

A status report on the candidates

The Bethlehem Gadfly Candidates for election, Election February 12, 2021

 *Latest in a series of posts on candidates for election* 

How's the candidate pool for the May 18 election shaping up?

It's early yet.

Candidates have until March 9 to formally file to run in the May 18 primary.

About a month from now.

Plenty of time for others to show up, but candidates do have to allow enough time to collect the proper number of signatures to accompany their filing paperwork.

Gadfly focuses narrowly on the Bethlehem City elective positions, Mayor and City Council.

Here are the slates the **Bethlehem City Democratic Committee** recently put out:

Mayor

Dana Grubb

Willie Reynolds

City Council (4 seats)

Bryan Callahan

Grace Crampsie Smith

Hillary Kwiatek

Adam Waldron

Gadfly hasn't heard anything about Republican candidates.

So, good, we have competition for Mayor. And there's the further possibility that Councilman Callahan might enter the race (see below).

But four candidates for four Council slots is not good. (Two-term current Councilwoman Negron is not running again.) At the moment, no competition.

In these pages Gadfly has several times asked rhetorically **“Where are the Republicans?”**

Along that line of thinking, he happened yesterday by chance to come across Nicole Radziewich’s **“Why Republican challengers are scarce in Bethlehem, Easton”** article from a few years ago.

“Bethlehem, which has had two Republican mayors, and had split councils decades ago, has been run by a Democratic mayor and council the last 20 years,” Gadfly learned, “The last time Republicans ran a full slate of council candidates was 2011, and the last Republican to run for mayor was in 2003.”

Interesting.

More interesting and more indicative of the kind of thinking that demonstrates why Gadfly could never be a politician was the idea that Republicans were actually discouraging candidates in Lehigh Valley cities in order to focus on the suburbs.

Go figure.

Noteworthy, as Gadfly has pointed out several times in these pages, Lehigh Valley Good Neighbors Alliance has been looking to recruit

candidates for Mayor and Council.



Lehigh Valley Good Neighbors Alliance

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Our hearts are breaking tonight at Lehigh Valley Good Neighbors Alliance. A very courageous person and Bethlehem City Council member has been seriously considering running for Mayor of Bethlehem. But he is wavering in his decision. Bryan Callahan fought passionately in 2020 to prevent police defunding in Bethlehem. He repeatedly stood up to other Council members who publicly flaunted their willingness to compromise public safety and capitulate to the efforts of reckless Marxist organizers who demanded not only the defunding but the outright abolishment of the Bethlehem Police Department.

Perhaps some of our concerned citizens and Good Neighbors (and by some I mean dozens) could reach out to Bryan Callahan and ask him to seriously consider running for Mayor of Bethlehem? Bethlehem and America need people of courage right now. People who have the courage to fight against those attempting to destabilize our city and country rather than constructively build it up. If Bryan decides to run, he's going to need an army of volunteers to help him (again, dozens of volunteers to stay with him from March through November 2021.

Bryan's picture and one of his many statements to council are shown at the bottom right-hand corner of the inside of our pamphlet. Please contact Councilman Bryan Callahan to voice your support for his candidacy at bcallahan@bethlehem-pa.gov.

Just yesterday it was, Gadfly believes, that LVGNA identified Councilman Callahan as a candidate to support for Mayor and sought its followers to put some pressure on the Councilman to run.

Ouch.

Gadfly would welcome Councilman Callahan in the mayoral race. Gadfly likes the idea of competition. And even a cursory Bethlehem government watcher knows that the Councilman's views would clash in many respects with the other two contenders.

But, frankly, if Gadfly were Councilman Callahan, an endorsement from LVGNA is not one that he would particularly welcome.

Gadfly is invigorated by many of the posts on the LVGNA facebook page, but in the post soliciting their followers to nudge Councilman Callahan, LVGNA includes their **“coffee cup” brochure** that Gadfly found a **pretty sorry and low specimen of political argument**. Not the kind of political discourse we or the world needs more of at this cultural moment.

Gadfly has had **significant problems** with some of LVGNA’s positions and style, and he hopes Councilman Callahan would not become associated with them.