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## Berks Democratic Committee hears candidates' bids for support at meeting in Sinking Spring



### Hopefuls in May primary give presentations on their agendas at Sinking Spring meeting

By Mary E. Young  
*Reading Eagle*



Democratic candidates for state and federal offices had their nominating petitions in hand Saturday, greeting party members and asking for their signatures and support in the May 18 primary election.

The candidates also did brief presentations on their reasons for running and their agendas at the monthly meeting of the Berks County Democratic Committee in Western Berks Fire Station No. 2 in Sinking Spring.

The meeting drew more than 100 people.

Instead of talking about his own re-election campaign, state Rep. Tim Seip, a Schuylkill County resident who represents part of Berks, emphasized the importance of retaining the seats Democrats hold and adding more.

"We have to maintain the majority in the (state) House of Representatives," Seip said. "It's going to be a long, uphill battle until we retake the state Senate. If we lose the majority in the House, we won't be able to do anything."

"I can't emphasize enough how important it is to work for our candidates."

Seip also encouraged the Democrats to support U.S. Rep. Tim Holden, saying Holden has been a strong ally in fighting for transportation projects and farmland preservation.

Holden, whose 17th Congressional District includes part of Berks, could not attend because of a scheduling conflict, Seip said.

Sheila Dow Ford, a Harrisburg attorney, said Holden will have competition from her this year.

She said running against an incumbent takes courage, principle and leadership, and that she possesses those qualities.

"I'm running because I care," Ford said. "I care about jobs. I care about health care. I care about housing. I care about education."

"I have worked all of my life to make sure we have better communities, better schools, better jobs and better opportunities. I am committed, and I am capable."

Lois Herr, a Lancaster County resident hoping to win the seat in the 16th Congressional District currently held by Republican U.S. Rep. Joseph R. Pitts, brought along a cardboard cutout of him. She said the time has come to say no to Joe.

No gubernatorial or lieutenant governor candidates attended.

Committee Chairman Tom Herman said he was pleased with the turnout of party supporters and candidates.

"This is a great opportunity for committee people to hear and meet their candidates," he said. "The candidates get to make brief presentations, and get to be known."

"We look forward to working for all the candidates to win in November."

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[+] Enlarge. (5 pictures)



*Reading Eagle: Susan L. Angstadt*  
Sheila Dow Ford of Harrisburg talks to Berks County Democrats, meeting Saturday in Sinking Spring, about her primary bid for the 17th Congressional District seat held by U.S. Rep. Tim Holden.

[Susan L. Angstadt on Facebook](#)

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