



PENNSYLVANIA
FEDERATION
OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE

*Outstanding
Elected Democratic
Women's
Class of 2025*

*UNSHAKEN & UNSTOPPABLE:
WOMEN LEADING
THE WAY*

Outstanding Elected Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight



Tami Brannan
Lock Haven City Council
Clinton County
Democratic Women

Tami Brannan was elected to Lock Haven City Council in November 2023 and is the first openly queer City Council member in Lock Haven.

She ran to be a voice for her constituents, especially those in the LGBT community. Originally in the education field, Tami is now an instructional designer for a tech firm.

She is new to Clinton County and Pennsylvania - only living here for four years - but is heavily involved in the Democratic Party and other various boards locally. Upon her election,

Tami took the time to meet with every department head to learn about their operations so she could better represent the citizens of Lock Haven as an informed City Council member.

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Outstanding Elected, Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight



Lisa Borowski
State Representative
168th District
Women's Democratic
Club of Delaware County

Rep. Borowski started out her career in healthcare communications and then pivoted into the world of politics.

She is currently utilizing the knowledge that she gained in that career to help keep her constituents in Newtown, Edgmont, Radnor, and Middletown Townships informed of goings on, both locally and from Harrisburg.

Rep. Borowski is also very active within her district. You can often see her out and about at different activities within the district.

She spent a lot of time listening to constituent's concerns and problems. She often invites them to come and spend time with her to discuss issues.

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Jane A. Gagliardo

**East Stroudsburg
Borough Council
Monroe County
Democratic Women**

I highly recommend reading the book *Call to Witness: One woman's battle with disability, discrimination and a pharmaceutical powerhouse* written by Sherry Blackman.

It outline's Jane's personal battle with disability, discrimination, and her lawsuit against a local, leading pharmaceutical company.

Jane's 2002 landmark case set a precedent that changed the law and challenges the way corporations do business to this day.

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Outstanding Elected, Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight

Angela Girol is an experienced educator and community leader. For over 18 years, she has taught in the Elizabeth Forward School District, where she has been recognized nationally for her innovative teaching methods.



Angela Girol
South Park
School Board
Three Rivers
Democratic Women

Angela's dedication to her community is evident through her role on the South Park School Board, an elected position she has held since 2019.

In 2024, Angela sought to expand her impact by running as the democratic candidate for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Despite running a vigorous campaign, she was narrowly defeated by incumbent, in the general election.

Not deterred, Angela continues to be an active member of her community, ardently working on political campaigns, advocating for educational excellence and progressive policies that benefit all.

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Outstanding Elected, Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight



Angela has worked in both public accounting and the private sector, and prior to the start of her term worked for ten years as director and advisor for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' 113th Legislative District.

Angela currently serves as board member and treasurer of the Agency for Community EmPOWERment of NEPA, and as an Ambassador for the Spirit of Hope benefiting the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute's Community-Based Cancer Screening Navigation Program.

She has volunteered on numerous committees and organizations over the years offering countless hours of fundraising efforts throughout the community.

Angela Rempe Jones
Lackawanna County Treasurer
**Lackawanna County
Federation of
Democratic Women**

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Outstanding Elected, Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight



Joyce Keller
*Board of Supervisors,
Whitpain Township
Black Women of
Montgomery County*

Joyce was elected to the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors in 2020, serves as a liaison on Emergency Services and Operations and also aids in writing and passing Township ordinances.

In addition to her role as Supervisor, being recently appointed to Montgomery County Associate of Township Officials further demonstrates her leadership and dedication to community service.

Joyce's experience as Constituent Advisor in Representative Liz Hanbidge District 61 office, showcases her ability to effectively navigate and facilitate communication between various levels of government.

With empathy, she executes her case management duties and is instrumental in planning and executing office activities both internal/external.

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Outstanding Elected Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight

Patricia Maisano is a dedicated and humble leader who has spent over 25 years supporting Democratic candidates, often behind the scenes.



Patricia Maisano
Chester County Treasurer
**Chester County Democratic
Women's Leadership Initiative**

Her efforts helped flip Kennett Township solid blue, recruiting the first Democrat—and first woman—to serve as Township Supervisor. In 2017, with encouragement from Republican friends, she ran for County Treasurer as part of Chester County's first all-female slate and won, helping turn the county blue for the first time in 250 years. Now in her third term, Patricia continues to lead with quiet strength.

A survivor of an abusive marriage, she reclaimed her voice and now uses her experience to inspire others to find theirs. She rarely speaks of her past but shares it now to encourage other women to rise. Her motto—"We have it in us to do it"—is more than words. It's how she lives and leads.

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Outstanding Elected Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight



Darisha K. Parker

*State Representative
198th District*

**Democratic Concerned
Women On The Move**

Darisha K. Parker is a standout leader in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, known for her deep community roots, passion, and visionary advocacy. A lifelong resident of Northwest Philadelphia, she tackles critical issues like education and public safety with compassion and drive.

Her grassroots work to reduce violence and boost youth engagement reflects her commitment to safer, stronger neighborhoods. Her groundbreaking Menstrual Equity campaign led to major budget allocations for menstrual products in public schools, highlighting her dedication to women's health. Focused on environmental justice, criminal justice reform, and affordable healthcare, she leads with heart and purpose.

Darisha Parker is the definition of democratic leadership—effective, fearless, and always fighting for the people she serves.

