

## **Bigley Makes Case for Council Run**

Ginny Bigley is running for Lawrence Township council because she believes she can help bring real change to Town Hall. “The voters have twice given me the honor of electing me to the Board of Education. I want to bring to Town Hall the same approach I’ve brought to the Board – a commitment to fiscal responsibility, accessibility to elected officials, and a common sense approach to government.”

Elected to the Lawrence Township Board of Education in 2004 (and re-elected in 2007), Ginny wants to continue her commitment to the Lawrence community as a member of the Township Council.

“Since becoming the Board of Education’s liaison to town council, I have been discouraged by what I’ve seen. The way the current council majority conducts the town’s business leaves a lot to be desired,” Ms. Bigley said.

“Earlier this year, for example, when Mark Holmes resigned, I couldn’t believe it when the council majority spent three weeks trying to block Rick Miller and Bob Bostock’s simple request to interview the possible replacements in public. When we have a vacancy on the Board, that’s how we do it. That’s the way it should be done – not behind closed doors.”

Five years ago Ginny was the founding chairman of the Board of Education’s Committee for Community Relations. As chair of this committee, Ginny has been highly visible throughout the community, whether chairing community-wide education forums, attending Back to School Nights, or serving hot dogs at football games. “I believe council members need to speak with – and listen to – the people.”

“The council needs to be more creative and assertive in finding ways to hold the line on taxes,” Ms. Bigley continued. “It’s time for a total review of the town budget. We did it this year with the school budget, and for the first time in memory, the budget was flat. This recession illuminated possibilities for saving money at home, school and businesses, but not in government. The same principles apply to a government budget as at home. You can’t spend more than you make.”

An effective and innovative public safety advocate, Ginny co-authored the first anti-gang policy in our school district and in Mercer County and has worked closely with various law enforcement agencies to provide awareness programs for our students on topics such as internet safety, gang awareness, the effects that false alarms and bomb threats have on a community. As a result of her efforts, the bomb scare problem, which plagued the schools several years ago, has been successfully eliminated.

Ginny’s long record of community service has made a real difference to our community. Her experience as a school board member, her long record of volunteerism, and her

commonsense approach to government for all coupled with her unending commitment to the future of Lawrence, will make her an outstanding addition to the Township Council.