

PCDO Executive Board Bios for 2017

AT-LARGE CANDIDATES (Vote for 12 out of 19; listed alphabetically)

Kip Cherry

With over 30 years of experience in urban planning, historic preservation, and architecture, I am a licensed NJ Professional Land Use Planner and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and hold an MBA from the Wharton School. I very much want to do what I can to make the PCDO more responsive to the needs of diverse racial, ethnic and other groups in the community. We have a challenging election coming up for the re-election of Andrew Zwicker and the election of a new Governor, and I look forward to working on them. I have been a member of the Programming Committee for several years and would like to continue in that role. For programming I have worked on several significant panels on a variety of topics: a bilingual panel on immigration reform, a panel of leaders from Trenton, a panel discussing how to get beyond racism, and most recently a panel on mass incarceration. Also I understand how passing significant resolutions for our legislators can be a very effective way to enhance the PCDO's progressive influence, and I would like to work on more. Past resolutions I have worked on include a resolution on immigration issues and specifically tuition equality, a resolution on gun violence, and currently a resolution on mass incarceration. I am also interested in petitions where such instruments might be effective – such as those related to Trump nominees. And finally, I am committed to attending monthly membership meetings and monthly EB meetings, and to actively participate in the governance and work of the PCDO.

Mary Clurman

I have lived in Princeton since 2008, been active in the PCDO since 2011 and served on the EB for three years. For the past two years I have been the cookie lady, providing refreshments for our monthly general meetings. I organized entertainment for our campaign headquarters for Obama in 2012 and music for the election celebration. In 2014 I joined the Municipal Committee because I like spreading the good word on Democratic works. I have served twice as a poll watcher. In my own neighborhood I have organized a neighborhood database, hosted meetings, and sent bulletins out explaining neighborhood issues with regard to AvalonBay and to teardowns. On my own street, I have assisted with maintenance and preservation of the Guyot Walk.

I seek re-election to the EB in order to work on expanding PCDO membership. I enjoy outreach and networking and the solving of problems. I am good at setting priorities and organizing around them. We are fortunate to have a solid member database to build upon. Our strength in national elections comes from the trust placed in us in Princeton and also from our position as a focal point for broader action in Mercer County. Voters need to know about us and will want to be brought into our activities. I affirm that I will continue regular attendance at both the Executive Board and the monthly membership meetings, and I commit to volunteering an average of 2 additional hours/week.

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Liz Cohen

I have enjoyed participating in both campaign work and addressing important issues that impact our community. I support this unique joint focus of the PCDO and want to continue to help build community through these advocacy efforts on issues that are especially crucial in this new political climate. As chair of the PCDO Programming Committee, I have worked with a dedicated team to educate PCDO members on a range of issues and guide us toward action. I was a past nominating committee chair, have helped run phonebank groups for many years, and in 2016 co-chaired canvass carpools to PA. I am a hospice social worker with Princeton HealthCare System and serve on the Democratic Municipal Committee where I relish working to get out the vote in my district. I co-chair the Reform Jewish Voice of New Jersey, am the mother of three voting young adults, and enjoy sharing Democratic activities and values with my husband, Dave.

- I affirm I will regularly attend both the Executive Board and monthly membership meetings.
- I commit to volunteering an average of 2 hours a week to PCDO efforts.

Amner Deleon

I have been involved with the PCDO since 2013 and have served on the executive board as at-large and as first Vice President.

I want to continue serving on the Executive Board as an at-large member, because the PCDO is an important part of the community. I look forward to working on progressive policies at the state and local level. This year I would like to serve on the Elections (2017 campaigns and elections) Ad Hoc committee as it is important we elect a strong governor.

Daphna Ezrachi

I recently moved to Princeton as my husband started a PhD at the university. Before moving we lived in Jerusalem where I worked as an educator. In Jerusalem, I was involved in different social initiatives and in local politics. I want to be involved with PCDO because I am a passionate Democrat who believes that citizens should be active in promoting the political change that they want to see. Since the election, I feel even more strongly that it is important to get involved and be part of a community of volunteers. I would like to work on issues relating to poverty and urban planning. Specifically, I am interested in thinking about how we can improve local public transportation, expand affordable housing, and foster sustainable communities. I am interested in being a member of the programming or the local issues committees.

