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### Forks Township Democrats endorse write-in candidates for supervisors

#### Two incumbents from the party opted not to run again.

By Christopher Baxter

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The Forks Township Democratic Committee, upset that no one from the party filed in March to compete for two positions on the Board of Supervisors, this week backed two write-in candidates.

The decision to endorse Democrats James Wideman and Lilly Gioia for the May primary gives voters an alternative to the five Republicans seeking the two six-year positions, said supervisor Chairman C. David Howell, a member of the committee.

Howell and other local and county party leaders met Wednesday to determine how to bolster ranks after Bonnie Nicholas and Donald Miller, the two incumbent Democratic supervisors, decided at the last minute not to run for re-election.

"Quite honestly, there was an assumption, an incorrect assumption, that the incumbent Democrats on the board were going to run again," Howell said. "I think that kept other Democrats from entering the race."

Gioia, 70, moved to Forks in 2001 after a 25-year career in journalism and public relations in New York, according to a news release. From 2005 to 2007, she served as a member of the Northampton County Election Commission. She plans to campaign on greater budgetary oversight and containing urban sprawl and development.

Wideman, 54, lived for 20 years in Easton before moving to Forks in 2001, according to a separate news release. He was appointed to an unexpired term on the township Planning Commission in 2005 but was not reappointed two years later. Wideman in 2007 ran unsuccessfully for a slot on the board.

He plans to make Forks a more business-friendly community to attract commercial development, and also ensure the township's infrastructure keeps pace with its growth.

Also vying for the two positions are five Republicans: planner David Billings, former supervisor Henning Holmgaard, Michele L. Rogers, Kevin L. Wall and Simon Sikora Jr.

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