

SEARCH

GO

[HOME](#)[NEWS](#)[WEATHER](#)[SPORTS](#)[SHOWS](#)[RADIO](#)[PODCASTS](#)[ABOUT](#)

Cumberland County 2018 Midterm Election Day Guide

Last Edited: Oct 23, 2018 12:06 PM EDT

By SNJ Today Staff [CONNECT](#)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, N.J. - Earlier this month (October 10), Republican and Democratic candidates vying for the [Second District Congressional](#) seat squared off in their first debate. Democratic State Senator Jeff Van Drew and Republican Attorney Seth Grossman faced off [at Stockton University in Galloway](#).

The hour-long debate was shown live on SNJ Today and featured questions on a variety of topics, including the South Jersey economy, immigration, diversity, gun control, and the currently tough political and cultural climate.

"I judge each individual equally and impartially based on evidence and common sense," said Grossman. "I don't presume some people to be victims or survivors and others presumed to be guilty based on what group he or she belongs to. I believe government should do the same. I support President Trump to keep good-paying full-time jobs and full employment here in America."

"Everybody wants people to come together—that there used to be a time where you could cross the aisle, that there used to be a time when Republicans and Democrats worked together for a greater good [because] an issue is important," said Van Drew. "There used to be a time where great leaders understood that there are good people on both sides of the aisle and we shouldn't hate and we shouldn't just go after each constantly."

The Congressional seat is open because Republican incumbent Frank LoBiondo is retiring.

The debate was sponsored by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University, *The Press of Atlantic City* and *SNJ Today*. View the debate in its entirety at snjtoday.com/debate.

Cumberland County Election Officials

- **County Clerk Celeste M. Riley**

60 W. Broad Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302-2665

856-453-4860

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

- **Commissioner of Registration Robin Wood**

555 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

856-453-5801

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.–4:30p.m.

- **Board of Elections**

555 Shiloh Pike, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

856-453-5801

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Cumberland County Surrogate Candidates

On November 6, voters in Cumberland County will choose from among two candidates running for Surrogate. On this and the facing page, Cumberland County Surrogate candidate profiles appear in alphabetical order.

Kimberly Codispoti, Republican



I have been a lifelong resident of Cumberland County, born and raised in Millville and have resided in Vineland for 13 years with my husband, Tim. Between us, we have three children and two granddaughters. I graduated from Millville Senior High School in 1979 and attended Cumberland County College. I was elected to and served three years on the Vineland Board of Education. Being the wife of a police officer, (who is now retired), I was active in the VPD wives group who supported not only the VPD family, but PAL, the Veteran's Home, SPCA and other community service organizations. Tim and I are active in our church, Millville Church of Nazarene, volunteered with the Cumberland County ARC where I had the honor of being one of their past honorary chairpersons. I also volunteer with the South Jersey Youth Alliance.

In your opinion, what are the three biggest issues facing Cumberland County?

After speaking with several people while campaigning, issues regarding the Surrogate's office were brought to my attention. Although the office may be open late a few hours a week, there is no real convenience to most residents. Many in need of the Surrogate's office must go to the Courthouse and for many senior citizens, and those facing, probably one of worst times of their lives, it presents a big problem. The majority of people that I spoke to, didn't know what a Surrogate does, let alone what services can be provided. This is a perception that needs to be changed.

How do you plan to address the issues listed above if elected?

Providing more community outreach is a must. Reaching out to our senior centers, Veteran's Home, other community organizations and even attorney's offices in order to find out just what each needs, is important to me. Making it more convenient and comfortable for our senior citizens and those dealing with a loss is a priority. I want to reinstate the practice of going to attorneys' offices or senior centers when needed. I will ensure that our Surrogate's Intermingled Trust Fund, which holds the money of a minor who receives proceeds from a lawsuit or named as a beneficiary in a will, continues to earn the highest possible interest rate. I have been working on new ideas that are cost saving to this department and believe they will help in promoting the services of the Surrogate's office and aid the entire County.

