

O, yes, election season has begun

The Bethlehem Gadfly Candidates for election, City government, Election, Lehigh Valley Good Neighbors Alliance January 11, 2021

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

ref: **Councilman Reynolds opens his mayoral campaign**

ref: **Thinking about the primary election**

ref: **Lehigh Valley Good Neighbors Alliance issues a CALL TO ACTION**

As Gadfly tries to dial back from the national drama (though this week promises to be as portentous as last), he would like to call attention to the beginning of the local political campaign season.

In an event likely to have been overshadowed by the insurrection, Councilman Reynolds kicked off his run for mayor last Wednesday. He should never have any difficulty recalling the exact date he tossed his hat in the ring!

Four City Council seats are also on the line.

Elections excite the Gadfly. They represent periodic new beginnings, fresh starts.

And Councilman Reynolds has laid out substantial visions for the future to woo our votes.

And we will hear more from campaigns that will necessarily have to be run under pandemic rules.

How interesting. What impact will there be on such standard fare as door-to-door solicitation, meet-and-greets, candidate nights, and so forth? Will campaigning radically change? Will we see innovative tactics?

You've seen Gadfly **hope for competition**, the vigorous exchange of ideas in the public square that makes us all better.

He would particularly like to see people of color and women candidates.

But sometimes, as they say, you gotta watch what you ask for.

The Lehigh Valley Good Neighbors Alliance is **looking for candidates**.

That does not bode well, thinks the Gadfly.

We've seen one commenter in these pages say that "this group seems to prefer labels & fear-mongering to actual analysis or truth."

And to wonder "what the term 'Marxist' means to them."

Another poster found the LVGNA commentary "pretty awful . . . incendiary and off-putting, not an opening for a conversation."

If there is one thing that the insurrection tells us, it's that we need to seek a greater sense of community.

In addition, Gadfly hears President Waldron's wise **call** for civility in our local dealings.

As a first step in fielding a candidate, Gadfly would ask LVGNA to stop the name-calling and to explain how Marxism pertains to the actions done by and positions held by current elected officials.

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