- I affirm I will regularly attend both the Executive Board and monthly membership meetings
- I commit to volunteering an average of 2 hours a week to PCDO committee work

Mark Freda

I am a lifelong Princeton resident and past Borough Council member for thirteen years. I have held leadership positions in Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad and Princeton Fire Department for decades, and I was Chair of the Transition Task Force that set the initial structure of how the

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two Princetons became one town. I believe my experience, knowledge, and ability to get things done can continue to benefit the PCDO Executive Board.

Two things most interest me as a member of the PCDO Executive Board. One would be the By-laws Review Committee; I helped rewrite the By-laws once before. The other is being a practical voice on the board that helps to move the organization and local Democratic elected officials and/or candidates forward.

I will attend the majority of the meeting and actively participate in the governance and work of the PCDO on a weekly basis.

Paul Gilmore

I moved to Princeton a year and a half ago with my wife, Reid, and my two daughters, Charlotte and Rowan (students at JW Middle School). I've lived in Mississippi, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and, for thirteen years before moving to New Jersey, Los Angeles. I've always been a liberal Democrat, and when we moved here, I wanted to get involved and somehow quickly became a member of the PCDO Executive Board. I look forward to continue to learn about the community and contributing more fully to supporting the PCDO's mission.

I'm a former English professor, and I'm currently a dean of the Honors College at Rutgers-New Brunswick. I've agreed to be considered for chairing the publicity committee. Given the energy and outrage we are trying to harness, publicity and outreach are going to be essential in the next couple of years as we work to build a diversified membership. I hope to work with the PCDO in using newer media to create connections for members with other progressive groups and projects.

I'm most concerned and passionate about climate change (and the environment more broadly), education, and economic inequality, and I want to work on innovative ways to link those three on the local and state level as a model for when the Democrats have the presidency again. I agree to attend all monthly meetings and to devote at least a couple of hours per week to the PCDO.

Mary Anne Greenberg

I've been a Princeton resident for almost 20 years. In 2007, I sold my business to an Irish and UK based firm, UDG, and continued to work for them taking increasing responsibility for other UDG businesses in North America, which employ over 1,000 people in the US and over 7,000 globally. I'm now in the process of turning over responsibilities in order to retire early next year.

I'm a board member at Womanspace, and I've raised money and collected much needed items for HomeFront, two great organizations which help so many in our community. But without the right support in government, every organization is at risk. I want to play a part in making sure the upcoming elections in NJ are won by progressive individuals who support education, the environment, and equal rights, particularly women's rights. I'm passionate about wanting to assist friends and neighbors in the community to channel their frustrations from the recent presidential election into positive activities and avoid the 'bashing' that further separates us in the local community as well as nationally.

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I believe my workplace skills running several businesses will translate well into a benefit for the organization. I'm a collaborator and get things done. I have the time to devote and several of the committees are of particular interest: Membership, Publicity, Elections and Local Issues. I'm committed to attend the monthly membership meetings and actively participate in any of the committees or other ad hoc activities.

Dosier Hammond

I have been actively involved in PCDO for 6 years, and have worked actively to elect Democrats in the primaries in the general elections for 12 years. I was a panelist on the local issues committee's Affordable Housing presentation last year. I want to grow the PCDO, make it even more effective in local, state, and national issues, and help it serve the needs of all Princetonians and Americans to have good jobs, benefits, healthcare, housing, and civil rights. I want to work on the issues above as well quality of life and diversity in Princeton.

I would be interested in serving on the Membership and Programming Committees, and on the Elections and Local Issues ad hoc Committees. I affirm I will regularly attend both the Executive Board and Monthly Membership meetings. I commit to volunteering an average of 2 hours per week to PCDO committee work.

