

PSATS Executive Board Nominations 2024-25

Meet Your Nominees for Office

Get to know your Executive Board nominees in preparation to vote at the Annual Conference, April 14-17 in Hershey.

Voting delegates from member townships and county associations will vote on five officers and three Executive Committee members at PSATS' Annual Business Meeting on April 16 in Hershey. The candidates will serve as members of the PSATS Executive Board, which consists of the five Association officers, a seven-member Executive Committee, and the immediate past president. The Executive Board meets a minimum of four times a year to manage Association business and plan new projects that will benefit member townships.

The candidates, proposed by the Nominations Committee at its November 2023 and February 2024 meetings, were evaluated on the following criteria: service to their township and state and county associations and service to their community as a leader for an advisory body, civic organization, religious institution, or other group. The size of the nominee's community and the board's regional balance are also considered.

Let's get to know the Board candidates better, including why they decided to run for the PSATS Board, how their local government experience helps them in that role, and their favorite parts about working with townships.



John "Jay" Wilkes Jr.
Jackson Township,
Luzerne County
Population: 4,631

PRESIDENT: John "Jay" Wilkes Jr. (One-year term)

Up for a first one-year term as president, Jay Wilkes has been a supervisor for Jackson Township in Luzerne County for 33 years. However, he says that he still learns something new every day and strives to share that knowledge with others.

"Working with your neighboring townships and boroughs is the best plan, as we all have the same issues," he says. "Working together with your neighbors is not just the right thing to do but also beneficial in many ways."

In addition to his job as a firefighter and apparatus operator for Edwardsville and Larksville boroughs, Wilkes is also the chair of the Jackson Township board of supervisors; roadmaster; parks, building, and grounds and recycling director; and emergency management coordinator.

Previously, he was chief of several regional fire and emergency management agencies, chair of the Back Mountain Community Partnership, part of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's Interstate Action Committee and 911 Advisory Board, a planning

commission member, and an elected township auditor. He is also president of the Luzerne County Association of Township Officials.

His other civic engagements include serving on the Back Mountain Regional Fire Department board of directors, the Back Mountain Regional Emergency Management Agency, board chairman of the Luzerne County Conservation District, and a Citizens Advisory Board member with the State Correctional Institution in Jackson Township.

Wilkes is devoted to the Association, serving on the Salary Board and Annual Conference Planning Committee and as a conference workshop moderator, Boot Camp panelist, and past sergeant at arms at the Annual Conference.

"Serving on the PSATS Executive Board has given me the opportunity to make some lasting friendships throughout the state with township supervisors and officials," he says. "It has proven the importance of networking and has continued to show PSATS' value and many educational opportunities."

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Steven D. Hess Sr. *(One-year term)*



Steven D. Hess Sr.
North Centre Township,
Columbia County
Population: 2,036

Current Second Vice President Steve Hess was involved with the Association long before he was elected to the Executive Board. Serving as a conference workshop moderator, Boot Camp panelist, member of several standing committees, and member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Rural Affairs, Hess says those past experiences have helped him as an Executive Board member.

"If you actually see how all those committees work, it gives you a better handle on how PSATS works in general," he says. "It makes you appreciate how much work goes into all of this, which looks seamless. When you go to the conference in April, it seems like everything goes smoothly, but in the background, there's lots and lots of work that goes into that."

Hess is also dedicated to his township, which has a population of just over 2,000 people. He serves as chairman, roadmaster, and emergency management coordinator. He is also an active member of his community, serv-

ing as vice president of the Columbia County Sanitation Inspection Office and president and firefighter with the Lime Ridge Fire Company.

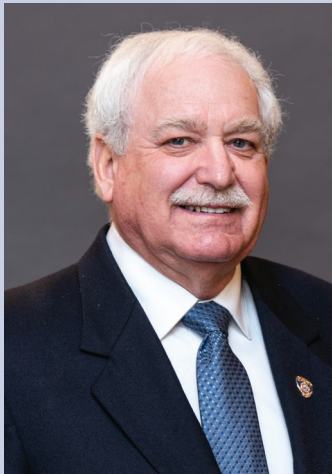
"I serve on the board because I love PSATS' mission, which is to help townships be better" he says. "I like the camaraderie of the board and all the township officials around the state that you get to interact with. PSATS' board is my second family, actually. That's the way we feel about each other."

Hess says that his favorite part of being a PSATS member is the networking opportunities.

"I love talking to everybody from around the state and getting their different perspectives," he says. "It makes it easy if they're already done something and you know they can help you with the same problem. No sense in reinventing the wheel."

"I just wish most people would want to get involved because getting involved with PSATS in any way that your time allows you to is a very rewarding, satisfying thing to do."

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Charles O. Stowe *(One-year term)*



Charles O. Stowe
Allegheny Township,
Butler County
Population: 620

Charles "Chuck" Stowe was initially appointed to the Executive Board to fill a vacancy. A previous member of the Nominations, Finance, Audit, and Rules committees, Stowe was an ideal candidate to finish the open term.

