

March 2, 2023

Chairman Radanovic,

I have been provided with a copy of your recent undated letter "encouraging" me to suspend my candidacy. I will note that I never received it from you, but from someone else. Apparently, this communication was sent to RCLC Committee members without providing a copy to me.

It is 100% accurate that initially I intended to go through the endorsement process as a long-standing member of the Republican Committee of Lancaster County and not run against the endorsement. However, this was premised upon my expectation this process would be fair, impartial and done with integrity as it had been for many years. I believed that the process would involve an unbiased assessment of each candidate's qualifications.

Unfortunately, I soon learned from my own experience and the reports of many others that there was a coordinated effort to only support a certain group of candidates. There was never an effort to provide the good, hardworking Committee members and thereby the general public with honest, forthright information about the candidates. The sole purpose was to manipulate the process.

Back on December 14, 2022, you sent a letter to Committee members attacking the Lancaster Bar Association Judicial Review process, essentially asking Committee members to blackball any candidate who went through that process. To my knowledge, this was the first time in RCLC history that a coordinated effort was directed to judicial candidates not to be evaluated by their peers. To make matters worse, there was no effort to mention the fact that the LBA process had been entirely revamped to provide an honest, transparent assessment of a candidate's qualifications. The fact of the matter is the LBA Judicial Review process is now consistent with both the Pennsylvania and National Bar Association practices. Finally, I was told that if I went through the LBA process, I would never get endorsed by the RCLC.

I am honored and proud to have received a "Highly Recommended" rating from the LBA. In issuing my rating, the LBA said, "The candidate was considered a statewide authority on Megan's Law, with particularly high marks for assisting victims of sexual assault and child abuse. The candidate's skill set has translated very well to her present position. The candidate is described as diligent and smart, and practitioners give her high marks for managing the courtroom in an even-handed manner. The candidate is described as having a high degree of integrity, and litigants can trust what the candidate says. The candidate has a demonstrated ability to do the job well. The candidate is a credit to the bench and she would be well-suited to remain in that position. For these reasons, the Committee highly recommends her candidacy for the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas."

I have served proudly as a Republican committeewoman, Area Chair and until now have respected the RCLC endorsement process. When I was nominated by Senators Martin and Aument, approved unanimously by the entire Pennsylvania Senate and appointed by the Governor, I took an oath to "protect obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Pennsylvania." I am the only remaining candidate who has served as a judge and I will have nearly 1 ½ years of experience on the bench at the time of the election. I cannot, I will not, sit idly by and watch an

institution I have loved and respected be decimated by those who have no respect for honesty, integrity or the Rule of Law.

The Committee members of the RCLC and, indeed, all citizens of Lancaster deserve to be told the truth when evaluating the credentials of a judicial candidate. A fundamental principle of our nation is the concept of separate but co-equal branches of government. An independent, qualified judiciary is critical.

In closing, I encourage all open-minded, logical thinking people to thoroughly investigate all candidates and decide who will best serve our community as a judge. This election will impact our County for decades.


Karen L. Maisano, Judge