

Re-Elect

John



SIP TROT H

State Representative ★ 189th

Paid for by "Friends of John J. Siptroth"





JOHN J. SIPTROTH

MEMBER, 189TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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John Siptroth

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

As our next State Representative, John Siptroth will use his experience, as a veteran, sportsman, volunteer firefighter and township supervisor to make State Government work for the people of Monroe and Pike Counties.



John Siptroth *He has a plan for our future.*

Strengthen our Economy and Help Create Jobs

Without a good paying and stable job, nothing else matters. That's why John Siptroth has developed a real plan to improve wages and create jobs. He wants to invest in businesses and manufacturing by providing grants and loans for new technology, job training and new equipment—and at the same time raise the state's minimum wage.

Reform Healthcare

John Siptroth knows we can do better than the current health care system in Pennsylvania, and he has a plan to solve the state's medical malpractice crisis. John will require the courts to set up a process that deals with minor malpractice claims without costly trials, dismissing those cases that have no merit. The Siptroth plan will keep doctors in Pennsylvania and make healthcare more affordable and accessible for every Pennsylvanian.

Ease Traffic, Stop Overdevelopment, Protect Open Space

As a Township Supervisor, John Siptroth has fought tirelessly to prevent sprawl and overdevelopment. As State Representative, he will use his years of experience to promote smart planning, redevelop abandoned industrial sites, protect open space and ease traffic congestion by completing the route 209 bypass.

Keep Our Area on the Right Track...

Vote
John Siptroth
February 8th, 2005

Paid for and Authorized by the
Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee

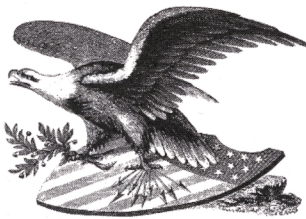
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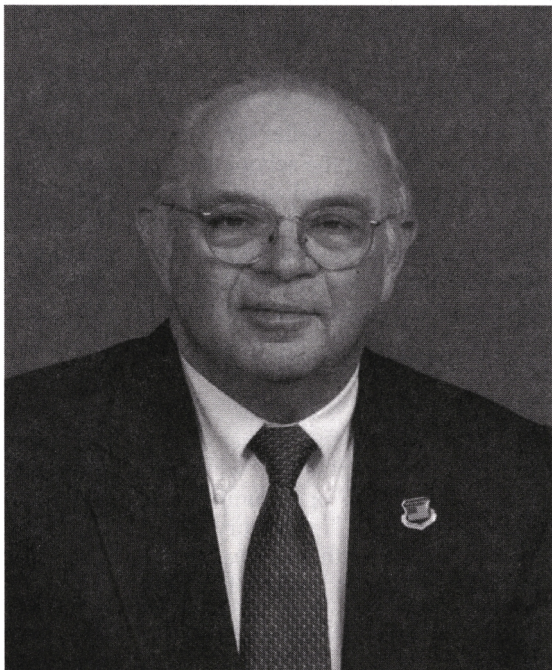
ELECTION

189TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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FEBRUARY 8 2005

MEET JOHN J. SIPTROTH



JOHN J. SIPTROTH – Democratic Candidate

HELLO, my name is John Siptroth and I am your candidate for State Representative of the 189th Legislative District. This district includes Porter, Lehman, Delaware and Dingman Townships in Pike County, and the Townships of Middle Smithfield, Smithfield, Stroud, Hamilton, Ross, Chestnut Hill and the Borough of Delaware Water Gap in Monroe County.

This Special Election is being held on February 8th to choose who will represent your interests in Harrisburg. The reason for this mid-winter election is the sudden resignation of Kelly Lewis shortly after winning the recent November contest.

The 189th has been overlooked and ignored by the decision-makers in Harrisburg, mainly because our last representative failed to communicate our aspirations, concerns and local issues at a state level. He was not able to build the bipartisan relationships necessary to create practical solutions for our local infrastructure and taxation issues. He failed to convince those who control the state budget that citizens in the 189th are just as important as the residents of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. I want to change this situation for the better.

I have the necessary local government experience, the respect of Representatives, Senators and Congressmen and the long-standing working relationships with state and federal agencies that are needed to ensure that the 189th gets the recognition and funding that we deserve. Please vote for me on February 8th.

I was born and raised in the Borough of Delaware Water Gap, where my parents and our tight knit community instilled the values of family, community and faith. Throughout my life, I have lived those values, striving to give back to the community that has given me so much.

