

Supervisor Candidates

Larry Vogel Supervisor

1. What do you feel are your qualifications to serve in the position of township supervisor? Leadership is actively knowing, and leading people. Before the primary election I walked to 4,000 homes in South Park, and I have again walked to each home getting ready for the general election. In addition to being a Volunteer Firefighter, I am actively involved in several community organizations. Many of you have served in the military, and I thank you for your service. I too have served for nearly 25 years. I have lived and taught the following seven values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. These values have been the keystone of my professions as well as being a husband and father outside the uniform. I have directly lead teams (some over one hundred individuals) and accountable for equipment worth millions of dollars. I have held positions that include Military Officer, Director of Logistics, Vice President and Sr Safety Consultant. My most rewarding professional achievement has been championing people and developing junior leaders. Recognizing the diversity of each individual and forging together to realize our commonality which is South Park. I have performed each profession and position with excellence, and I will perform the position of Township Supervisor just as honorably for you.

2. If elected to this position in November, what do you see as your primary responsibilities as a Township Supervisor?

It was rewarding coordinating Military Veteran & First Responders night before the high school football game a couple weeks ago, giving students an opportunity to honor their family heroes. You, are the priority and my responsibility is ensuring our township consistently functions so you are successful. I remember teaching my oldest daughter how to balance a checkbook, but this is not just checking a block. Being a Director of Logistics and VP, I have learned forecast well into the future, positioning resources and measure progress ensures longevity of an organization's success. Making sure maintenance and safety are reaching their potential and publicly communicating back to you. Why is that important? That night families could focus on what was important, and not wonder if the roads are clear or will my family be safe watching the game.

Critical to quality leadership is clear, timely communication. Communication "in-depth" is crucial meaning there must be various, reliable means of providing transparent information to you, South Park. Our township webpage desperately needs updated to include being more user-friendly. I have heard the frustration in several voices as some feel South Park lags behind neighboring communities, especially communication. Retention is very important, and informing all residents will avoid empty homes. Therefore, communication is a responsibility of the township to ensure you are informed about how your financial invests are being allocated and progress of our community.

3. Is there a particular project or program you hope to complete, change or implement?

We completed the 3rd annual September 11th Stair Climb held in South Park this past week. Our first responders (police, firefighters, EMS) are heroes within our community. We thank you! But words alone do not keep them or our families safe. With a growing population and increased density of buildings, the simple math equates increased risk of emergencies. This will stress the capabilities of first responders. Being a Sr Safety Professional and proud Volunteer Firefighter, I clearly comprehend this challenge and there are multiple projects required to strengthen our community safety. One is mitigating the risks in our infrastructure to include the integrity of our road system (prompt emergency response) and lighting along several roadways (deterrence and visibility). We also need to equip our first responders to allow for safe and effective response. I have seen the disbelief on the faces of families when dealing with an unexpected emergency, and their gratitude when help quickly arrives. Our community safety record was instrumental in deciding to raise our family in South Park and I promise to sustain our reputation on the ground with our first responders for all residents of South Park.

Immediately following the "stair climb", I attended a veterans meeting and then raced to Evan's Field to watch my youngest daughter play soccer. We need lighting and public restroom / changing facilities. Yes, we are going to get this done too.

4. *What is one of the largest problems facing the Township and how would you deal with it?*

South Park, I am listening. Many of you are scratching your heads on what is standing between potential commerce and empty commercial space. This is clearly prevalent in Library, PA. Little has changed and even less has been shared between South Park Township and all residents. A "challenge" is probably a better word than problem. While walking house-to-house, I analyzed the land that physically makes-up our township. Even the potential rezoning of areas does not change the facts. South Park is limited with two significant roadways; Brownsville and Route 88. South Park is fortunate to neighbor South Park (Allegheny County Park) as well as the natural beauty of land-features and wetlands. South Park residents' value our greenspaces and we want to preserve and protect these spaces. We first establish where feasibly commerce can be established. We need to market and have an inviting attitude towards attracting ideal businesses that compliment our South Park community. I have commented to several residents "Families might visit Trax Farm during the day, but South Park should offer an inviting environment to visit, shop or enjoy dinner that evening". We can offer options that compliment our neighboring communities, and we will see South Park blossom.

What would you like to say to the voters before they go to the polls in November?

I want to personally thank Park News for giving the candidates this opportunity, and I thank you South Park for reading what we have to share with you. I fully understand how
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busy your lives are, and I greatly appreciate your time. I know success in this position is not personal achievement, but community strength and you hardly knowing my name. I have been very active in our Veteran community and I say to the older generation it's out of honor and respect that the next generation steps-up and keeps their hard work moving forward. Walter "Walt" Sackinsky, thank you for several years of service to South Park Township, and now the next generation will step-up and keep us moving forward.

South Park, make your voice heard on election day with your vote. I was there when the nation of Iraq held their initial election as free people, and it was powerful seeing the excitement among those people. Please, exercise your inherited freedom to vote. I would be forever in your debt and humbled by the opportunity to serve our South Park. I am Lawrence Vogel, Combat Veteran, Volunteer Firefighter and Husband / Father. Your Vote! Your Voice!