



08/01/2019
Statement

BREAKING NEWS: LIV BENNETT IS POOR

Statement from Olivia “Liv” Bennett

Today, an article ran about me with a headline that read: “County Council candidate owes more than \$50,000 in taxes, water bills”.

Many years ago, I was in a relationship which badly ruptured. I did what any normal woman would do: I took my kids, filed for bankruptcy and fled. Because I have also filed a Protection from Abuse in the past and due to the sensitivity of the subject, I have repeatedly told journalists I do not wish to speak about the issue.

The journalists reporting on this story ambushed me on my way into the courthouse for a meeting just a few days ago on Monday, July 29th. The meeting was to advocate for better treatment of trans and non-binary people held at the Allegheny County Jail. I also went to educate the board on diversity and the ways that folks are re-traumatized after leaving the jail. It is very fitting that I came before the board to talk about how we re-victimize and do not hear or care about the pain and suffering of others--especially trans women and non-binary people.

According to Pennsylvania Code, the annual salary of a Common Pleas judge, like the one I confronted at Monday’s meeting, is \$183,184¹. The median salary for a regular Pittsburgher is \$58,521². If you are wondering, the Allegheny County Council salary is only \$9,000 per year.

And my story is like a lot of people’s in Allegheny. County records show that there are over 29,000³ foreclosures in our county. I am currently working on mine.

I was elected to public office because of my working-class background, not in spite of it. I have overcome much adversity both in my private life and in my short time as a public figure, and mind you, I have not even taken office yet. Since day one of my campaign, I have always spoken about living in public housing, in Northview Heights, and I can’t wait to be the voice for the people.

I am proud to represent **ALL** people of Allegheny County, including the poor ones, the black ones, the trans ones, the non-binary ones and the incarcerated ones!

I will not be fielding any more questions or doing surprise stories about my own ongoing bankruptcy proceedings or debt, but I will always be there to fight for working class people and other marginalized voices.

Please feel free to join me to advocate for better treatment of those housed at the jail today at 4:00 pm and every first Thursday of the month in Conference Room #1 in the Allegheny County Courthouse located at 436 Grant Street in Downtown Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,

Liv Bennett

Democratic Nominee for Allegheny County Council, District 13

1. <https://www.pacode.com/secure/data/204/chapter211/s211.2.html>
2. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/pittsburghcitypennsylvania/INC110217>
3. <https://data.wprdc.org/dataset/allegheny-county-mortgage-foreclosure-records>