Please provide a closing statement:

When someone holds a position for many years, ideas may become stale. My opponent, the current Surrogate, has held the position for 10 years and I firmly believe it is time for a change. I have fresh ideas and the care and compassion it will take to do this job. With more of an extended community outreach program, we can reach many more senior citizens, veterans and community members, in a more comfortable and convenient environment. As Surrogate, I will stay directly involved in all programs and community outreach because I recognize the need people have for that personal experience and touch. Working as a legal secretary for the past 25 years and the volunteer work I have been involved with, I believe, gives me the experience, care, compassion and dedication needed for this position.

Douglas Rainear, Democrat (incumbent)

I am a lifelong Cumberland County resident and a Bridgeton High graduate. I furthered my

education at Western Kentucky University, graduating summa cum laude, with degrees in Marketing, Economics, and Finance. I have completed graduate work at Rutgers and Rowan universities. I am a former BHS teacher and supervisor of the Information Technology department for 34 years. I served on the Upper Deerfield Township Committee for 17 years and as Mayor for five years. I also served as a Cumberland County Freeholder and Freeholder Director for eight years prior to my election as Surrogate in 2008. I have served as the County Surrogate for 10 years. I'm a former Executive Board member of the NJ League of Municipalities and the NJ Conference of Mayors. I am married to the former Fina Sorbello and we have three adult children—Scot, Brad, and Kim—and six wonderful grandchildren.

In your opinion, what are the three biggest issues facing Millville?



Although there are not any crucial issues currently facing the Surrogate's Court, there are always challenges. Among them are the ever-changing rules, regulations, laws, and procedures, as they pertain to the areas of guardianships of incapacitated adults and minors, probate and estate matters, and adoptions, all of which the Surrogate's Court is charged with handling. Perhaps, our biggest challenge is in the area of guardianships of incapacitated individuals. With a rapidly increasing aging population and the corresponding associated issues of dementia and Alzheimer's, we have seen an increase in the filing of guardianships. It is imperative that we use every resource at our disposal to protect the most vulnerable of our citizens. With the rising number of guardianships comes an ever-increasing workload and often times a barrage of paperwork. Recent mandates from the NJ Administrative Office of the Courts—although much needed and important—have added to the workload and responsibilities to the Surrogate's Court. As with many governmental agencies there are times when our limited resources are stretched. State mandates and required reporting without corresponding resources and assistance can at times be challenging. The Surrogate's Court in Cumberland County continues to meet and master those challenges.

How do you plan to address the issues listed above if elected?

The Cumberland County Surrogate's Court is a model for Surrogate Courts throughout the State of NJ. Working as a team, we have been able to meet the challenges of an ever-changing landscape of new rules, regulations, and reporting as instituted by state mandates, procedures, and policies. By integrating the latest in technological equipment and software programs, we have met the challenges and the responsibilities of our mission. Particularly in the area of guardianships, by using the newest Guardianship Monitoring Program software, we have been able to aid in the protection of our most vulnerable citizens, whether they be adult or minor incapacitated persons. This recently installed computer application uses a database and a report review tool to track and follow the numerous guardianship files. It provides us the ability to identify, address, prevent, and deter activities that are harmful to incapacitated individuals. Similarly, we have a software program that allows us to record, track, and do instant and comprehensive background checks on prospective parents seeking to adopt children. We have installed the latest in Probate software to provide an accurate and efficient record in all Estate matters. We take pride in providing caring, compassionate, experienced, and professional service to all.

Please provide us with a closing statement:

I have been honored, privileged, and blessed to serve as your County Surrogate the last 10 years. As your Surrogate, I am responsible for overseeing Estate matters, Guardianship matters, and Adoption proceedings. During our tenure, we have made numerous strides in the Surrogate's Court. Through long-term planning and the use of our trust fund, we have been able to install the latest software programs to provide a cost-efficient and consumer-friendly operation to

assist in your Probate, Guardianship, and Adoption needs. I am proud of the record of our office and of the caring, compassionate, and professional service delivered to all the residents of Cumberland County. My years of experience, education, dedication, and professionalism are essential for our continued success in your Surrogate's Court. Because compassion, experience and professionalism matter, I humbly ask that you allow me to continue serving you and your families in the coming years.

General Election: Nov. 6, 2018, polls open 6 a.m.–8 p.m.