A supervisor for Allegheny Township in Butler County for 44 years, Stowe got his start in local government because of his father's involvement. Now chair of the board of supervisors, Stowe brings his extensive municipal government experience to the PSATS Executive Board — and enjoys hearing about township issues from across the commonwealth.

"I enjoy working with the other board members," he says. "We have gotten to see various areas of the state because our meetings are held in different locations. We get different perspectives, ideas, situations, and challenges, and we get to share in them."

In addition to his role as supervisor, Stowe also serves on Butler County's Advisory Board and as director of the Butler County Conservation District,

and as a member of the Butler County Community Partners Board, Butler County Transportation Improvement Program, and the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Advisory Board.

Stowe says his favorite part about being a PSATS Executive Board member is the Annual Conference.

"You get to meet a lot of new people and find out what problems they face and the solutions they have," he says. "I think the most important part of the conference is the business meeting when members vote on the resolutions, as we'll set the legislative agenda for the next five years."

Beyond the conference, Stowe is also very active in different county associations across the state.

"I think I've attended 15 county conventions," he says. "Not all at the same time and not all in the same year, but I try to go to 10 or 12 a year. Meeting the township officials, I meet a lot of nice people who are community-minded and want to serve and do the best they can for their area as a township official."

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SECRETARY-TREASURER: Robert B. Heffelfinger (*One-year term*)



Robert B. Heffelfinger
Richland Township,
Cambria County
Population: 12,233

PSATS current Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Bob Heffelfinger serves as deputy chief of the Richland Township Fire Department, president of the Cambria County 911 Advisory Board and Cambria County Association of Township Officials, and president of the Highland Community Library. However, the executive vice president of Advanced Office Systems, Inc. says that PSATS is one of his favorite gigs.

"I feel like I'm part of something greater," he says as he seeks a first one-year term as secretary-treasurer. "The value that PSATS offers in its membership is phenomenal. I can honestly say that PSATS, in my opinion, returns the greatest value to its members with assistance and services. To be able to be a part of that and to help foster its growth is very satisfying."

As a board member, Heffelfinger relies on his nearly two decades of experience as a township supervisor and his peers' knowledge and experiences to help him better serve his township and the Association.

"We're all in the same business as supervisors," he explains. "What I do every day in my community is what PSATS is all about. It's very much a mutual, give-and-take relationship. My experiences help me create a better product for PSATS to turn out to its members, but I also learn a lot from PSATS."

Even before Heffelfinger became a board member, he took advantage of the networking opportunities PSATS affords while helping his fellow township supervisors — and legislators — understand the full value of PSATS.

"I've always tried to be a resource for new members, especially at the conference," he says. "I try to help them better understand the educational opportunities that PSATS offers. I've helped out plenty of newbies, and I've been very interested in our grassroots efforts and building and maintaining relationships with local legislators."

"I think the Legislative Reception at the conference has been a super hit," he adds, "and I think this year is already lining up to be bigger and better."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER: Stephanie Shortall (*One-year term*)



Stephanie Shortall
New Britain Township,
Bucks County
Population: 12,327

Stephanie Shortall is seeking her first one year term as an officer on the Executive Board. Shortall is currently the vice chair of the board of supervisors and a planning commission member in New Britain Township in Bucks County. However, Shortall's engagements extend far beyond service to her township, as she is also a board member of her county association of township officials, part of PSATS' Grassroot Network, and a 2024 Boot Camp panelist.

"PSATS is a great organization that provides so much help and support to township supervisors," she says. "The education provided by PSATS has been invaluable as I began my term as a supervisor."

"Serving on the PSATS board is a great way to give back to an organization that has helped me. I believe in leadership through service. That is why I serve as a supervisor and why I want to get more involved with PSATS."

Shortall is the treasurer-elect for

the Bucks County Bar Association and a member of the Board of Directors and Budget & Bar Property Committee. Previously, she served as a member of the leadership team for BNI Doylestown Business Networking Group, the president of the Villa Joseph Marie High School Alumnae Association, and treasurer of the Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Home & School Association. She has also held the position of treasurer in many organizations, giving her financial management experience.

Shortall has also served on the PSATS Conference Planning Committee and is excited to continue her service.

"PSATS provides an excellent resource to elected supervisors and township staff," she says. "In my local area, we are seeing more people who have full-time careers, families, and other commitments step up and run for office. Recognizing the changing needs of township officials will help PSATS best serve newly elected officials."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Theodore F. Poatsy Jr. *(Three-year term)*



Theodore F. Poatsy Jr.
Upper Salford Township,
Montgomery County
Population: 3,172

Up for a second three-year term on the Executive Committee, Theodore “Ted” Poatsy Jr. is the chair of the Upper Salford board of supervisors in addition to his career as CEO and chairman of Premiere Operating & Technical Strategy Yields, Inc., and adjunct professor at Chestnut Hill College.

Poatsy is an active PSATS member, serving on the Association’s Audit Committee, Townships With Populations Greater Than 2,000 But Less Than 5,000 Committee, and Grassroots Network. He is also the president of the Montgomery County Association.