Jonathan Kaledin

I am a lifelong Democrat, and have been a member of the PCDO since moving to Princeton during the summer of 2015. I am interested in serving on the PCDO's executive board for the purpose of (i) advancing the PCDO's local work on progressive, substantive issues of importance to the Democratic Party, (ii) helping our local Democratic elected officials make a difference in their work, and (iii) to the extent that the PCDO is interested in doing so, seeing that the PCDO has as much influence as possible within the State Democratic Party structure.

I am an environmental lawyer (currently General Counsel of Natural Systems Utilities in Hillsborough), and, while deeply interested in the entire progressive agenda of the PCDO, am particularly interested in working on and advancing environmental and sustainability issues at both the community and state level. Can the PCDO help Princeton become one of the truly sustainable communities in the country—above and beyond its accomplishments in the area already?

I would be interested in serving on the Programming Committee, the Publicity Committee (I have published in a number of the country's leading newspapers—see <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/11/16/symphony-orchestras-national-endowment-arts-column/93487116/> from November), the Elections Committee, and otherwise as needed by the PCDO. I affirm that I will regularly attend both the Executive Board and monthly membership meetings, and also commit to volunteering an average of 2 hours a week to PCDO committee and other work.

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Jenny Ludmer

Much of my life has been devoted to scientific research, writing, and analysis, as well as caring for my three children, dog, garden, and chickens. Since moving to Princeton five years ago, I've also been active with the parent-teacher organizations at my children's schools, as well as supporting sustainability efforts at the Jewish Center.

However, like many of you, election night was a call-to-action for me. I now realize that while voting and donating are important parts of the process there is much more to be done. So, I've recently joined PCDO, written multiple letters, signed dozens of petitions, marched in support of renewable energy, and organized a bus to the Women's March in DC. And I'm not done yet.

In order to address my top three issues -- social justice, women's rights, and the environment -- I am interested in supporting PCDO as a Board Member-At-Large, while also participating in the State Elections committee and leading a new Environmental Committee. And yes, I affirm my commitment to attend the majority of membership and EB meetings, while actively participating in the governance and work of the PCDO.

Amy Mayer

I am a new member of PCDO and became involved with the organization through volunteering for the Clinton campaign. I've lived in Princeton with my husband and two children for seven years. My law practice is based in New York City, although I generally work from home. I currently serve on the board of trustees of the Trenton Civil Circus Project. Previously, I have served on the boards of the Princeton School Gardens Cooperative and the Pratt Area Community Council.

I'm interested in serving on the PCDO Executive Board to help strengthen our local Democratic organization and energize our community around progressive policy on the state level. I'm especially interested in serving on the elections committee.

- I affirm I will regularly attend both the Executive Board and monthly membership meetings
- I commit to volunteering an average of 2 hours a week to PCDO committee work

Anne Neumann

I grew up in Princeton and am passionate about preserving our diverse neighborhoods and democratic character. I have served on the PCDO Executive Board and its Local Issues Committee for a number of years. And I have also served on Princeton's Environmental Commission, our Site Plan Review Advisory Board, and Princeton Borough's Affordable Housing Board. I hope to continue working on both the PCDO's Local Issues Committee and Program Committee. I am also keenly interested in following up with our many potential new members after our November and December membership meetings, especially working with those interested in letter-writing campaigns and monitoring alternate news sources.

I am committed to attending the majority of monthly membership meetings on Sunday evenings and the monthly Executive Board meetings on Saturday mornings, and to

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participating actively in the governance and work of the PCDO (giving an average of 2 hours per week on committee work).

Leighton Newlin

I am seeking to become a new member of the PCDO Executive Board and am interested in serving on the Programming Committee.

Having served as a board member of the Princeton Housing Authority for close to 20 years (14 as Chair) I am interested in keeping Princeton a town that values diversity, affordability, and inclusion. I view working as a PCDO Executive Board member as a way to help shape issues and policies that support democratic values and advance ideas that will refocus and reframe initiatives on a local and national level.