Can't get to the polls? In New Jersey, any voter can vote by mail for any reason or no reason at all using the Vote By Mail ballot. If you are a qualified and registered voter, then you may apply for a Vote By Mail ballot by completing the application in English or Spanish and mailing to the County Clerk's Office.

The deadline for such requests by mail is 7 days before any and all elections (Primary, General, School, etc).

A Vote By Mail voter may also apply in person at the County Clerk's Office on any working day until 3 p.m. on the day before the election.

County Freeholder Candidates

On November 6, voters in Cumberland County will choose from among four candidates running for two seats on the County Freeholder Board. Beginning here and continuing on the next three pages, Cumberland County Freeholder candidate profiles appear in alphabetical order.

Joe Derella, Democrat (incumbent)



I am a lifelong resident of Millville, where my wife Susan and I raised our two amazing children, Jake and Casey. I have been a Cumberland County Freeholder since 2013, and I am currently serving my fifth consecutive year as Director. Before joining the Freeholder Board, I served a City Commissioner in Millville for 15 years and even had the honor of being selected as Vice Mayor.

I graduated from West Chester University with a degree in Health and Physical Education in 1978. I am currently the Facility Manager for NovaCare Outpatient Rehabilitation in Vineland.

In 2017, I was honored to be named Public Sector South Jersey of the Year by the Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs at Rutgers University Camden.

I am a results-oriented, team-building leader, who has worked hard to move Cumberland County forward and I am

proud of the changes that are now coming to fruition.

In your opinion, what are the three biggest issues facing Cumberland County?

When I came into office, my top priority was to implement a comprehensive plan that would give our residents an opportunity to achieve. At the time, we had the highest unemployment in the State, our roads and bridges were failing, we were the only county without a technical college, and like all counties, we were facing an unprecedented opioid epidemic.

Fortunately we have a county that is not afraid to admit its shortfalls and has the pride and courage to face the challenges head-on to truly try to make a difference.

While I believe we are at the beginning of a new future, I also know more challenges lie ahead.

It is well known that Cumberland County gets short-changed when it comes to receiving funding from state and federal sources, so we must continue to be

fiscally responsible while living up to our moral obligations to protect our residents.

We must continue to build coalitions and cooperative relationships to make our communities safer, to fight the opioid epidemic and fight recidivism, and we must continue to bring jobs to the region until every displaced worker is back in the work force.

How do you plan to address the issues listed above if elected?

I wish I could say there is a single answer that will address all of these issues. However, I know that if we continue to focus on teamwork, coalition building and rising above our differences—whether they be political, regional, social, or economic, to come together for the betterment of our communities we will be on the right track.

As Freeholder Director, I understand that without the team nothing would be achieved. We have a lot of great people who are rising to the challenge; the Improvement Authority is helping to drive economic development, the Office of Workforce Development is helping to get our residents back in the work force, and CCTEC and Cumberland County College are working to expand access to education so that we can have a work force prepared for the jobs of the future.

I believe the Freeholder Board needs to be on the cutting edge of new initiatives, whether assisting in creating shared service opportunities to mitigate the burden of property taxes, coordinating county resources and volunteer organizations to help fight addiction, and continuing to bring elected, community and religious leaders together to make our streets safer.

Please provide us with a closing statement:

I am proud to say that Cumberland County is stronger today than when I first came into office. We have made a tremendous push, as a team, to improve the opportunities for our residents to achieve.

We have lowered the unemployment rate, improved access to education, invested in our communities and worked to bring new businesses and jobs to the region.

Everything we have done has been focused on improving the quality of life for our residents and to build a brighter future for the communities that we love. I am proud of our economic development initiatives, the creation of CCTEC, the expansion of the county college, the initiatives set forth via the county's Office of Workforce Development, our focus on senior outreach and our investment in our failing infrastructure.

We are at the beginning of something great, and I am asking for your vote, so that we can continue to make Cumberland County stronger.

Arvene Kilby Hays, Republican

Moving to Cumberland County in 1993, following 20 years in nursing and directing quality assurance departments in large medical centers in three states, I joined the family business in Bridgeton. As a retired RN in both clinical care and administration in Kansas, Tennessee, and Delaware, and as the past president for 22 years and a business owner, I have gained 38 years in navigating the maze of federal, state, and local laws and regulations and know firsthand how small businesses struggle to survive and be successful.