I served in the United States Navy, from 1966-1970 as an air traffic controller and then went on to serve the Federal Government in the same capacity until 1982 when I went to work for the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, maintaining the infrastructure of the bridges.

I have always made family, faith and community my top priorities. I have served as a volunteer firefighter for 37 years; I am an avid hunter and sportsman and play the drums for the faith group at my local church.

I have been married for 37 wonderful years to my wife, Elaine. We moved to Smithfield Township in 1974 and built our home there. We have two sons, Stanley (36) and Kyle (26) and three grandchildren. I enjoy all the time I can spend with my family because I believe quality time with them is an important part of life. The same is true for community service.

MY LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

- Smithfield Township supervisor since 1990
- Chairman Board of Supervisors, Smithfield Township since 2004
- President, Monroe County Township Officials 1998-1999
- 1st Vice President 1996-1997 Monroe County Township Officials
- 2nd Vice President 1994-1995 Monroe County Township Officials
- Treasurer Monroe County Township Officials - Current
- President, Pocono Mountains Council of Governments
- 2nd Vice President, Pennsylvania Council of Governments
- PSATS Committee member 2004 to present.
- Past Chairman and current member of the Monroe County Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- Past President and current member of the DWG Fire Department
- Treasurer of the Delaware Water Gap Firefighters' Relief Assoc.
- Alternate, Monroe County representative to Northeastern Rural Transportation Planning Organization

INSIDE: Property Taxes Economic Development Infrastructure Open Space

Managing Our Growth

As a member of Pennsylvania's State Association of Township Supervisors, I have long advocated giving local municipalities the power to resist over-development.

Under Pennsylvania's Municipalities Planning Code (MPC 1968) every municipality must provide every conceivable type of land use within its borders—even if they believe some land uses are not in the best interest of the municipality. Developers currently use the MPC to sue township officials who oppose development. I will propose legislation in Harrisburg to amend the MPC to allow municipalities to deny certain land use requests. I will also advocate for township officials to get appropriate legal protection relating to their decisions on land use applications.

I will submit a bill to amend the MPC to allow municipalities to invoke concurrency requirements, meaning that new developments can be built only when and where infrastructure, such as roads and sewers, is in place to accommodate it. This would mean that any new development could be channeled to areas where sufficient infrastructure is already in place, or where it is practical and desirable to build new infrastructure.

As a Supervisor of Smithfield Township, I have been a strong advocate of the Open Space program. We recently purchased hundreds of acres of prime land to save it from the developers. I will seek more Open Space funding from Harrisburg so that our municipalities can continue to set land aside.

Pennsylvania's existing Impact Fee law, established in 1990, is not working. I will propose an amendment to make it easier for municipalities to set an impact fee and collect it from developers. I would also expand existing legislation to allow municipalities to use fees collected from developers to be spent on a wider range of infrastructure programs.

Many municipalities do not have the financial resources to implement mandatory impact studies, develop comprehensive zoning or subdivision ordinances, or perform other necessary planning operations. In order for municipalities to have real power to make local decisions on planning and land use they must receive more funding from the state level. As your State Representative I will see that funding is put in place and that municipalities in the 189th get the money they need to accomplish their goals.

School Property & Local Taxes

I am proud of my record on taxes. Smithfield Township, where I have been a Supervisor for 15 years, has not had to raise taxes since 1994 because of sound fiscal planning and the elimination of wasteful spending. As your State Representative I will continue to fight for lower taxes.

One reason that school property taxes are rocketing is that the State's level of funding for public school education has fallen to 35% from its original level of 50%. Most other states have increased their funding levels to nearly 60%. I will work with colleagues on both sides of the House to ensure that the state fulfills its commitment to our school system.

Another reason that taxes are high is our region's rampant growth. I will submit legislation in my first term that will give more control over local development to local government, including the power to levy impact fees on new residential

construction. This is a guaranteed way to reduce school property taxes.

My plans for economic development in the 189th will also increase our commercial tax base, thus reducing the burden on residential property owners. Additional revenue can also be found through increased fees on the importation of out of state trash into Pennsylvania.

There are many homeowners on lower or fixed incomes. School property taxes represent a real threat to continued homeownership. Those citizens who need it should get immediate relief, and this relief can only be found in bipartisan cooperation. I will continue to work with Republicans and Independents to achieve our mutual goal of a fair and equitable redistribution of the school property tax burden.

