

Fitzpatrick, McIlhinney get GOP endorsements

By: **FROM STAFF REPORTS** (Sat, Mar/04/2006)

There were few surprises as Republicans in Bucks and Montgomery counties endorsed a slate of party candidates in the upcoming spring primary Thursday night.

Mike Fitzpatrick, an incumbent representing the 8th Congressional District, won the backing of both Montgomery and Bucks counties' Republicans.

Rep. Chuck McIlhinney, R-143, got the GOP endorsement to replace retiring state Sen. Joe Conti, R-10, who represents Falls, Lower Makefield, Morrisville, New Hope, Newtown, Newtown Township, Tullytown, Upper Makefield, Yardley and most of Central and Upper Bucks, including Souderton and Telford. McIlhinney also won endorsement by the Montgomery County GOP.

Challenger Joe Montone received the GOP nod in his race for the state Assembly's 140th District seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Rep. Thomas C. Corrigan who represents Bristol, Falls, Morrisville, Tullytown and parts of Bristol Township and Middletown.

Similarly, challenger Marguerite Quinn earned the endorsement in her race for McIlhinney's 143rd district seat, which represents Bedminster, Bridgeton, Doylestown, Doylestown Township, Durham, Nockamixon, Plumstead, Riegelsville, Tinicum and part of Buckingham.

In Montgomery County, one of the surprises was an endorsement for Raj Bhakta for a race against incumbent Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, R-13. Bhakta is a former contestant on the reality TV show "The Apprentice." The district includes portions of Philadelphia.

The rest of the Bucks GOP endorsements went to incumbents seeking re-election:

- State Sen. Tommy Tomlinson, R-6, who represents Bensalem, Bristol, Bristol Township, Hulmeville, Ivyland, Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Lower Southampton, Middletown, Northampton, Penndel, Warwick, Wrightstown.
- Rep. Rob Wonderling, R-24, who represents Durham, East Rockhill, Milford, Nockamixon, Quakertown, Richland, Richlandtown, Riegelsville, Springfield, Trumbauersville. In Montgomery County, he represents East Greenville, Green Lane, Lansdale, Lower Frederick, Lower Salford, Marlborough, New Hanover, Pennsburg, Red Hill, Salford, Towamencin, Upper Frederick, Upper Hanover, Upper Salford. Parts of Lehigh and Northampton counties are also included.
- Rep. Gene DiGirolamo, R-18, who represents Bensalem and part of Lower Southampton
- Rep. Bernie O'Neill, R-29, who represents New Hope, Solebury, parts of Buckingham, Warwick, Warminster and Upper Southampton.
- Rep. Dave Steil, R-31, who represents Lower Makefield, Newtown, Newtown Township, Yardley and part of Upper Makefield.
- Rep. Matt Wright, R-142, who represents Hulmeville, Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Penndel and parts of Lower Southampton and Middletown.
- Rep. Kathy Watson, R-144, who represents Chalfont, Dublin, Hilltown, New Britain, New Britain Township, Silverdale, Telford, Warrington and part of Warminster.
- Rep. Paul Clymer, R-145, who represents East Rockhill, Haycock, Milford, Perkasie,

Quakertown, Richland, Richlandtown, Sellersville, Springfield, Trumbauersville, West Rockhill.

- Rep. Scott Petri, R-178, Ivyland, Northampton, Wrightstown and parts of Upper Makefield, Upper Southampton and Warwick.

Other Montgomery County endorsements:

- State Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, R-12, who represents Upper Southampton, Warminster and Warrington. The Bucks GOP also endorsed Greenleaf.
- Rep. Gene McGill, R-151, who represents sections of Horsham, Montgomery, Upper Dublin, Abington, Ambler and Lower Gwynedd in Montgomery County.
- Rep. Sue Cornell, R-152, who represents Upper Moreland, Lower Moreland, Hatboro, Bryn Athyn, sections of Horsham and Upper Dublin in Montgomery County and portions of Philadelphia.

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