I have two children, a daughter and son, and one grandchild. My daughter and son-in-law both work at Let's Do Linens and my son resides in Kentucky. My two careers have been service-oriented, and I have integrated that trait in all of my work. Having served or as a member of several charitable organizations, I know that a team approach brings positive results.

In your opinion, what are the three biggest issues facing Cumberland County?

The continuous rise in property taxes plagues all county residents and living in a state with the highest tax rate in the nation is very tough. There is a growing number of retired people moving out of state because they can not afford to live here any longer. Selling off family land years ago to reduce the tax burden has only resulted in seeing the tax rate return to the same level as before.

Secondly, the continuous poverty levels that affect our county have a domino affect on the health of our residents. Data continues to show our county ranks at the bottom for health indicators like obesity, infant mortality, and other risk factors.

Third, the lack of job opportunity in our county means our college graduates are leaving to find jobs elsewhere. With the highest rate in the nation of New Jersey graduates leaving to find employment verifies that not only are we lacking in competitive wages, but we do not have the opportunities locally for graduates to prosper. Each of these issues have a vicious effect on the lifestyle of our county residents, and we cannot ignore what effects these issues have for raising a family in Cumberland County.



How do you plan to address the issues listed above if elected?

The one thing you learn in business and the medical industry is that budget cuts are not always the answer when costs are spiraling out of control. In order to find solutions, you must be willing to explore and search to find the underlying root cause. The Freeholder Board should always be treating county government like a business. We must always be fiscally responsible on how your tax dollars are spent. Solutions to our three biggest issues need an innovative approach and a willingness to even look to other county governments to see what changes they made to reverse their problems.

Next, education is at the forefront when it comes to preparing our next generation of leaders.]However, you must consistently work on bringing new industry and manufacturing to our county in order to increase county revenue, which ultimately affects the burden of property taxes. As a Freeholder, you must be available to listen to our county residents. They can identify the areas or services that do not meet their needs. In order to constantly work for improvement, I know that the impact on daily lives is what should never be ignored or forgotten as a Freeholder.

Please provide us with a closing statement.

I applaud the current Freeholder Board for the new programs and initiatives that have been implemented in the last few years and their good intentions for these projects. However, the results have not been stellar when we still have businesses and residents leaving, have houses boarded up from foreclosures, and our residents still at or below the federal poverty level, and our youth are still at risk by Kids Count ranking on infant mortality, obesity, teenage pregnancy, illiteracy, and other health risks. It is time for electing people with business knowledge and experience, who are dedicated to working on new and better solutions, and committed to leading our county to a more prosperous and healthier outcome. I believe I have those qualifications and know that representing the people of Cumberland County is the ultimate job of serving those who deserve better leadership and want to remain in the county that they love.

Jim Quinn, Democrat (incumbent)

While you may know me as the broadcasting voice of Millville sports for the last 40 years, my pride in this county runs deeper. I am the president of Quinn Broadcasting Inc., and I was elected to the Freeholder Board in 2015.



I have also had the privilege to serve as Mayor and Commissioner in the City of Millville. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work hands-on to move Cumberland County forward. I have been the chair of the Cumberland Empowerment Zone, the treasurer of the Cumberland County Utilities Authority and a member of the Urban Enterprise Zone, the Millville Industrial Commission, the CompleteCare Health Network Governing Board, the South Jersey Hospital Foundation, the Millville Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce.

I am a proud member of Millville Elks, Millville Moose, and The Thunderbolt Club.

In your opinion, what are the three biggest issues facing Cumberland County?

I have the pleasure of traveling every inch of the county and meeting with so many of our residents every day. I love the pride people have in their communities and their belief in the future of our region. This optimism and commitment motivates me every day to make sure each resident, each family, each worker, and each child has a chance to achieve.

While recently our county has made great strides, I know there is more work to be done. We must continue to work to bring jobs to the region, so spurring economic development continues to be among our top issues. Achieving that requires a comprehensive plan. We must provide employers with a ready, trained and educated workforce. We must have the infrastructure to support business expansion. We must have safe streets and the ability to welcome tourist, shoppers, and investors into the region.

How do you plan to address the issues listed above if elected?