As a community activist, I have engaged in challenging leadership to be accountable in maintaining equity and cultural diversity in our town. I am concerned about the minority achievement gap in our schools and want to see more focus on these issues. I also have a particular interest in the Witherspoon Jackson neighborhood as a resident and member of the Witherspoon Jackson Historic District Committee.

I have been a Director of Special Services in Residential Community Release Programs since 1996 and have a long-standing commitment to breaking the cycle of recidivism and mass incarceration through alternative programming, intervention, education and training initiatives. Currently I serve on the District 9 Democratic Committee. I affirm my commitment to attend the majority of monthly membership meetings on Sunday evenings, monthly EB meetings on Saturday mornings, and actively participate in the governance and work of the PCDO.

Eve Niedergang

I have been an activist since my college days and involved with the PCDO for about 10 years. I served one previous term on the Executive Board about 6 years ago and I am currently serving on the Princeton Democratic Municipal Committee as a District 18 representative.

It seems that we are cursed to live in “interesting times,” so I want to be on the forefront of fighting for what Democrats believe in – equality, opportunity for all, women’s rights, civil rights, criminal justice reform, etc. Given what has happened on the national level, I believe that getting progressives elected on the local and state levels and fighting for progressive ideas at all levels will be vital. Committees I’m interested in included: Publicity/communications, Programming, 2017 elections, local issues.

I affirm my commitment to attend the majority of monthly membership meetings on Sunday evenings and monthly executive board meetings on Saturday mornings, and I agree to actively participate in the governance and work of the PCDO, spending an average of 2 hours per week on committee work.

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Jeffrey Oakman

As a proud resident of Princeton and lifelong Democrat, I would be honored to serve on the Executive Board of the PCDO. My parents taught me from a very early age the importance of civic involvement and political activism. I volunteered with the Clinton/Gore campaign as a high schooler in 1992, never imagining that I would have the honor of serving President Clinton as a Writer and Senior Editor for his last two years in the White House. Writing letters, speeches, and proclamations for the President was the thrill of a lifetime, and set me on the path to a career in public service. I received a masters in public affairs and urban planning in 2003 from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton. Since then, I have built a career in economic development and affordable housing, working both inside and outside government to serve the needs of low-income communities.

The 2016 election reminded me of 2004 and the feeling of helplessness that followed Bush's re-election. I am resolved, as I was then, to do all I can to fight for progressive values in the face of Republican extremism. I would love to work with the PCDO to grow membership and participation – particularly among families with young children like my own – to support strong local leadership, and to encourage people throughout the community to take positive action for our party and country. I am committed to attending monthly meetings and devoting at least two hours per week to committee work.

Ryan Protter

I worked as field organizer for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign in Iowa. Despite getting assigned a rural Republican county, I worked with my local Democratic party to run the largest early vote turnout operation in the state, with 56.3% of voters casting their ballots early. We came 90 votes short of flipping a Republican county, when most of the state voted overwhelmingly for Trump.

I want to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Board because I want to help chart our local and statewide political direction. PCDO passionately supports progressive change and Democratic candidates up and down the ticket. As a former organizer, I have a deep interest in the upcoming 2017 elections and increasing PCDO's publicity.

I affirm my commitment to attend the majority of monthly membership meetings on Sunday evenings and monthly Executive Board meetings on Saturday mornings. I also affirm my commitment to actively participate in the governance and affairs of PCDO for at least two hours per week.

Maureen Quap

I carefully chose Princeton as my new home town in 2011, after successfully raising two children, completing my MSW degree, and beginning a new career. Since then, I have volunteered behind the scenes for PCDO and have served as its Assistant Treasurer this past year.

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My goal is to continue on the Executive Board, in an At-Large position, as I gain more knowledge and experience in this dynamic organization. I feel I have contributed a fresh insight at both Board and General PCDO meetings.

With our current political challenges, I plan to become even more active in my support for social programs that hold up our most needy citizens; the poor, frail seniors, and immigrants. I am especially committed to seeing strong Democrats elected to State and Local office.

