

November 2016 Message from President Howie Hirsch

Autumn is here again; my favorite time of year. I love the cool crisp days, the turning of the leaves, I even jumped into the leaf pile this year with my granddaughter. It is another time of change for the seasons and in this election year a time of change for our country. I will not use this forum to endorse a candidate, but I do urge you to go out and vote and make your voice heard.

One vote can make a difference as this story will show. Eight years ago, my daughters were eligible to vote in their first election and were very excited. We were at the breakfast table when they asked, how does this work? Since the election was a primary, I told them that they had to choose between Democrat or Republican. They made their choices as Democrats. We then looked at the ballot, saw Obama for president and there were candidates running for offices from US Senate to Congress to Town Council. When we got to town council, there was one name and it said to choose two. So I jokingly said to them, why don't you write me in. At the polls, that is exactly what they did.

The next day, I was going to a Yankee game with my good friend, Dan Hirshberg, who was running for town council in Hackettstown. He said to me, "do you want to hear something funny, you got two votes in yesterday's election. I replied I should have gotten three as I also wrote myself in (my father told me if you ever ask anyone to vote for you, you need to vote for yourself as well, so I did). I assume one of us used my middle initial or middle name, and when you write in a name, spelling counts. So Dan's next reply was "you won". "I did???" I replied. He said yes, you came in second with two votes. I could have been on the ballot in the fall, but we decided the joke had gone on long enough and that I did not have the time to commit to actually to running for office.

The moral of the story being, **YOUR VOTE MATTERS.**

People all over the world think that voting in a free election is one of the best things in the world. Please make your voice heard on Election Day this year, especially if this is the first time you get to vote. It really is a special privilege we have in this country.

L'Shanah Tovah,
Howie Hirsch

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