

I have decided to withdraw my candidacy for re-election to Borough Council. It wasn't an easy decision, but I feel very strongly that it was the right one.

I started public service to Media in 1991, when I joined the Planning Commission. I was on the commission until six years ago, when I was appointed to Borough Council. After twenty years I am ready to try another kind of community service.

Media is a vibrant, healthy town, filled with intelligent, caring citizens. The opinions of one, or even seven Borough Councilpersons, cannot derail its progress—because you—my neighbors—have always directed your elected leaders toward the best course. Sometimes you've done it been through elections, and sometimes through raising your voices in public meetings. I have been proud to listen, and to have had your confidence during the time you allowed me to serve.

This past year has been glaring in its divergence from the past two decades of public life in Media. Last summer a majority of your elected leaders used surprise to relegate me and two other elected Democrats to a minority position on Council. That same majority has since deposed several sitting citizen members of volunteer boards and commissions and has blurred our independence from the County's system of influence and patronage. That worries me, but the reaction of the local Democratic Party has been heartening. Five candidates offered to run for three openings in the Democratic Primary this May. I was one of them. The other four are qualified, committed and offer a variety of skills. Considering them, and my own desire to change the course of my public life, I decided to withdraw.

But make no mistake—I strongly believe that the Democratic Party in Media best serves the interests of local citizens. It represents the central public desires of all of us—to do what's best for our neighborhoods, to maintain our unparalleled police officers and public workers, and to improve the already vibrant life of State Street. I urge you, if you are a Democrat, to vote for your preferred candidates in May, and as a citizen who cares about this town, to please vote for the Democratic slate in November.