clayton believes that Upper Allen's zoning laws are outdated, inefficient, and ill-suited to support a growing

community.

Clayton supports prioritizing families and housing affordability by allowing for more multi-family housing such as duplexes and apartments, preserving green space in efficient ways, relaxing commercial zoning requirements to allow for mixed-use development, and reducing regulations that cost taxpayers money and increase costs. Clayton is against subsidizing businesses with tax breaks such as the current board's consideration of tax breaks for corporate car wash businesses. Clayton pledges to only consider tax breaks for businesses that are local with a stake in our community and its future to keep good-paying careers in our township. The best way to achieve these goals is to end the 5-0 Republican majority on the board.

ERIC FAIRCHILD, UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER



Eric Fairchild is a former financial consultant and contractor who served on the West Shore and Cumberland Perry Vo-Tech school boards from 1999-2003. Eric and (wife) Sharon built a reproduction carriage barn home by themselves in Upper Allen in 2004. Eric is frugal in his own life and believes the government should respect and manage tax dollars carefully and be honest in dealing with residents. Eric also believes local government is the level at which people can have a real impact.

When Upper Allen Township bought the 61-acre historic Lambert Farm on McCormick Rd. in April 2020 for park and recreation purposes, Eric began attending all Commissioner meetings and founded Friends Of The Farm to

advocate for passive development of the farm. See friendsofthefarm.org for more details on how Eric approaches issues and his commitment to following through on projects.

Upper Allen Township is a fast-growing Township in the fastest growing County in Pennsylvania. Instead of dealing with this growth cautiously and intelligently, the incumbent Commissioners are egging on development and offering taxpayer subsidies for such things as water towers and car washes. Unrestrained development clogs our roads, stresses our school system, and reduces our quality of life. The incumbents are so gung-ho on development that they don't even focus on basics like our trash contract, managing a sewer plant upgrade, or prioritizing park and open space. Instead of protecting historic and natural resources, the incumbents hire consultants to tell them "why" our historic districts exist and continue to stack committees with developer friends while claiming their hands are tied.

Unless a new **THREE-PERSON MAJORITY** of Commissioners are elected in 2023, Upper Allen will be quickly paved over with higher-density development and there will be no turning back. Eric is teaming up with Phil Walsh and Clayton Horvath to offer real change in the direction of Upper Allen Township.