I will continue to regularly attend Executive Board and General meetings and other PCDO events. My goals are to get involved in PCDO Programming, Logistics and/or Elections Committees.

Sheldon Sturges

I have lived in Princeton since the late 60's and raised 3 children here. I am a graduate of Harvard, a publisher, and an entrepreneur. My company holds patents that will help people learn on the cellphone. I am a founder of Princeton Future Inc. and a Past President & Vice-President of the PCDO. I hope to work for ways to keep Princeton affordable for all.

As Democrats, we need to work very hard together to ensure that Princeton remains inclusive. Can we create housing policies that allows our workforce to live close by the place of work at 30% of their income? And, in particular, can we focus on creating housing for those who serve us: our fire volunteers, our police, our teachers, our NGO leaders? I believe this can be done. It is the most sustainable thing we can do. It is right thing to do. To this end, the most important obligation of the PCDO is to work to moderate the persistent increase in property tax so that those who serve now may have the choice to remain. I am interested in the Local Issues committee with the subcommittee on Affordable Housing. I will attend all executive board meetings and contribute to the PCDO as much as I can.

OFFICER POSITIONS (Vote for ONE for each seat)

FOR PRESIDENT

Owen O'Donnell

2017 will be a crucial year for the PCDO, and I'm asking for your support to once again serve as president. Since the election, there has been an outpouring of concern and, more importantly, motivation among Democrats all across the country. In Mercer County and central New Jersey, the PCDO has become a rallying point for activity. Our November and December meetings saw an overwhelming turnout at which people dedicated themselves to the ideals and actions of progressive liberalism in the face of a truly "unpresidented" onslaught (did he really Tweet that?). We are already working to provide the education that people have said they need to better understand state politics; to organize outreach to legislators and like-minded groups and work together on important issues; and, perhaps most vital, to ensure the election of liberal Democratic candidates to the governor's office, state Senate, and Assembly – as well as to the Princeton Council.

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In addition, 2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the PCDO. This occasion is the ideal time to rededicate ourselves to our founding principles. Now more than ever, it is time for us to stand up for what we believe. I hope you'll give me the honor of working with you to strengthen our organization and our party and to make sure we always remember that government at all levels needs to work for the many and never for the few.

FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Dwaine Williamson

The Princeton Community Democratic Organization remains the leading proponent of progressive values that the Democratic Party champions in the greater Mercer County area. Accordingly, as First Vice President I seek to use the momentum that we engendered during the 2016 campaign, including the contributions of the 700+ volunteers, to promote these progressive values in our local community and to getting out the vote to ensure astounding Democratic Party success in the 2017 New Jersey gubernatorial election, 2017 New Jersey General Assembly election, and the 2018 State and Congressional mid-term elections.

Particular issues on which we need to focus include resistance to Trump Administration's feared rollback of progress dealing with human relations as they pertain to ethnicity, gender, religion and the national original of our citizens and immigrants, an increase in both the state and federal minimum wages, and fostering wider access to post-secondary education.

I affirm I will attend both the monthly membership and Executive Board meetings. I commit to volunteering an average of five hours/week to PCDO committee work.

FOR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Jean Y. Durbin

It would be a privilege to serve the PCDO as a member of the Executive Board. I have been a member of the PCDO since 2007, and have hosted meetings and worked on specific tasks as needed. In 2008, I was part of a trio of lawyers who trained local challengers on voter protection issues for that historic election. Each election since I have worked with the NJ Voter Protection Project. I am an attorney with a background in federal litigation and civil rights, and formerly served as NJ State Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker's policy director. I currently work in the Office of Finance and Treasury at Princeton University and live in Princeton with my husband, Jon and our two sons who attend JWMS and PHS.

Like many, I have been catapulted into action given the recent climate of intolerance, fear and intimidation. I care about human rights, affordability, jobs, fair elections and verified voting and the environment. My focus with the PCDO will be on keeping the progressive momentum going and ensuring that our 2017 State elections are successful. I look forward to working with Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker's campaign, supporting a progressive gubernatorial candidate and helping to keep the business of the PCDO on track. I agree to attend all monthly meetings and devote a minimum of two hours per week to the PCDO.