As a businessman, I have learned one vital lesson—put the right people in place to do the right job while providing them with the right resources so that they can achieve the right results.

As Freeholder I have put great emphasis on supporting the revitalization of communities with a promotional tourism effort that rivals any in the state. We must support those who are investing in Cumberland County, build partnerships and work together.

We must continue to structure and focus our government's resources to meet our goals of bringing new jobs to the region while preparing our residents for these new jobs. Whether it is the Office of Workforce Development and the programs they administer or our expansion of the county college, we are building a bridge to a brighter future.

We must continue to bring leaders from every city, township and borough together to find cost saving opportunities so that our residents can keep more of the money they earn.

In a political climate that focuses on the negative, we must rise above and focus on the positives, focus on the residents and focus on the future.

Please provide us with a closing statement.

As Freeholder Tourism Liaison, I know firsthand all that Cumberland County has to offer. In 2016, tourism had a \$16.7 million impact to the county and that is just the beginning.

I am excited about the investment that is being made in our local communities through county-run programs, the Cumberland County Improvement Authority, and private businesses. This unprecedented activity is providing jobs, services, and hope.

I am excited about the educational opportunities now available in Cumberland County. I am excited about the expansion of our county services.

I am excited because our Freeholder Board is working to build a better tomorrow and our enthusiasm is matched only by the pride our residents.

I am asking for your vote, so that we can continue to work to build a stronger Cumberland County and we can take our efforts to the next level.

Frank Spatola, Republican

I am a lifelong resident of Cumberland County, have been in Deerfield Township for 36 years. It's where my wife Barbara and I raised two children. I have been a self-employed as a home builder and general contractor since 1993. I was also a member of Carpenters local for 32 years. I achieved an Associate's degree from CCC.

I started my service to the community by serving on the school board for six years, then the zoning board, followed by the Township Committee for 10 years, where I served as mayor for three years. There I also served on numerous committees, and initiated many shared service programs with other townships as well as the CCIA committee.

During my time on school board I was on the negotiating committee for teachers contracts as well as the other support staff.

In your opinion, what are the three biggest issues facing Cumberland County?



1. The lack of true economic growth and outside investment in our county; prisons, state and county jobs do not represent true growth because the incomes are paid through tax dollars instead of investment profits.

2a. The exodus of the young, well educated, because there is no economy to support them. 2b. The retirees, because the taxes are so high due to the fact that was stated in #1.

3. The recorded demographics of our county that revile some of the saddest facts of all, for example:

1. Lowest income
2. Highest obesity rate among children
3. Lowest test scores
4. High crime rate
5. No Parks and Recreation Department, which would positively affect all three.

To name a few.

How do you plan to address the issues listed above if elected?

First and foremost, I would work together with the entire board in order to cultivate a truly growing economy.

It is quite clear, that is the keystone to growing our county, because with that comes a reason for the well-educated young graduates of our CCTEC and our CCC to stay here and build a great community. As well as the fact that we have then created a comfortable place for our seniors to retire.

Research has shown that one of the favored amenities that is important to young professionals coming to the area is an established Parks and Recreation Department, which I also feel is very important, and we currently do not have.

It is apparent that if we achieve these goals we can then handle the other problems facing the county.

So, if you have a thriving county with great ratables, it's because you grew it properly by being completely transparent and accountable to all the people of Cumberland County equally and always working to keep the county on a straight growing path.

Please provide a closing statement:

It is my heartfelt passion to make Cumberland County the best it can be because the lights have been off for over 30 years. And it is our generation's responsibility to not only turn them back on but to create a beacon of light so bright in

Cumberland County that our children will once again be proud to call Cumberland County NJ their home, because they deserve better.

SNJ Today is a Southern New Jersey news and information source that is dedicated to providing current stories related specifically to South Jersey.

Do you have community news or events? Email news@snjtoday.com or call 856.825.NEWS (6397).

[HOME](#)

[NEWS](#)

[WEATHER](#)

[SPORTS](#)

[SHOWS](#)

[RADIO](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[CONTACT](#)

All content © Copyright 2000 - 2018 [Frankly Media](#) and snjtoday. All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#), [Terms of Service](#) and [Ad Choices](#)