



NEWS

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Valerie Arkoosh Elected Chair of Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Josh Shapiro to Continue to Serve on Board

Norristown, PA (November 17, 2016) – By unanimous vote, Dr. Valerie Arkoosh was elected Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners at the Thursday Board of Commissioners meeting. Arkoosh will be the first female Chair in the County Board’s history. Josh Shapiro, previous Chair, and Attorney General-elect for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, announced his decision to step down as Chair, but to continue to serve on the Board until his inauguration in January as Attorney General. Shapiro then moved for Arkoosh to be named Chair.

“Montgomery County is flourishing,” said Arkoosh. “Since 2012, Josh Shapiro has chaired the County Board focused on fiscal responsibility, transparency, and strengthening the Montgomery County economy. I will continue to build on those successes and be a wise steward of taxpayer dollars.”

Arkoosh has served on the Board since 2015. She was appointed to succeed Leslie Richards in January of 2015 and was then elected to a four-year term that November.

“Val is a visionary leader who brings a clinical precision to her decisions while at the same time thinking about how to solve challenging problems for the long term,” said Shapiro. “She works with leaders across the political spectrum to get the job done. She is the right person to lead the County and build on the many accomplishments of the last few years.”

Arkoosh, a physician, is also Chair of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. A longtime resident of Montgomery County, Arkoosh is a nationally-recognized public health expert. Prior to her service on the Board of Commissioners, she was Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania.

Arkoosh is a graduate of the University Of Nebraska College Of Medicine and has a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She performed her residency at Jefferson Medical College in Anesthesiology with a special focus on Obstetrics. She has an undergraduate degree in economics from Northwestern University.

Arkoosh lives in Springfield Township with her husband, Jeff Harbison, and their three children.