

• OUR ENDORSEMENTS •

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HANOVER PARK SCHOOL BOARD

Vote for Fasolo and Cortwright

We endorse Keith Cortwright and Frank Fasalo IV for the two three-year seats at stake on the Hanover Park Regional High School Board of Education in the Tuesday, Nov. 9 election.

Both a lifelong resident of Hanover and a career educator for 28 years, and as someone who currently has a child enrolled in the school system, Cortwright is equipped to

navigate the complexities of governing the school board.

As a career educator who has risen up through the ranks of a nearby school district, he is uniquely qualified to advance the vision and desires of parents and to advocate for additional resources for the schools.

Fasolo IV is a familiar figure at school

board meetings, and has been a vocal resident who has taken interest in the stewardship and administration of the board for quite some time. He also has a child who will presumably be enrolled in the Hanover Park School System in the years ahead.

While there is much to be said for incumbency and experience, bureaucracies need

new vision and fresh direction from time to time. If either Cortwright or Fasalo IV end up serving multiple terms on the board, they will be subject to the same scrutiny one day.

But for this day, and for these times, we endorse new leadership represented by Keith Cortwright and Frank Fasalo IV.

MORRIS PLAINS COUNCIL

Support Houston and Pontier

In the race for the Morris Plains Borough Council, where there are two, three-year term seats up for grabs this general election, the **Morris NewsBee** gives its endorsement to candidates Bill Houston and Tyler Pontier, both of whom are running as Democrats.

The basis for this endorsement is the access and visibility that Houston and Pontier have shown in comparison to their opponents, incumbent Cathie Kelly and Adam Tyburski.

Houston and Pontier – and particularly Houston – show up at nearly every event of importance to Morris Plains. Both seem to be heavily invested in the future of the borough. Both candidates have put in the work to listen to voters, express their vision for Morris Plains, and deliberate with citizens on finding the best paths forward.

Their rallying cry for transparency and access to the inner workings of municipal governance is a welcome development.

While there is absolutely no basis or

foundation to think anything “untoward” has occurred in the corridors of power in Morris Plains, the push for transparency and accountability will keep leaders in line. To quote an aphorism often used in the corporate world, “Sunlight is the best disinfectant.”

For the cynical readers in the margins who think traditional print media journalism has a reflexive, almost involuntary, propensity to dismiss the GOP candidate, you are mistaken.

Party affiliation at the extreme local level of politics starts to decrease in importance.

The success, appeal, and livability of a small town depends far more on good stewardship than it does on the political ideologies of the office holder.

All indications so far point to Houston and Pontier as the more responsive, more innovative, and better prepared candidates to usher in a new era for Morris Plains.

Sherrill for Congress in 11th

It was almost eight years ago – as Donald Trump was taking office as president – that Mikie Sherrill, an unknown former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Navy helicopter pilot, began quietly making the rounds of local Democratic organizations in Morris and Essex counties lining up support for what looked like a longshot race against Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen.

Frelinghuysen, the Harding Republican who chaired the powerful House Appropriations Committee, had won re-election 12 times in the stronghold Republican 11th District over token opposition, including a 2000 run opposed only by a ficus tree put up by activist filmmaker Michael Moore.

But less than a year later, exhausted by the turmoil of politics in Trump’s Washington, besieged by angry constituents and facing the very real likelihood of an Election Day loss to the charismatic Sherrill, Frelinghuysen shockingly dropped

» 11TH DISTRICT

The 11th District covers all or portions of three counties and 46 municipalities including, in Essex County, Fairfield, North Caldwell, Roseland and West Caldwell; in Morris County, Boonton, Boonton Township, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, Denville Township, Dover, East Hanover, Florham Park, Hanover Township, Harding Township, Madison, parts of Mendham Township; Montville Township, Morris Plains, Morris Township, Morristown, Mountain Lakes, Randolph Township, Rockaway and Rockaway Township; and four towns in Passaic County.

his re-election bid.

Sherrill went on to trounce conservative Assemblyman Webber, R-Morris, in the 2018 campaign, won re-election handily in 2022 and 2023, and is heavily favored to win her fourth term next month against Joseph Belnome, a staunch Trump supporter from Belleville who took part in the march on the Capitol on January 6, 2021, but said he did not illegally enter the

building.

Sherrill, who is expected to enter the race for the Democratic candidacy for governor in 2025 as one of the instant front-runners, has shown both a capacity for quiet hard work in Congress and a politically courageous independent streak when needed.

In 2019, she was one of seven freshman Democratic representatives with mili-

tary or national security backgrounds who publicly signed a letter urging House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to launch impeachment hearings against Trump after it was disclosed that he had pressured Ukraine’s president to investigate Biden.

Four years later, she was just the seventh House Democrat to urge Biden to not seek re-election after his disastrous June 27 debate performance.

