

Team Tosti-Vasey

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Press Release

Joanne Tosti-Vasey Announces Run for 171st

Joanne Tosti-Vasey wants healthcare for all.

Date: Friday, January 18th

This morning Joanne Tosti-Vasey officially announced her candidacy for the 171st district seat in the Pennsylvania State Legislature in the 2008 election cycle, at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Surrounded by her supporters, Tosti-Vasey pledged her earnest intentions to represent the citizens of the 171st before the legislature. Her campaign slogan, "Caring for our families, our health, our jobs, and our homes," sums up her platform well. Tosti-Vasey announced her support for single payer health care as well as programs that increase access to health care and prescriptions drugs for all Pennsylvanians.

She is also prepared to be an advocate for programs that would provide jobs for our citizens, and programs that help protect our environment and agricultural interests here in Central Pennsylvania.

Tosti-Vasey was asked by the press about her position on the voting machine issue and said that she supports current legislation that would provide funding for counties to replace their paperless voting systems with systems that provide auditable, voter verified paper ballots.

Please see the attached document for her complete statement announcing her candidacy.

JOANNE TOSTI-VASEY'S ANNOUNCEMENT SPEECH



Good morning! I am Joanne Tosti-Vasey and I am pleased to officially announce my candidacy for Representative for the 171st House District seat. Thank you coming out today. I am running because I want to better represent the needs of our families here in Centre and Mifflin Counties. We need someone who cares for our families. We need better access to health care at an affordable price for everyone. We need better access to decent paying jobs. And we need good, safe homes.

Our current system of health care is becoming unaffordable to individuals, families, and our employers. And with costs rising at 10-20% a year, more and more of us are becoming uninsured. We need a change. When elected, I will work hard to ensure that everyone regardless of income will have access to quality health care.

As part of caring for our homes, we need to ensure that our communities are preserved for the good of all. That means that we must preserve our land, our buildings, and our environment. When I am elected, I will work and vote for bills that create and enhance sustainable agricultural programs, ensure that our streams and land are not environmentally harmed, and support programs that enhance our historic buildings and communities throughout the district. I have been an advocate for all people across the state and here in Centre County as President of Pennsylvania NOW, as a Commissioner with the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, and as a member of both the Centre County Advisory Council to the PA Human Relations Commission and the

Organizational Committee of the Alliance for Bellefonte Community Development. For the past 20+ years I have advocated for equality for all, historic preservation and the safety of our families and our children. I will continue this work as your elected Representative.

I would like to thank everyone that is supporting me. Some are giving their time and talents. Others are giving funds to help make this happen. I'd like to specifically thank my husband of 32 years, Joe Vasey and my son Kenneth. They provide a base of caring, love, and support to my life and they are fully supportive of my run for public office. Thank you. Then there is Mary Vollero, my campaign manager who has great organizing and artistic skills that will greatly help out in this campaign. Next I'd like to thank Mary Watson, my Treasurer, for her willingness to deal with all of the money and reporting required by the state. Then there is Audrey Glickman from Pittsburgh who was my peer coach at the Center for Progressive Leadership and is now both my campaign webmaster and proofreader. Next is Jean Slear from Boalsburg who has agreed to be my scheduler; she's the one you need to call when you want me to come to your event. Having her scheduling expertise and knowledge of community events is invaluable. Thank you. Other members of my Team include Carleton Hopkins, Jeff Steiner, Ann Isenberg, and Lois Herr. Thanks for your help. And finally I'd like to thank everyone who came out here today to support me in this effort to care for our families, our health, our jobs, and our homes.

Thank you and I ask for your support and vote in the April 22 primary.

JOANNE TOSTI-VASEY'S BIOGRAPHY

Joanne Tosti-Vasey is a community activist and public servant. She has been a member of the National Organization for Women since 1979. She is currently President of Pennsylvania NOW, Inc. Tosti-Vasey is Co-chair of the National NOW Disability Rights ad hoc committee. She has served as Co-Chair, Chair, or Liaison to the National Board for this committee since 1993.

In addition to her work with NOW, Tosti-Vasey has been appointed and elected to several committees that serve the public. She was an elected member of the PA Democratic State Committee from 1994-2002 and currently serves as an ex-officio member of State Committee as Treasurer of the PA Democratic State Committee Women's Caucus. She also ran for Bellefonte Borough Council in 2005, losing to two incumbents by 24 votes.

She is an appointed member of the Centre County Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and is one of two people that answers the county-wide hotline on issues of discrimination for this Council.

Dr. Tosti-Vasey is one of 29 Commissioners appointed to the PA Commission for Women by Governor Edward G. Rendell. She was first appointed to the Commission by Governor Rendell in June 2003. She is one of two co-authors of The Status of Women in Pennsylvania Report 2004 that was authorized by the PA Commission for Women.

Tosti-Vasey holds a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies with a focus on work and family issues. Dr. Tosti-Vasey is married to Joe Vasey and is the proud mother of one son, Kenneth Vasey.

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