

I'm Lilly Gioia and I'm a candidate for Forks Supervisor. I'd like to thank everyone who made this forum happen tonight.

As a journalist covering state and local government for more than a dozen years, I saw first-hand how the best and worst decisions affect real people's lives. I saw how government REALLY works.

Interviewing people from all walks of life gave me insights into many communities. So when I see everyone from babies to elderly folks at Forks Community Days, I know what a family-friendly township we really have. Walking door to door doing election canvassing in Forks, I've met countless hard-working, decent neighbors.

But when I saw hundreds of my neighbors up in arms at our Municipal complex opposing a developer trying to build thousands of dwellings and add thousands of cars to Sullivan Trail traffic, it was proof to me that we must have clear-headed, experienced and sensible Supervisors on our Town Board to protect our quality of life.

With my background as a Summa Cum Laude communications graduate, 3 years as President of the Business & Professional Women of Lehigh Valley, and 2 years service on the Northampton County Election Commission, I know I have the knowledge and experience to do a good job serving this community.

In the exceptionally harsh economic times we're facing, I think our township can ill afford to spend hard-earned tax dollars on anything but necessities. When neighborhood budgets are stretched to the max, in my opinion this is no time to be investing tax dollars into building costly swimming pools, dog facilities or bridges to nowhere across Sullivan Trail, especially when Penn Dot already plans to put in a light on Meco Road. Nor should Forks become a victim of suburban sprawl to suit developers.

When I moved to Forks 8 years ago, I soon learned how seriously Pennsylvania's state education funds were lacking. Pennsylvania then ranked 4th from the bottom around Alabama and Mississippi. So I joined Good Schools Pennsylvania and have seen substantial increases in state education funding, catapulting Pennsylvania's student achievements to among the top

in the nation. Who you elect does make a BIG difference.

As a member of Business & Professional Women for over 20 years I've worked to help women entrepreneurs build their business skills, and raised college scholarship funds. As a member of our state Legislation Committee, I've advocated for equal pay for women and to end domestic violence. I've often met with politicians in Harrisburg and Washington.

I'd like to put all I know to work for you and serve my community as a Forks Township Supervisor. I hope you will give me this opportunity.