Sherrill has been a staunch supporter of abortion rights, an effective advocate for Picatinny Arsenal, a strong and expert voice on military and veterans issues, and has fought hard for funding for the Gateway Tunnel and other mass transit funding and for restoration of the federal income tax’s SALT deduction for state and local taxes.

Sherrill has earned your vote for re-election.

Vote for Sherrill.

Kamala Harris for President

This year’s presidential election is about more than policy disagreements over the economy, immigration, abortion rights, or the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine – as important as those policy issues are.

It is about the future of democracy and the existential threat to that future posed by former President Donald Trump’s authoritarian instincts, disrespect for the checks and balances of U.S. institutions, and avowed willingness and desire to exercise executive power in unprecedented ways in a peacetime America in ways that previous Supreme Courts would have found unconstitutional.

To quote General Mark Milley, who served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under him for two and one-half years, Trump “is fascist to his core” and “the most dangerous person to the country,” as former Gov. Christine Todd Whitman was the first Republican to assert nine years ago.

She now has plenty of company, includ-

ing Trump’s former chief of staff, defense secretaries, attorney-general and dozens of top aides who watched him in action.

There is a tendency among some who should know better to discount Trump as an “entertainer” who is just playing to the crowd at his rallies like a WWE showman.

We disagree. We take him at his word. He has tapped into the legitimate economic fears of worries of many Americans, but he has also fanned the politics of racism, nativism and resentment more than any American leader since Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

Like you, we were appalled by President Biden’s performance in his June 27 debate with Trump and the clear cognitive decline it showed.

We saw the same decline in the latter years of President Reagan’s second term, and Trump is showing the same signs in the increasing lack of filter and rambling thought processes in his campaign speeches that he tries to pass off as strategy. It’s the same cognitive decline. He no

longer possesses the same sharpness and cognitive abilities he did four and eight years ago, as his once-longtime friend, former Gov. Chris Christie, points out.

New Jersey’s Constitution requires state judges and justices to retire at age 70 for fear that loss of cognitive abilities will impair their judgment.

Surely, even in a bitterly divided nation, we can agree that the leader of the Free World should possess the sharp mental faculties needed to deal with Putin, Xi Jinping, Khamenei and Netanyahu and be trusted with the nuclear button.

Once we get past this election, we should impose a reasonable age limit, such as 75, by law or constitutional amendment on future U.S. presidents.

We wish Biden had chosen not to run earlier – the morning after his disastrous debate or, better still, had kept his promise not to seek a second term. Either decision would have given the Democratic Party time to set up a competitive process to give voters a voice in selecting a new

nominee for this critical election.

That being said, Vice President Kamala Harris’ political acumen in quickly mobilizing party support after Biden’s withdrawal, her debate performance and her skilled campaign demonstrate skills that will be needed not only on the international stage, but also to govern in tandem with a Congress in which Republicans are likely to hold a majority in one or both houses.

On the policy front, we would expect her to govern in the Democratic mainstream of Presidents Obama and Biden.

In treating their patients, we expect our doctors to “first, do no harm” – not to kill the patient through maleficence or incompetence. We entrust our presidents to protect our soon-to-be 250-year-old American democracy and pass it along intact to voters for its every-our-year checkup.

We can trust Kamala Harris not to kill the patient. We cannot say the same for Donald Trump.

Vote for Harris.

Vote for Andy Kim for U.S. Senate

Thirteen months ago, when U.S. Senator Robert Menendez was indicted for the second time, few expected Congressman Andy Kim, a little-known three-term congressman from Burlington County, to emerge as the Democratic nominee and favorite to replace the convicted senator.

But Kim quickly declared his candidacy, launched an

insurgent campaign that beat back Gov. Phil Murphy’s heavy-handed efforts to marshal party leaders behind his wife, First Lady Tammy Murphy, and filed a lawsuit that upended the state’s unique “county line” ballot design that had given the party bosses a death grip over politics in New Jersey for decades.

It was a remarkable tri-

umph of reform politics for the former Washington foreign policy analyst who had served in the Pentagon, State Department, White House Security Council and as an aide to Army Gen. David Petraeus in Afghanistan.

It is hard to find a more striking contrast to “Gold Bar Bob” Menendez than the squeaky-clean Kim,

whose biggest moment in the national limelight was a photo that showed him on his knees sweeping up debris in the Capitol rotunda after the Jan. 6 invasion by supporters of former President Trump.

As a member of Congress, Kim was a mainstream Democrat and a reliable vote for President Biden’s agenda, including

the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan. Just 42 years old, he is young enough to build seniority in the Senate to protect New Jersey’s interests in the years ahead.

Kim’s Republican opponent, Cape May hotel entrepreneur Curtis Bashaw, defeated Mendham Borough Mayor Christine Serrano Glassner to win the GOP

Senate primary despite her endorsement by Trump.

Kim and Bashaw, a moderate Republican, have run a respectful, issue-oriented campaign that is refreshing in this era of extreme partisanship and a testimony to the integrity and decency of both candidates.

We urge the election of Andy Kim to the U.S. Senate.

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