

My name is Dr. Gregory K. Robinson, an “Old School Democrat in the likes of FDR and JFK.” I recently retired from Bedford Public School as an English and special education teacher. I also worked as an adjunct professor teaching state and local government courses at Spring Arbor University. If elected, I will continue to work to make a difference in terms of socio-economic change. For example, I am one of the co-founders of the “Camp Out to Stamp Out Hunger” event.

Next, as a person who owns a very small orchard, (Black Swamp Blueberries), I can only begin to appreciate the various socio-economic challenges many small businesses and farmers face in this ever-changing world. On the local level, I think that the issues involved in doing business in Bedford Township remains duly complex. Arguably, we are at a crossroads in the history of this Township. We need experienced managerial leadership, the kind of leadership that works to address the needs of local businesses, the retooling of our infrastructures, the zoning issues, as well as the essential needs of our older and newer neighborhoods and farms.

To me, we need to invest and retain our most important assets: the good people of this township. If we trace the economic history of this area, we can see the changing landscape of business and of labor and ask ourselves what we can do differently to keep our talented constituents here, as well as attract and retain more small businesses to this great area?

To begin, I know we need to recognize our workers: the impressive labor force we have, as well as the exemplary student-citizens we produce at Bedford Public Schools. Additionally, I feel there needs to be a stronger connection between the Bedford Township and the social, academic and sports programs at BPS. I know, I just retired from Bedford Public Schools and as many have noted, we feel that local government recognition and greater involvement would help build bridges between these two entities. In short, we need to promote each other along with the small businesses and farms that make our township extraordinary.

On a biographical note, I am an involved parent and former hometown Bedford student, (go TRE). I served as a Boy Scouts of America leader, (Bedford Troop, 777) and as a praise team drummer at a local church.

If elected, here are some needs I would like to see addressed:

- Writing grants designed to help maintain and expand service programs.
- Adding more police, fire, and ambulatory care services.
- Working to continue to improve roads, water, and sewer and other infrastructures.

In these days of intense competition, our township needs to rethink the way we do business. To me, we must work together even more to make a lasting socio-economic impact and to promote the entrepreneurial spirit, with a rejuvenated role in government concerning implementation and growth--the kind of growth that somehow still allows us to retain our green spaces and our hometown appeal.

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