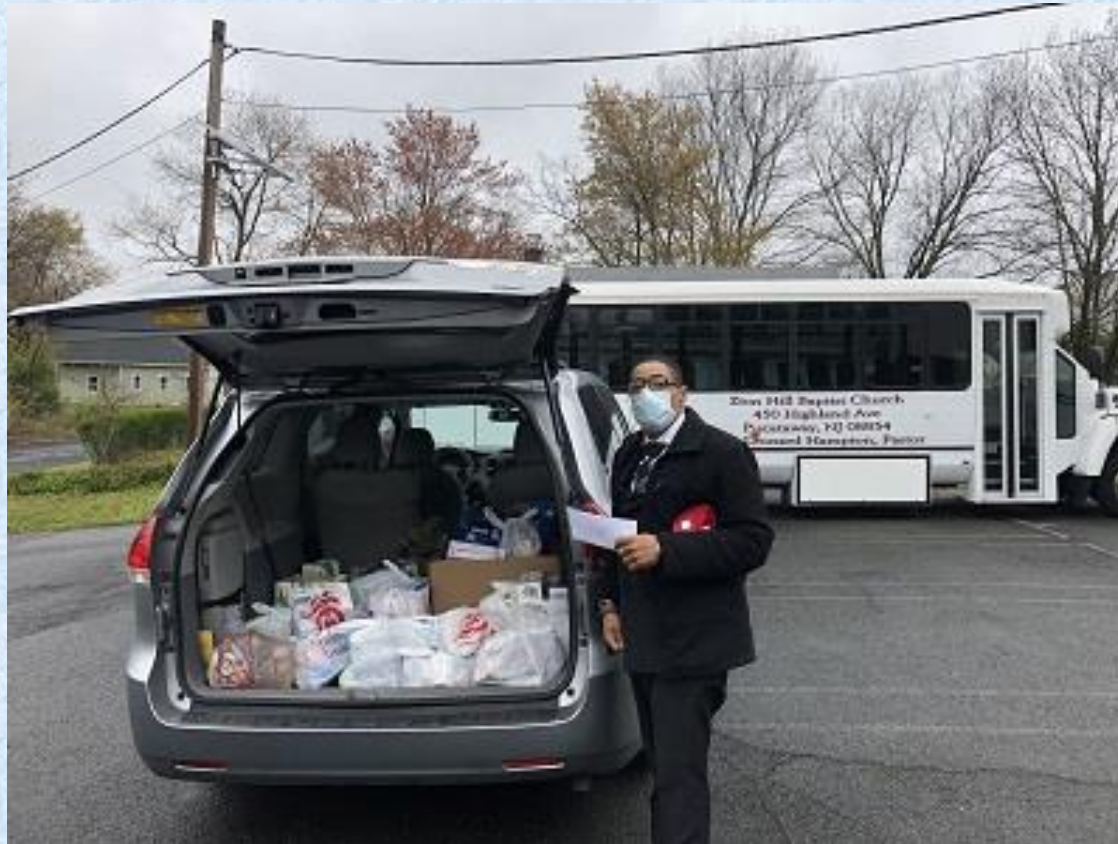


# Neighborhood Aid Network

Please sign up to offer or request assistance at:

[https://tinyurl.com/Pway  
Neighbors](https://tinyurl.com/PwayNeighbors)

# Neighborhood Aid Network



Thoughtful Thursdays  
*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

# Food Donation Drop Off Locations

Ward 1: 411 New Market Rd

Ward 2: 10 Seward Ave

Ward 3: 233 Ellis Parkway or  
102 Stratton St South

Ward 4: 24 Ross Hall Blvd. North





RAMADAN  
*Mubarak*

# The Dems on YOUR Side!

## 2020 Campaign Platform

### 1. Open Piscataway's Government for All:

- Term limits for local elected officials – no more career politicians!
- Record and broadcast Council and Zoning and Planning Board meetings so all residents can see their representatives in action. These recordings should be posted on Piscataway's website and broadcast on PCTV.
- Post agendas and proposed resolutions for all Council and Zoning and Planning Board meetings online and in advance of the meetings.
- Post minutes of all Council and Zoning and Planning Board meetings online.
- Invite all members of the public to regular meetings of Advisory Committees and Commissions. Post agendas and minutes of these meetings on the website.
- Hold regular, public community discussions on issues of importance to Piscataway residents.
- Expand the time allotted for Public Comment at Council and Zoning and Planning Board meeting and respectfully consider and address the concerns of the public prior to taking action.

# WHAT'S WAHLER HIDING?

## Part 1: Tax Giveaways to Developers

Posted on Facebook @pwayprogressivedems 4-11-20

## Part 2: Environmental Issues

Posted on Facebook @pwayprogressivdems 4-18-20

## **Part 3. Open Government *For All***



## **Piscataway, our township democracy is broken:**

- The same political machine has been in power for ***50 years!***
- Wahler's been mayor for ***20 years!***
- They operate behind closed doors.
- They serve the insiders, not the people.

