

Our Incumbent Township Commissioner Candidates

Sheryl Forste-Grupp, PhD (2nd Ward Commissioner)

Sherry Forste-Grupp grew up in the Cincinnati, Ohio area where her parents were both public school teachers. From them, she learned to value education and the power of questions which together form the foundation of democracy.

She and her husband, Stephan Grupp, moved to Haverford Township in 1996 and set down deep roots. Here they raised their three children, who all attended Haverford Public Schools. Steve is a pediatric oncologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and does ground-breaking research for the treatment of cancer and sickle cell disease. Sherry taught for over 30 years at Villanova, Episcopal Academy, and the Baldwin School. Two years ago, she pivoted from teaching to focus on family and her work as a commissioner for Ward 2 of Haverford Township.

For more than 20 years, Sherry has fought for Haverford Township to have the library it deserves: first as a member of the Library's Board of Trustees and then as a commissioner. Her proudest moment was when the completely renovated and expanded library was re-opened to the public on May 22. Sherry also fought hard to get lights on McDonald Field (just as there are lights at the Genthert and Veteran fields) so night baseball games can be played. She has joined other commissioners to pass Haverford's first comprehensive plan in almost 40 years, ban single-use plastic, limit the expansion of vape shops in the township, and require helmets for children riding e-scooters and e-bikes.

Sherry believes that serving as a commissioner is a great honor and responsibility. She listens to all residents and works to respond to their questions and concerns.

Judy Trombetta (4th Ward Commissioner)

Judy Trombetta was elected in November 2021 to represent the residents of the 4th Ward on the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners. Upon taking office in January 2022, she made history as the first woman to serve in a leadership position on the Board, first as Vice President and then as President beginning January 6, 2025. Judy also chairs the Economic Development Committee, where she has championed initiatives to support local businesses. Among her proudest accomplishments are launching the Citizen Reporter platform, introducing innovative business grant programs, advancing environmental sustainability, and spearheading efforts to attract and retain a diverse workforce.

A native of suburban Philadelphia, Judy earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Temple University and her Master of Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. She has held leadership roles in government at local and state levels, including serving as Chief of Staff in Pittsburgh and later in the Pennsylvania State Senate, and currently works as Intergovernmental Affairs Manager for Montgomery County. With more than fifteen years of public service, Judy has combined her experience in government and nonprofits, including roles at The Food Trust and the Radnor Educational Fund, to advance meaningful community improvements. She lives in Haverford Township with her husband, Brandon, and their son, Ari.

Larry Holmes, Esquire (6th Ward Commissioner)

Larry Holmes has lived in Haverford Township almost thirty years, where he and Priscilla raised their four children. Larry was first elected to the Board of Commissioners in November 2005, and has served at various times as the Board's Vice President and President during his five terms in office. While keeping a hand in all the important matters in the township, Larry has concentrated his focus on the Township's financial health, serving as the chair of the Finance Committee since 2010, except during his three years as President. Equally important to Larry are the Library and the Skatium (although he would admit he spends more time playing ice hockey than he does reading books). At his core, Larry refers to himself as a 'dyed-in-the-hemp liberal' and lists among his proudest moments supporting and legislating human rights in Haverford Township, and he has been a vocal champion of LBGTQ and Women's rights, locally and nationally. 'It has been my honor to serve our friends and neighbors in the Sixth Ward and the Township, and it would be my privilege to continue to do so,' says Holmes.

Gerry Hart (8th Ward Commissioner)

Gerry Hart was born in the Bronx and grew up in Middletown, NJ. After graduating from Boston College (BA English, 1975) and Rutgers Medical School (MD, 1983) he completed a residency in Family Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. He has practiced mostly in the Philadelphia area for 40 years, and has been retired for 3 years.

Gerry has lived in Havertown for 35 years. He's a widower with 6 adult children and 2 grandchildren. He was very involved with youth sports (baseball and soccer) as both a coach and Board member for many years. He is currently volunteering with Master Gardeners of Delaware County and Master Watershed Stewards.

Gerry was elected Commissioner in 2017, and served as Board President in 2021. He is currently Commissioner liaison to Parks & Recreation, the Health Advisory Board, and the Shade Tree Commission. He was co-chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and is currently serving on the Zoning Code Steering Committee. He is actively involved in planning for the development of Brookline Park, and has been working throughout his time on the Board to expand walking and biking trails in the Township as well as bike lanes.