

Rebecca Smith-Casey for West Amwell Borough Council

I am Rebecca Smith-Casey and I am running for West Amwell Township Committee. My family has been in and around West Amwell for more than 200 years, providing me a strong foundation in our community and inspiring me to run for Township Committee. I believe that there are so many strengths in our rural community but there are places our municipal government could do better, which has only been highlighted by the COVID pandemic. I believe we need to strengthen communication between our Township and the community, we need to invest in our parks and recreation to allow for safe places for our children to play and our seniors to walk, and that we should be providing more supports to our senior residents. The last few months have also brought to the forefront the struggles our community has with our cable and internet. Working from home, telemeetings, and virtual schooling, which are ongoing situations across our area have really highlighted the failures of our internet systems. Our children are relying on stable internet connections for their schooling now more than ever, however frequent outages and unstable internet connections are becoming more frequent and more stressful. I would love to see West Amwell partner with other communities in Hunterdon County and with our Freeholders to improve the internet across the county.

My family and I live in a house just past Mt. Airy that was built in the 1700s, just about a half mile from the house where I was raised in Mt. Airy. My husband, son, and I love living in a place where we can watch the cows graze, grow a garden, and play outside with our dog, Pepper. My husband has coached our son for tee-ball, soccer, and basketball in our community leagues and I was overjoyed to be my son's kindergarten room parent this past year.

I have had the opportunity to serve on the West Amwell Environmental Committee in the past and volunteered with the Disaster Response Team of the Central New Jersey American Red Cross from 2004 to 2013. I currently serve as a Survivor Ambassador and Co-Chair of the American Heart Association Government Relations Committee, through which I worked on the initiatives to raise the smoking age in NJ to 21 and have gone to Congress several times to lobby for improvements in health care and research funding related to heart disease.

I graduated from South Hunterdon Regional High School in 1996 and then attended the College of New Jersey where I earned bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice. I attended law school at Villanova School of Law, where I completed my JD in 2006. I then attended the doctoral program in Psychology at Kean University where I earned a Master's in Educational Psychology in 2014 and a Doctorate in Combined School and Clinical Psychology in 2016. My career has been varied, serving as a manager at the Inn of Lambertville Station during law school and a substitute teacher at West Amwell School during college. I have had the opportunity to work in a private forensic psychology practice, as well as in state hospitals, schools for children with behavioral disturbances, and community mental health facilities. At present I work in Philadelphia as a trauma therapist and am working to start a private practice in psychology in our community. My educational experiences and work history have given me the skills to work

cooperatively with others to achieve a single goal, despite differences in backgrounds and opinions, which I think is a strength in running for Township Committee.

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