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Outstanding Elected Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight

Laura joined the Lower Saucon Township Council in January 2024 and was appointed Vice Chair that same year.



Laura Ray
Lower Saucon
Township Council
Northampton County
Council of Democratic

In 2025, she became Council President. Her accomplishments include restoring township library services cut in 2022 and working with the volunteer fire department to establish a formal committee addressing their needs.

Active with the Northampton County Council of Democratic Women since 2023, Laura presented on local landfill issues, earning PAC support for her 2023 council campaign.

Before her election, Laura served the community as treasurer of the Saucon Valley Jaycees and as a member of several organizations, including the Lower Saucon Historical Society, Saucon Creek Watershed Association, Saucon Valley Conservancy, and the Environmental Advisory Council.

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Margaret's journey is a powerful example of activism translating into tangible political change.



Margaret Reif
Chester County Controller
Chester County
Federation of
Democratic Women

From organizing transportation to the Women's March in 2017 to inspiring others to engage in politics, her leadership shows how taking action can spark broader movements.

By running for and winning the office of Controller in Chester County, she not only achieved a personal victory but also helped break a longstanding political barrier for Democrats in her area.

Her commitment to encouraging others to "run for something" is a reminder that even in the face of frustration, stepping up to lead can create lasting impact. Her story speaks to the power of grassroots involvement in shaping a community's future.

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Outstanding Elected Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight



Maria Rodriguez
Reading City Auditor
Berks Democratic Women

Maria was born and raised in the Dominican Republic and moved to New York City in 1989 to continue her education. She graduated from Hunter College in 1995 with a Bachelor's in Economics. While in college, she helped implement bilingual education programs at public schools in Albany, NY, and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

After graduating, she tutored undergraduates and assisted graduate students in the Department of Education. In 1998, Maria moved to Reading, PA, and became the City's Auditing Coordinator in 2000.

She later served as Internal Auditor for Berks County and was promoted to Accounting Manager after returning to the City in 2015. Appointed interim City Auditor in 2019, she was elected later that year as the first Latina City Auditor and one of the few Latinas elected citywide in Pennsylvania, overseeing the City's financial operations.

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Ruth L. Schemm
*Warrington Township
Supervisor*
**Bucks County Democratic
Women's Forum**

Dr. Ruth L. Schemm has shaped the field of occupational therapy since 1972 as a visionary academic leader, scholar, and advocate. She served as Dean and Professor at the University of the Sciences and held leadership roles on regulatory boards and in national OT associations. With 38 publications and extensive teaching experience, she's mentored countless professionals.

Ruth currently serves as Vice Chair of the Warrington Township Board of Supervisors, championing open space preservation and sustainable land use for over 25,000 residents.

A fierce advocate for at-risk youth, she chairs the board of Work to Ride, a nonprofit empowering youth through equine sports, and serves on the board of Special Equestrians. Her lifelong passion for public service, education, and community empowerment makes her a true trailblazer

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Outstanding Elected, Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight



Deb Simpson
*Mount Gretna
Borough Council*
**Lebanon County Democratic
Women's Association**

Deb moved from the State College area to Mount Gretna in Lebanon County five years ago. In 2023, eager to support her new community, she ran for Mount Gretna Borough Council —and won as a Democrat!

Since joining the council, Deb has made quick improvements, including revamping the Borough website for easier use and ensuring council meeting minutes are publicly posted. Mount Gretna is unique, functioning both as a Borough and being privately owned by a 501(c)(4) organization.

Deb is committed to helping residents navigate this unusual structure, bridging the gap between municipal governance and private oversight to ensure transparency, access, and accountability for all. Her passion for community engagement and good governance continues to shape a more connected and informed Mount Gretna.

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Outstanding Elected, Democratic Women's Class of 2025 Spotlight

Erika Strassburger serves on Pittsburgh City Council, representing the 8th District and making history as the first woman elected to the seat.



Formerly Chief of Staff to Councilman Dan Gilman, she also spent nearly a decade advocating for clean air, water, and energy at state and federal levels.

Since taking office in 2018, Erika has passed groundbreaking legislation to protect pregnant workers, ban single-use plastic bags, modernize recycling laws, and advance lead safety.

After the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in her district, she led efforts to enact local gun safety reforms. Erika champions clean air and water, equity, safe streets, and transparent governance.

Ericka Strassburger

Pittsburgh City Council
Catherine Baker Knoll
Democratic Women

A Bucknell graduate in Environmental Studies and International Relations, Erika lives in Squirrel Hill with her family and is committed to engaging residents in city decisions.

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Tracy Wilson

***Brownsville Township Auditor
Democratic Women
of Fayette County***

Tracy Wilson is a tireless advocate for democracy, justice, and the values of the Democratic Party. As Brownsville Township Auditor, she champions integrity and transparency in local government, ensuring accountability and fairness for her community. Beyond her elected role, Tracy is a devoted committeewoman, reliable poll worker, and fierce supporter of progressive causes.

She leads by example—showing up for every election, working behind the scenes, and speaking out on critical issues like voting rights, workers' protections, and social justice. Her dedication has made her a trusted voice and a respected leader in the community.

A proud wife, mom, and grandma, Tracy's commitment is deeply personal. She fights not just for today, but for future generations. Her passion, persistence, and service make her a true force in our county!

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