“It is an honor to serve on the PSATS Executive Board and meet many intelligent and interesting people,” he says. “Public service is a duty that I take seriously. I enjoy bringing good ideas home to better my community. I feel privileged that I now have the opportunity to positively impact the other townships in Pennsylvania.”

Poatsy also is the founder and chair of the Upper Salford Citizens Group, chair of the Upper Salford Republican Committee, municipal chair of the Montgomery County Republican Committee, and a founding member

and chair of the Indian Valley Regional Planning Commission.

In the past, Poatsy served as chair of the Upper Salford Township Open Space Board, chair of the township Finance Committee, a board member of the Montgomery County Land Trust, a member of the Pennsylvania Republican State Committee, the Montgomery County Open Space Board, and the Montgomery County Farm Board, Troop 137 Boy Scout leader and board member, and on the St. Mary’s Church Finance Committee.

Poatsy says serving on the Executive Board has opened his eyes to issues affecting townships around the state, citing broadband access as an example.

“In my area, we have a choice of broadband from several carriers, and I did not understand that areas of Pennsylvania do not have access to broadband, a service I have taken for granted and enjoyed for many years,” he explains. “Learning from other executive board members about their issues and how they solved them helps me to better serve my township. Serving on the executive board is enlightening, engaging, and intellectually stimulating.”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Paul D. Nyman *(Three-year term)*



Paul D. Nyman
Loyalsock Township,
Lycoming County
Population: 11,561

A supervisor for Loyalsock Township for a decade, township roadmaster, and a retired letter carrier and U.S. Army Veteran, Paul Nyman is up for a first three-year term on the Executive Committee.

“My career as a letter carrier spanned 32 years,” Nyman says. “Twenty-five of those years were spent delivering mail in Loyalsock Township. After retirement, I decided to run for supervisor, and here I am a decade later serving the public. I am helping make decisions in enabling others to live a better life.”

Nyman serves on the Townships With Populations Over 10,000 standing committee, helps the Association as a Power of One volunteer, serves as a conference workshop moderator, and participates in PSATS’ Grassroots Network. Nyman also previously held the positions of first and second vice president in his county association.

Nyman is also a member of the Williamsport Kiwanis, GAP Fellowship Church, Williamsport Soap Box Derby,

and American Rescue Workers, and he serves as chairman of the J. Roman Way Historical Park Commission.

In the past, Nyman was part of the Penn State Lycoming Master Gardeners, a counselor at Camp Tuku Youth Camp, Williamsport Chamber of Commerce Golf Committee, the Horizon Federal Credit Union board of directors, the Susquehanna Valley chapter of the Pa. Credit Unions, president of Local Branch 50 of the Williamsport Lettercarriers, an executive board member and secretary of the Pa. State Association of Letter Carriers, and the U.S. Postal Service North Central Pa. Combined Federal Campaign manager.

Nyman hopes to help the Association continue to tackle unfunded mandates from the state and federal government.

“I am now at the next step in serving by running for the position of member of the PSATS Executive Board,” he says, “and I can’t wait to give back and share my life experiences in this capacity.”

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Jeffrey C. Shaffer (*Two-year term*)



Jeffrey C. Shaffer
Smithfield Township,
Huntingdon County
Population: 4,618

With service as supervisor for Smithfield Township in Huntingdon County for more than two decades and experience as roadmaster and assistant secretary-treasurer, Jeffrey Shaffer is running for a two-year term to fill a vacancy on the PSATS Executive Committee.

"I wish to continue dedicating my life to public service," Shaffer explains. "When I became a supervisor and attended my first PSATS conference, I thought maybe some day I could work my way up through the PSATS office to serve on the Executive Board."

Shaffer is currently president of the Huntingdon County Association and previously served as vice president and secretary-treasurer. Additionally, he is a current member of the PSATS Resolutions Committee, a sergeant at arms at the Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show, and previously served on the Townships With Populations Between 2,000 and 5,000 standing committee and as a conference workshop moderator.

An active member of his community, Shaffer is also a life member of both the Huntingdon Regional Fire and

Rescue and the Smithfield Township Volunteer Fire Company and serves as the fire police captain and president of the department. He is a member of the Huntingdon County P.R.I.D.E. (Promoting Rehabilitation, Independence, Dignity, and Education) board of directors and currently serves as its treasurer. Additionally, Shaffer is a member of the Huntingdon Joint Water and Sewer Authority.

As a PSATS Executive Board member, Shaffer hopes to bring his experiences creating balanced budgets for multiple organizations while tackling unfunded mandates and the volunteer firefighter shortage.

"I have more than 20 years of experience as a township supervisor," Shaffer says. "Throughout my years as supervisor, we have gone through rezoning, lawsuits, major land development, and neighbor disputes, among other things. Also, with my experience as a volunteer firefighter, I can give real-time insight into the crisis we are facing as volunteers. I would really like to help PSATS continue to be the excellent organization that I have been part of for the last 20 years."



Along with voting on five officers and three Executive Committee members, PSATS members can get to know the Board at PSATS' Annual Conference, April 14-17 in Hershey.

