

Restore Integrity to Our Elections in Morris Township

We, the undersigned, here express our dissatisfaction with respect to the actions of the Morris County Clerk, Ann Grossi, and other public servants and candidates for office during the November 3 election for Morris Township Committee.

We have two main concerns:

1. The sloppiness by which the election was held and vote count was tallied.

According to media reports, Clerk Grossi released three different results for the Morris Township Committee election. In each of these three counts, the vote totals were released to news outlets. Thus, with each count, Clerk Grossi must have viewed the results to be valid; In all cases, the results were issued with the statement that results from all 23 districts had been tallied. The preliminary results assigned victory to one of the Democratic candidates, Jeff Grayzel, and one Republican candidate, Matheu Nunn. In a losing bid were Democratic candidate Cathy Wilson and Republican incumbent Bruce Sisler. Then, following not one but two recounts, results reported showed both Republican candidates as victors.

Further, it was reported¹ that voters in District 7 were directed to vote in separate booths based on party affiliation for at least the first hour of the election. Even if this was an innocent mistake, as claimed by Clerk Grossi, it calls into question the supervision and training provided to poll workers. More importantly, it is conceivable that it impacted the election results, given the slight margin of difference in the current results.

This brings us to our second concern:

2. Allegations of a lack of proper conduct at the time of vote counting.

It has been alleged that these last election results reportedly followed a closed-door gathering² with Grossi, the two Republican candidates for Committee, the other three Republican members of the Township Committee, former township Republican Chairman Tom Luby, and Republican consultant Alan Zakin. No members of the Democratic party were present during this vote count. Whether this constitutes a violation of any open public meeting requirements or election laws should be investigated.

In response to Mr. Grayzel's concern that the recount was held in a closed-door meeting with only Republicans, including the two Republican candidates for Committee, Clerk Grossi noted that Mr. Grayzel had a "wild imagination."³ We expect a more professional and transparent response to Mr. Grayzel's concerns. For instance, the law regarding ballot counting in New Jersey states:

"... There shall always be two persons in charge who shall not be members of the same political party; and all proceedings shall be conducted under the observation of the public, but no persons except those authorized for the purpose shall touch any ballot card or return."⁴

The sloppiness of the vote count and the allegations of improprieties call into question the integrity of the electoral process in our township. We, therefore, demand an investigation of these matters. Although Clerk Grossi has a long, accomplished record of serving her community⁵, her past achievements and contributions do not excuse her from accountability. She must well know the rules regarding sunshine laws, quorums, and elections. Further, it is in her interest to restore integrity to the electoral process by addressing our questions and cooperating with any investigation into this matter.

Therefore, we, the undersigned residents of our beloved community of Morris Township, request full and public explanations from Morris County Clerk Grossi and from our Township Committee members involved as to how these reported election errors and alleged improprieties could have occurred. We have requested an investigation of these matters by The Morris County Board of Elections. As it currently stands, we question how we can trust the results of elections held in our community. We, taxpayers and residents of Morris Township, cannot accept such a situation. We call upon our elected officials to answer to the people of Morris Township and Morris County and to restore integrity to the electoral process.

Finally, we ask other concerned citizens to join our cause by requesting an investigation by The Morris County Board of Elections or by contacting us at fair.morris.elections@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The following residents of Morris Township, New Jersey:

Mr. Richard Kasmin
 Mr. Jack Benvent
 Mr. Edward Fleischman
 Mrs. Arlene Gregor
 Mr. Gerald Gregor
 Ms. Harriet Grose
 Dr. Marla Hochfeld
 Mr. Dan Michaels
 Ms. Tara Olivo-Moore
 Mr. Joseph Rundsorf
 Dr. Don Siebert
 Dr. Lynn Siebert
 Dr. Jeffrey Siegel
 Dr. Sheera Siegel
 Mr. Adam Smith
 Dr. Matthew D. Stephens
 Mr. Lewis Stone

¹<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Election-Day-Voting-Poll-Worker-Tells-Voter-to-Go-Democratic-Machine-Republican-Machine-339992312.html>

²<http://morristowngreen.com/2015/11/04/a-strange-election-in-morris-township-sets-stage-for-another-recount/>

³http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2015/11/computer_glitch_changed_results_in_close_morris_to.html

⁴<http://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/2014/title-19/section-19-53a-8>

⁵<http://anngrossi.com/resume>