



February 16, 2026

Mr. Kirk Radanovic, Chairman
Republican Committee of Lancaster County
2260 Erin Court
Lancaster, PA 17601

Dear Chairman Radanovic:

I am writing to advise you that I have made the decision to seek the Republican nomination for the Pennsylvania 36th Senatorial District regardless of the outcome of the endorsement vote tomorrow evening. I ask you to join me in encouraging the Republican Committee of Lancaster County (RCLC) to support an open primary. This decision is rooted in the simple fact that I do not believe State Representative Tom Jones can win a competitive General Election against the incumbent State Senator James Malone, and this is a must-win election.

Commissioner Josh Parson's historic Special Election loss in March of 2025 was not an anomaly. We must acknowledge that the changing demographics in Lancaster County and the current political headwinds facing all Republican candidates running in 2026 present a significant challenge. And while the 36th Senatorial District is still rated a strong Republican seat, recent national election results and internal polling data tell a very different story. Simply put, we cannot risk running the same, losing campaign a second time and just hope for better results.

We need to look no further than the recent 14-point win by Democratic state Senate candidate Taylor Rehmet in Texas. Mr. Rehmet defeated the Republican candidate in a district where President Trump won by a 58-41% margin in 2024. Rehmet's victory marks a 31-point swing towards the Democrats in one of the most Republican regions of our country.

The factors in play in Texas are the same ones we saw in Lancaster County last year, and which we risk repeating by running the same plays from a losing playbook.

Just as importantly, the RCLC cannot risk once again hand-picking the wrong candidate. Another loss in this seat, combined with difficulties our party faces in other parts of the state, puts our party's long-held state senate majority in peril, potentially giving Governor Josh Shapiro full control of the General Assembly as he prepares a Presidential campaign.

This is a historic moment. It calls for us to put egos aside and do what is best for our party. Given the high stakes nature of this upcoming Republican primary and general election, and the RCLC's historic Special Election loss in 2025, the RCLC needs to let the voters decide!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary Jo Huyard'.

Mary Jo Huyard