

## **Nov. '07 Results: Turnout Jumps...Cruickshank To School Board... Democratic Gains, But Party-Line Vote Prevails**

Okay, maybe our white papers and fact-based campaign didn't reach enough voters, but they do seem to have stirred our Republican opposition to haul out their loyalists. The November 6 election found a big jump in turnout by both parties for a local, off-year election. Credit to Tredyffrin voters for participating.

### **Jump In Turnout**

Almost 36% of Tredyffrin's voters came out to vote for the township and county offices. That is a jump of 9 percentage points over the 2005 participation—a 35% increase. We're pleased by the improved voting performance across our township, and hope that translates to more citizen interest in the operations of the township and school board.

Of course, we Democrats cannot bask in the glory of this jump in participation because the Republican portion of that turnout was also strong. Although we won't know exact turnout by political party registration for several months, from anecdotal observations at polling places we know that our many loyal Democratic voters again came out faithfully. We appreciate that support and congratulate all voters for their strong participation. [Thanks for voting.](#)

For a detailed look at the election numbers, you will find the exact results at the Chester County website--<<http://dsf.chesco.org/election/lib/election/results/cumf.htm>>.

Quick highlights:

### **Karen won!**

Karen Cruickshank, our personable and very able Democratic candidate, has been elected to the school board from Region 1. Karen didn't have a Democratic running mate and thus gave ground to her "cross-filed" (actually Republican) opponent. Nevertheless, Karen still gathered a vote total that demonstrated her tremendous bipartisan support and many neighborhood friendships. Congratulations, Karen!

In Art Post's Region 2 school board race, 455 straight-ticket Democratic votes also went to his cross-filed opponent and cost Art the race.

### **Party-Line Results in Township Races.**

An improved Republican turnout over 2005, and seemingly partisan voting along the lines of their voter registration edge, gave the Republican candidates the margin in all the township supervisor races. It is disappointing for our candidates who worked so hard in their efforts to communicate with voters, and with integrity made their campaigns on issues and ideas. In all precincts they out-pollied the Democratic voter registration levels, likely gathered Independent support, but apparently fell short in attracting the crossover Republican vote that Karen Cruickshank, for example, achieved.

On the District 3-Paoli side of the township, a particularly painful result Democratic Supervisor Paul Drucker losing his bid for reelection by 20 voters. As one of the first Democrats elected to the board in 2005, Paul has worked selflessly, and honestly sought bipartisan consensus on the board. Paul so effective that he became a key target of Republican smears in this race.

Thanks much to Eamon Brazunas, Jerry Henige, Ellen Brotman Austin, and Glenda Yu for their community commitment and good citizenship. Jerry and Eamon were particularly active—going door-to-door to over 9,000 households to listen and learn. We love all our candidates, and appreciate their work. We're going to leave their pictures on our website for a while to honor their efforts.

### **Thanks for Your Support.**

We had unprecedented support for these local races—far ahead of 2005. We had the most financial backing we've ever achieved, allowing multiple mailings to voters. We had an informative website, many volunteer phone calls, and a strong candidate door-to-door effort. Added to that, we're grateful for your help hosting yardsigns, talking with your neighbors, serving at the polling sites, and just generally advocating.

### **Stay Tuned.**

It is difficult to win local elections on a studied approach to issues. Voters don't necessarily "study up" on the local races, and too often vote blindly. Plus, our candidates were facing incumbents in several races. Nevertheless, the tide is turning. Democratic voter registration is increasing faster here, and we have developed one of the best Democratic township organizations in Chester County.

Stay tuned in. Check our website, pay attention to township developments, go to meetings, volunteer for committees, and keep speaking out. Better government results from honest difference of opinion and civil political dialog. That remains our goal. Meanwhile, support Karen Cruickshank on the school board and township supervisor Mark DiFelicianantonio in their efforts for balance and transparency.

### **Tell us.**

Finally, we'd very much appreciate what you can tell us—what you observed in our campaign or on election day, what you heard from your neighbors, what we can do better, what you want to do to help. Comments to [info@ttdems.com](mailto:info@ttdems.com).

Meanwhile, good luck to the elected and re-elected township supervisors and school board leaders.

*Letters to the Editor of Main Line Life, 14 November 2007:*  
[Kathleen Keohane](#) and [Eamon Brazunas](#)

*Chart from Philadelphia Inquirer 8 November, 2007: [Suburbs Tighten Up](#)*