I was not an advocate for slot machines as a solution to school property tax relief but I do support Act 72. I am cautious about speculating on how much actual relief will come from gaming revenues. The decision to shift the school tax from property to income now rests with our school districts. My job as your State Representative will be to use my political connections to bring back more supplementary educational funding and also to convince Harrisburg to reclassify Monroe County by taking into consideration its rapid growth since the last census.

Economic Development Plans

Twenty-first century business is done at 21st century speeds. In some parts of the 189th residents cannot even get broadband internet access! This is unacceptable. If we want to attract new companies, create employment opportunities and develop our economy, we need to create a 21st century data infrastructure. Businesses will not build it for themselves, as there is no need. Someone, somewhere is already doing it for them.

Communities in Virginia, like Danville and Blacksburg, have used state and federal funding to reinvent themselves. Once fading textile and farming areas, they are now centers of emerging technology initiatives.

I believe that Pennsylvania's 189th Legislative District is even better placed than Danville and Blacksburg to create an IT friendly environment for modern industry and emerging technologies, and to attract hi tech companies from the NY/NJ metro areas. This is why:

- 1) We are the 'Gateway to the West', just 60 miles from the NY & NJ metro areas down Interstate 80.
- 2) 18,000 workers already live in the Poconos and drive back and forth to NY & NJ to work. They have made the Poconos their home, and I will help bring their companies here so that they don't have to commute and so that our children don't have to leave our communities to find good careers. I will do this by promoting the 189th to companies who are expanding, actively relocating or seeking to cut the high cost of office rental in the city.
- 3) The Poconos are considered a 'Safe Data Haven'. High-speed networks are already carrying data from NYC, through the 189th, to Blakeslee. There are people with vision, investing their energy and expertise here. I will continue to support their efforts and promote their successes.
- 4) There are many opportunities and incentives available to businesses moving into Pike and Monroe Counties.

Amongst these are Keystone Opportunity Zones, Keystone Innovation Zones and HUB zones.

As State Representative for the 189th, one of my first priorities will be to kick-start the development of our communications infrastructure and to promote the 189th and our skilled workers to companies up and down the East Coast of the US. I will create a 'technology task force' that will be a *real* and effective tool for accelerating the 189th into the 21st century. I will hand pick a team of motivated business and IT professionals and will use my position as your State Representative, and my experience in local government, to secure the good will and cooperation of municipalities, townships and communities, as well as the necessary funding from Harrisburg and private industry, to move us all forward into a prosperous and rewarding future.

I further believe that it is time to raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage, which has stood at \$5.15 an hour for the past seven years, to \$6.15 an hour, incrementally over the next few years.

My Healthcare Initiatives

Thousands of Pennsylvanians are without health insurance even though they qualify for state health insurance coverage. Many of the uninsured are children. Uninsured patients cost our hospitals millions of dollars in unrecoverable charity treatment, thus reducing the service that our medical professionals can extend to our communities. As your State Representative, I will initiate a program that encourages hospitals to register those uninsured patients who qualify for state insurance, and which allows schools to help parents register students who have no health coverage and who are eligible for CHIPS. I will fight to extend CHIPS, the PACE and PACENET programs, increase coverage and raise the threshold for eligibility. Small businesses should be allowed to join together to negotiate health benefit programs for their employees at more affordable rates.

I will introduce legislation that allows the court system to review medical malpractice lawsuits to avoid needless, costly trials, and to dismiss those cases that have no merit. At the same time, we need to make 'pain & suffering' awards more appropriate in scale.

I will work with my colleagues in the House and Senate to push for the right of Pennsylvania to negotiate the cost of prescription drugs with the pharmaceutical industry, just like every other country in the world does. There is no reason why an American manufactured drug should cost more in Pennsylvania than it does in Canada and Europe.

Preventing Another Power Outage

I have nothing but praise for all the PPL and Met-ed employees who have been working 16 hour shifts, without breaks, to restore power to tens of thousands of residents throughout Monroe and Pike counties as a result of the recent ice storms. They have faced a difficult and dangerous task made worse by continued bad weather and freezing temperatures.

Local emergency services have also met this enormous challenge with their usual dedication and professionalism and I especially commend the actions of our volunteer firefighters who have been especially busy during this storm and its aftermath.