# ***The Pway “Buddy System”: only 3 mayors for 46 of the last 50 Years***

**Mayor Ted Light:** 1971-1980 and 1988-95

➡ Current chair of the Piscataway Democratic Organization

**Mayor Bob Smith:** 1981-86

➡ State senator for Leg. District 17 since 2008

+ Heads Bob Smith & Associates, local law firm specializing in land use/zoning

**Mayor Brian Wahler:** 2000-2020

➡ Current mayor for **five terms** in a row

+ Employee of Middlesex County Improvement Authority





# Reform #1: Term Limits

- The Mayor and Council should not be able to make **public office** their personal domain!
- We need elected leaders who **listen to every voice**, old or new in town.
- We need elected leaders who understand that **times have changed** and so has our town.
- Who understand that new challenges require **new ideas and new voices**.

# ***Stonewalling the Public: The Power of NO***

**Town Council meetings under Wahler have:**

- **NO town broadcast or online access\***
- **NO agendas posted in advance**
- **NO resolutions posted in advance**
- **NO debate among Council members**
- **NO response to opposing viewpoints**
- **3 minutes per resident for public comment**

**\*first ever phone only meeting = Covid19 shutdown**

# ***Stonewalling the Public: The Power of NO***

**Resolutions are generally passed with:**

- NO Committee Reports**
- NO discussion**
- NO dissent**

**It is often not clear if Council Members are fully aware of all of the details of the Resolutions they are voting on (see: the PILOT tax break at 150 Old New Brunswick Road)**

# ***Planning & Zoning: The Insiders Game***

Planning and Zoning Boards are where the real action is: for developers, their contractors, their lawyers and their political PACs. Therefore,

- **NO advance agendas or resolutions posted**
- **NO advance opportunity for public comment**
- **NO minutes of actions taken are posted**
- **NO prior survey of impacted residents**
- **Minimum legal notice of impending developments for public comment**



## ***Planning & Zoning: The Insiders Game***

- **Developers need variances from the Boards**
- **This gives the Boards a LOT of power over what kind of development takes place**
- **The Boards are packed with political insiders put there by Wahler (who was put there by Smith)**
- **Board members either have to go along to get along, or find themselves replaced**
- **It is a private party, and you aren't invited**



## **Reform #2: Open Access to Public Meetings and Town Actions**

- Council Meetings, Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings should be publicly broadcast and recorded by the Township TV platform and website.
  - Lots of towns do this routinely, like North Brunswick and Warren
- Agendas, resolutions, and minutes should be posted online at least 48 hours in advance, with the opportunity for residents to submit questions and comments.
  - Like they do in Morris Plains and South Brunswick
- Agenda time for public comments must be expanded – it was recently cut in half, which is the wrong direction – public input should be encouraged!

# ***Advisory Boards and Commissions: It's Who You Know***

- Piscataway has 20 advisory boards and commissions in addition to the Zoning and Planning Boards, where residents *MIGHT* have input or get assistance...
- Residents may apply to be on these bodies, but members are appointed by the Mayor -
  - ***If you disagree with the Mayor, you don't get to be on a Commission***
- Commissions that list monthly meetings are not required to report to the public
  - ***Many don't meet regularly or at all***

# ***Advisory Boards and Commissions: Are they even meeting??***

- Some, like the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) have meetings listed on an “as needed basis.”
- The EAC **NEVER MEETS** - is there really “no need” for the EAC?
- Many other nearby towns have active Environmental Commissions and Green Teams – why not Piscataway?
- They look good on paper, but most of the Board and Commissions meet infrequently or not at all
- No contact information listed for any Commission Member
- There is no way to give input to Commissions that don’t meet and that you can’t contact





## Reform #3: Activate All Commissions, Invite Community Input

A healthy community *invites active participation and feedback:*

- Commissions need Township support to **meet and initiate** dialogue, surveys, reports, and recommendations...
- The Town can sponsor **special forums and events** on topics of concern like post-COVID transitions, air pollution, job fairs, small business networking, training opportunities, climate resiliency, mental health services...
- **...and Organize volunteers** to help us *move forward* on community needs: food drives, a farmers' market, an interfaith council, a dog park...

# The Dems on YOUR Side!

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Today's presentation slides will be  
posted at:

[https://www.pwayprogressives.com/2020-  
candidates](https://www.pwayprogressives.com/2020-candidates)

For more information, you can read our Platform at:

<https://tinyurl.com/PwayPlatform>



**What do YOU think?**

**We're not Career Politicians on the Inside.**

**We're the *Dems On YOUR Side.***

We invite you to take an online community survey to tell us about your concerns and priorities for Township action:

**<https://tinyurl.com/PWAYSurvey>**



# And we invite Piscataway voters to Get Involved:



- Unplug the Smith-Wahler political machine.
- Start the **term limit** process now:
  - ***Elect new town leaders!***
- Move Piscataway **out of the past** and help us grow forward with leaders who represent your interests

To **Get Involved** with the Dems on Your Side Campaign go to:

[\*\*https://tinyurl.com/SupportPWAY2020\*\*](https://tinyurl.com/SupportPWAY2020)

# The Dems on *YOUR* Side!



Bill Irwin  
Candidate for Mayor



Kamuela Tillman  
Candidate for Council



Ralph Johnson  
Candidate for Council



Laura Leibowitz  
Candidate for Council

Thank you for viewing our presentation! Please remember to VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ON JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>. We will be located in **Column A** on the ballot.

We want to hear from you! Please send you questions and comments to:  
[PWAYProgressives@gmail.com](mailto:PWAYProgressives@gmail.com)