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FOR TREASURER

David Cohen

I am running for another term as PCDO Treasurer, a capacity in which I have served since 2007 with a brief interlude as President in 2009-10. I own a small business where I initially developed and honed my financial management skills. I have also served as Treasurer for Homesharing, a non-profit located in Bridgewater, NJ, and on the board of trustees for my synagogue, giving me experience with a range of approaches to managing the financial affairs of non-profit organizations.

I truly enjoy serving on the PCDO board thanks to the universally capable and cooperative approach of my fellow Execs. Since starting in the position of Treasurer, PCDO has embraced the use of Quickbooks to improve our understanding of where our money comes from and where it goes, enhancing the budget planning process. We have introduced the availability of online membership registration and renewal for the convenience of our members, and just this year, we registered for the first time as a Federal entity, to enable us to participate more fully and accountably in campaigns for federal office. My primary goal moving forward is to continue to smooth and automate the process of membership renewal to improve convenience for all, and to ensure the accuracy of our records. I will continue to attend monthly meetings and devote significant time to the PCDO.

FOR ASSISTANT TREASURER

Matt Hancock

I'm a native of Bergen County, attended Skidmore College in Upstate New York, and have lived in Chicago, Philadelphia and Bologna, Italy (where I met my wonderful wife, Olga). By day I am an organization development consultant and am an active volunteer as a Board member of the Princeton YMCA and the Central NJ chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America.

I've been politically active since 8th grade, when I frustrated the then Republican Mayor of Ridgewood, NJ by speaking in opposition to the City Council's plans to develop natural habitat areas. In addition to environmental issues, I'm passionate about worker rights, economic inequality, and education. I believe that a strong, progressive Democratic Party that is true to its New Deal history is essential to having a better future, and feel that an organization like the PCDO can play an essential role in building that future locally, as we both resist "Trumpism" and continue to make positive progress in Princeton and throughout the state.

In terms of committees, I'd like to plug in where help is most needed. The committees that most interest me are Elections 2017 and Local Issues. I affirm my commitment to attend the majority of meetings and will actively participate in the governance and work of the PCDO, including giving an average of 2 hours per week on committee work.

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FOR RECORDING SECRETARY

Peter Lindenfeld

I have been a member of the PCDO throughout its existence. It has been a strong and effective force for progress, and I would be happy to continue to be able to participate as a member of the Executive Board. I have been the recording secretary for some time, and would be happy to continue in that position. I am a committed Democrat, and I am dismayed that the party has not had the national success that all of us worked for. Locally we have done well, and I would like to contribute to this continuing success.

Until recently I have been the convener of the PCDO book group, and after having taken a sabbatical from this position, I would like again to do what I can to work with the group and to make it as active as possible. I pledge to continue to do my best to attend the meetings of the PCDO and to participate in the activities of the PCDO.

FOR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Joanna Dougherty

I am running for a second term as Corresponding Secretary of PCDO. In an era of email, I mail meeting notices to those who want to receive them via USPS. Other duties include posting the minutes of the Executive Board meetings to the web site and distributing resolutions to their intended recipients.

Through Barack Obama's 2008 national campaign, I got connected to local PCDO efforts and participated primarily through organizing button making at the local HQ. It was an insane amount of work but also great fun. I played the same role in the 2012 campaign and became a PCDO member. The second year I became an at large member of the Executive Board and the following year the corresponding secretary.

I enjoy serving on the Executive Board because it keeps me more connected to ongoing local and state political efforts, and through our deliberations, I can help shape our decision making.

I've volunteered for local Council campaigns and Andrew Zwicker's State Assembly race and find these local campaigns even more engaging. I like to think that our efforts encourage others to engage in political activity "beyond voting" in large part because opportunities are available.

For the last 15 years, I've worked in a local law office, and I would like to serve on the Bylaws Review Committee. I affirm I will regularly attend both the Executive Board and monthly membership meetings.