However, I think it would be prudent for both PPL and Met-Ed to pay more attention to preventive maintenance in the future and carry out a program of identifying trouble spots before the next ice storm occurs.

Many young trees have been allowed to grow up through the power cables and wherever you look there are problem tree limbs overhanging the lines. Immediate action needs to be taken to correct these problems before more outages happen.

I have had occasion to intercede with customers and the utility companies in the past as Supervisor and Board Chairman of Smithfield Township. In one incident, many residents and businesses along River Road had complained of frequent power outages. I wrote to the PUC about their customers' concerns and the power company addressed the situation by trimming the limbs that might have caused future disruption. To the best of my knowledge there were no power outages in this area during the last ice storm event. I would advocate having the power companies return to these maintenance practices to help prevent future power losses.

As your State Representative, I would use my influence to bring the all the power companies serving the 189th to the negotiating table with all the appropriate agencies to find ways of solving this recurring problem.

Endorsements

It is our extreme pleasure to endorse John J. Siptroth for State Representative for the 189th District in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We are confident that John will extend the same hard work, expertise and management skills that he has shown as a Smithfield Township Supervisor for the last 15 years to not only Monroe County residents, but to the residents of Pike County as well.

John has a plan to better represent the interests and needs of our two counties, which we do not believe have been properly represented over the past four years.

We do share many of the same issues with our neighbors in Monroe: sprawl, congestion, high school taxes and diminished open space. John has expressed his vision to us and his plan to counter these issues to the people of Pike, Monroe and the 189th.

John Siptroth will work hard for all residents of the 189th and we strongly encourage your vote for him in the Special Election on February 8, 2005.

Ileana Hernandez, Chairman Delaware Township Supervisors

Karl A. Wagner Jr. Pike County Commissioner

It is my pleasure to endorse John Siptroth for state representative for the 189th District in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I have known John for many years and have found him to be among the most dedicated, most hard working, and most knowledgeable of local elected officials I have worked with during my tenure in Congress.

John takes the time to do his homework. We have worked together on numerous projects important to Monroe County, and his insight has been invaluable. For example, he has been actively involved in keeping the Marshall's Creek Bypass on track, despite numerous complications. He participated in bringing a new Welcome Center to the Delaware Water Gap, and has worked tirelessly on obtaining funding for sewers in Smithfield Township. Monroe County is at a critical point in its history. Investing in the county's infrastructure, especially roads and sewers, is essential to managing the region's growth.

John understands the balance necessary to preserve the quality of life in the Poconos while planning for a higher-income, knowledge-based economy. As a life-long resident of the county and with fifteen years of experience in local government, John Siptroth is ideally suited to bring his experience to help Monroe County in Harrisburg. I look forward to continuing to work with him on matters of importance to Monroe County.

Paul E. Kanjorski Member of Congress

As a township supervisor for 15 years, Chairman for the last 5 and now President of Council of Governments and 1st Vice president of the State Township Supervisors Assoc., John Siproth has proven his leadership and integrity. These attributes demonstrate John's ability to work with ALL people to move projects forward. To me, this race is not about being a Democrat, Republican, Independent or any other party. It is about electing the most qualified candidate who has the ability to keep the 189th district in the forefront. That Candidate is John Siproth!

Suzanne F. McCool Monroe County Commissioner

John Siproth brings an honest and practical approach to solving problems for all his constituents. John's local government experience and determined attitude will be strong assets for getting the job done in Harrisburg.

Jim Cadue Former County Commissioner.

If John had followed me as State Representative of the 189th the Marshall's Creek Bypass would have been built by now.

Joe Battisto Former State Representative 189th

Paid for by the Friends of John J. Siproth - Treasurer: Douglas Schoonover 414 Airport Drive, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

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February 8

John Siproth *-for-* State Representative **X**

The 189th has been overlooked and ignored by Harrisburg for far too long. I have the necessary local government experience, the respect of Representatives, Senators and Congressmen and the long-standing working relationships with state & federal agencies needed to ensure we get the recognition and funding that we deserve. Republicans, Democrats and Independents have been electing me to public office for nearly 20 years. I ask you all to join with me now and to send me to Harrisburg to fight for our future.

votesiproth.com

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CANDIDATE NEWSLETTER

"Inside you will find my ideas for managing our residential growth and preventing over-development, reducing property taxes and encouraging economic growth in the 189th."