



NEWS

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Montco Court Selects Arkoosh to Succeed Richards

Norristown, PA (January 28, 2015) – The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas today chose Valerie Arkoosh of Springfield Township to fill the vacancy on the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners created when former Commissioner Leslie Richards resigned to join the Wolf Administration in Harrisburg as state Secretary of Transportation. Arkoosh is scheduled to be sworn-in Thursday morning.

Arkoosh is a longtime resident of Montgomery County who has been engaged in public health policy development across all levels of government during her impressive career. She is a nationally-recognized public health expert. Until recently, she was Adjunct Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. She sought the Democratic nomination in 2014 for the 13th Congressional District seat now held by Brendan Boyle.

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.

Her strong educational background propelled her into national prominence, and has given her a unique blend of public health, leadership, and medical expertise. Upon obtaining her Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins in 2007, she became deeply engaged in the national effort to achieve comprehensive health care reform. She led a national non-profit organization of physicians, who, putting their patients before profits, joined a broad-based nation-wide coalition for reform. During this time, she developed policy and legislative strategy, and promoted public engagement in Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and throughout the country.

While much of her career has been in medicine and public health, Arkoosh has significant experience in dealing with many of the same challenges governments face. She has significant leadership experience managing complex organizations during times of fiscal challenge. Arkoosh served for five years as Chair of Anesthesiology at the Drexel University College of Medicine where she successfully drew upon her undergraduate training in economics to restore her department to fiscal solvency, resolving a multi-million dollar deficit following the Allegheny University bankruptcy. During this challenging time, she also served as Interim Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and was actively involved in the financial oversight of the medical school clinical practice plan.

Arkoosh was an important and active member of the Shapiro-Richards transition team in 2011 serving as co-chair of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee. This effort gave her not only a working knowledge of how county government worked when this administration came into office, but it also allowed her to play an important role in helping to craft the transformative changes that were subsequently made. Later, Arkoosh served as chair of the Montgomery County Board of Health, until she resigned to run for Congress.