



# Civics on the Ground

Be the Boss of Your Elected Officials

Stephanie Singer  
City Commissioner



# American People Hire High-Powered Lobbyist To Push Interests In Congress

WASHINGTON—Citing a desire to gain influence in Washington, the American people confirmed Friday that they have hired high-powered D.C. lobbyist Jack Weldon of the firm Patton Boggs to help advance their agenda in Congress.

Known among Beltway insiders for his ability to sway public policy on behalf of massive corporations such as Johnson & Johnson, Monsanto, and AT&T, Weldon, 53, is expected to use his vast network of political connections to give his new client a voice in the legislative process.

Weldon is reportedly charging the American people \$795 an hour.

"Unlike R.J. Reynolds, Pfizer, or Bank of America, the U.S. populace lacks the access to public officials required to further its legislative goals," a statement from the nation read in part. "Jack Weldon gives us that access."

[www.theonion.com](http://www.theonion.com)



# American People Hire High-Powered Lobbyist To Push Interests In Congress

Is this a joke, or is it a good idea – the People should have a lobbyist to make sure the People's interests are represented in Congress?

How can the **People** get the  
**Power** to influence elected  
officials?

# Votes are Power

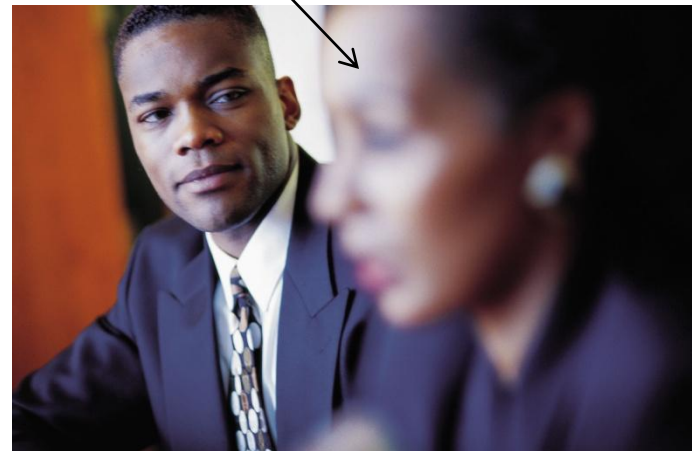


Votes

Local Leaders



Elected Officials



So elected officials listen to what local leaders have to say.

The more votes the elected officials think a local leader can influence, the more influential the local leader is.

# Who are Local Leaders?

Committeepople

Ward Leaders

Block Captains

PTA

Community-Based Organization Staff

Poll Workers

...and more

# Who are **your** local leaders?

- Do you know them?
- Can you reach them?
- Do you like what they stand for?

If you don't know, **find out**. If you like what you find, **help out**. If don't, **consider stepping up yourself**.

# Democracy is a garden



Let's tend it for the  
next generation...





...so they don't have to die for it.



Next Election: **May 21, 2013**

Superior Court

District Attorney

Controller

Common Pleas Judge

Municipal Court Judge

Traffic Court Judge

Poll Workers (Judge & Inspector of Election)

Ballot Questions?

Next Election: **May 21, 2013**

## **Superior Court** – what does it do?

8000 appeals each year

Offices in community

Courts in Phila, Hburg & Pittsburg

- Jerry Sandusky's conviction
- Real Estate Sellers Not Required to Disclose Murders, Suicides, and Other "Psychological Damage" to Real Property
- Wiretap requests

You Tube Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzcRJSZfbgc>

Sessions can be watched on PCN

Next Election: **May 21, 2013**

## **District Attorney**– what does she or he do?

- Grand Jury Investigations (Fraudulent dental insurance claims, sexual abuse by clergy)
- Prosecutor of criminal cases (murder, DUI, etc.)

600 employees

75,000 criminal cases yearly

\$50M/year budget





Next Election: **May 21, 2013**

## **City Controller**– what does she or he do?

115 employees

\$8M/year budget

- Auditing City Departments
- Has the discretion to make special audits
- Access at all times to financial records of every department of the City
- Sits on Board of Pensions and Retirement, Sinking Fund Commission, Gas Commission, Bond Committee
- Appoints two of five members of Board of PHA

Next Election: **May 21, 2013**

## **Court of Common Pleas**– what does it do?

- Orphans Court, Family Court, Domestic Relations
- Decides felony criminal cases
- Jury trials
- Civil cases involving large amounts of money



Next Election: **May 21, 2013**

## **Municipal Court**– what does it do?

- No Juries
- Landlord-tenant
- Misdemeanors
- Civil cases involving small amounts of money





Next Election: **May 21, 2013**

## **Traffic Court**– what does it do?

- Rule on moving violations



Next Election: **May 21, 2013**

## **Judge & Inspector of Elections**– what do they do?

- Conduct elections in a non-partisan manner



# Free & Fair Elections in Pennsylvania

Who is responsible? **YOU ARE!**

Who has the **right** to be in the polling place?

Has the right	Doesn't have the right
Poll Workers	Elected Officials
Partisan Poll Watchers (only with Watcher's Certificate)	Election Watchdog Groups
Voters (only when they come to vote)	News media





Be the Boss of Your Elected Officials:  
**VOTE!**