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PCDO Endorses Lempert

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The Princeton Community Democratic Organization (PCDO) formally endorsed

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Lempert in her bid to become the first mayor of the unified Princeton, along with four prospective candidates for Council: Lance Liverman, Bernie Miller, Heather

Photo by Anna Savoia

Howard, and Patrick Simon.

In anticipation of the first election cycle of the soon-to-be consolidated Princeton Borough and Township, Sunday's assembly at the Jewish Center of Princeton drew a crowd of over 500 community members and eligible voters.

Lempert and all four endorsed council members received over 60% of the PCDO vote. The other declared mayoral candidate, Borough Councilman Kevin Wilkes, received 31.4% of the vote.

Of the council candidates, former Borough councilmember Howard received the largest number of votes and the greatest proportion of endorsements at 85%. Township committee members Liverman and Miller, as well as Joint Consolidation Committee member Simon, each received around 60% of the vote.

Several other candidates for Princeton Council — Jo Butler, Jenny Crumiller,

Tamera Matteo and Scott Sillars — garnered more than 40% of the vote but less than 60%. These candidates will not be officially endorsed with the Democratic organization’s slogan; however, the PCDO will recommend them to be listed alongside the endorsed candidates on the June primary election ballot.

The candidates who did not receive at least 40% of the vote were former Borough mayor Yina Moore and Borough council member Roger Martindell.

In addition to reading their statements, candidates answered six major questions prepared before the meeting. These questions tackled everything from keeping Princeton diverse, revitalizing the downtown business district, looking at the effects of consolidation, to examining the ever-present relationship with Princeton University.

Lempert stated that the greatest challenge to the community would be handling consolidation.

“How do we make Princeton’s consolidation a success story and not a cautionary tale?” she asked. Lempert said that one of her goals as a mayoral candidate would be to make sure the town saw the financial savings promised to them by the Consolidation Commission’s findings.

“[But] our biggest risk is not being bold during this transition,” said Howard. Howard voiced strong support for consolidation’s financial potentials, as well as its ability to “provide a real opportunity to rethink and restructure our government and preserve services for our community.”

In addition to consolidation, candidates discussed the critical need for more constructive town-gown relations. After tensions arising from the Arts and Transit Center and the Institute of Advanced Study’s expansion, many candidates spoke of repairing relations with the University.

“I would like to foster an open dialogue that clearly spells out what is needed from Princeton University,” said Liverman. “It is important for all parties to know that the new Princeton will need to operate in an efficient and professional manner.”

About the Author »



Vivienne Chen

Vivienne Chen is a student at Princeton University majoring in English. She recently moved to Princeton from Pleasanton, California.

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