



**GSPCGP**  
**P.O. Box 8108**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15217**

Contact: Joy Sabl, Corresponding Secretary  
[JFSABL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JFSABL@GMAIL.COM)  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oct 3, 2017

**PITTSBURGH, Pa.** On September 11, 2017, the members of the Gertrude Stein Political Club of Greater Pittsburgh (GSPCGP) endorsed a slate of candidates and questions for the General Election to be held on Nov 7, 2017. As a multi-partisan organization encouraging all candidates to support and further LGBT and women’s rights, freedoms, and liberties, the GSPCGP solicits responses from candidates of all parties. We have a multi-decade history of educating candidates on our issues. Except for presidential races, we only endorse if a candidate requests endorsement. If a race is not mentioned, it does not automatically imply that the candidate(s) are weak on our issues.

This election matters! Statewide judicial races (Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth Courts) determine our human rights, political districting (which affects who wins congressional and presidential elections) and all other aspects of life in Pennsylvania. We did not connect with the Woodruff campaign for Supreme Court until the day before our endorsement vote. Some answers were dashed off, “in transit.” On that basis, we were almost able to endorse--but were unclear on a couple of significant issues. Given that his opponent is bad on a range of our issues, we nevertheless strongly suggest you vote Dwayne Woodruff (Honorable Mention). We re-endorse Justice Debra Todd for retention. For Commonwealth Court, we have two non-standard endorsements. Ellen Ciesler’s history and responses to other groups confirm that she’s good on all our issues. Due to our error, we did not get her questionnaire. We nevertheless endorse her. Technical problems on our end also prevented Irene McLaughlin Clark from answering half the questions. Given the importance of these seats, Clark’s excellent answers to the bulk of the questions and her strong background, we also endorse her. For PA Superior Court we enthusiastically endorse both Debbie Kunselman and Maria McLaughlin. We also endorse

Geoffrey Moulton (currently serving) for consistently good work on LGBT issues (despite a few gaps in answers). We firmly believe Caroline Nichols would be endorsable, had we reached her.

### **Allegheny County**

We happily endorse Anita Prizio for County Council District 3. Her answers were fresh, fair and thoughtful. For Allegheny Court of Common Pleas, we endorse—and highlight—David Spurgeon, for long-term commitment and excellent answers. Despite some vague answers, Patrick Connelly also wins endorsement. Retention: Kelly Bigley, Cathleen Bubash, “Jack” McVay, Jr.

### **Pittsburgh**

Everyone knows endorsees Bill Peduto (Mayor) and Dan Gilman (City Council). They remain rock solid on our issues. Our School Board re-endorsees are Terry Kennedy (District 5) and Sylvia Wilson (Dist. 1). for Magistrate in District 5-2-31 (corresponding to Pittsburgh Wards 8, 10, 11) we’re tickled to endorse longtime neighborhood advocate, past Ferlo aide, highly qualified lawyer and staunch LGBT ally Mikhail “Mik” Pappas. Despite solid Democratic Party bona fides, he’s boldly running as an independent. He cares about justice--for all--in every sense.

### **Looking Ahead**

There are three female democratic candidates starting a run for PA State Senate District 38 (2018). Michelle Boyle and Lindsey Williams have already submitted good answers. Stephanie Walsh, another progressive, is also running. Great! Except, we simply cannot have yet another repeat of the classic PA political “keystone kops” skit, where multiple progressives are talked into a race, leading to an easy win for a regressive candidate. We therefore pre- endorse not a candidate, but a course of action: Dear excellent candidates; please refuse to be used. Meet. Talk.

### **“Raise a Stein for Gertude”**

We invite LGBTQIA-supportive people to come to a “dutch” social event at Blue Moon, on Nov 15, from 6-8 P.M. Tell us what’s on your LGBTQIA agenda, brainstorm how to keep Stein relevant—and alive.

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