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**1) Do you support a Marcellus shale severance tax, or do you favor the current impact fee system? Of the one that you support, why?**

I support the current impact fee system that allows shale income to be reinvested in infrastructure, the environment, and job growth. It is well structured to insure that counties and municipalities impacted by shale development receive funds to mitigate that impact or improve infrastructure, emergency services, technical training, housing, water, and storm-water management. 50% goes to applicable state departments such as conservation districts, Fish & Boat Commission, DEP, PUC, PEMA, the State Fire Commissioner, and the Natural Gas Vehicle Program and the remaining 50% goes back to counties and municipalities with wells or to statewide initiatives that ultimately benefit counties and municipalities. It just makes good sense. I fear that our citizens in Butler County will see little benefit from the extraction tax as it is moved from localities back to Harrisburg.

**2) What specific steps should the county take for economic development? What type of development do you think the county should focus on?**

The County should focus on attracting sustaining-wage jobs in the manufacturing, energy, technology, and health care sectors. Steps to be taken concurrently are:

1. Put business and corporate leaders in the driver's seat to encourage investment and growth.
2. Equip and train County offices to provide superior, prompt service and response to businesses, municipalities, agencies and citizens that supports their success.
3. Map assets and opportunities all across the County for expansion and growth particularly with current industry and get to work to make it happen.
4. Expand workforce training and prep through industry-driven education partnerships that have successful track records.
5. Support efforts by BC3, the Community Development Corporation, Chamber of Commerce and Tourism to develop a Unified Plan of comprehensive and coordinated support to private sector growth.
6. Clean up Butler City Redevelopment issues that could deter future investment by the state or private investors in County projects.

**3) Should the county maintain the senior center system as it is now, or should it make drastic cuts and changes, which could include consolidating most operations into two centers, one in Clearview Mall and one in Cranberry?**

Poor communication and assumptions caused grief surrounding this issue. Center operation is driven by both individual needs and state mandates. The goal is to use state tax dollars allocated to Butler County to benefit the most seniors. Changing culture, more senior communities, seniors living longer, all factor into attendance and programming. If communities want to maintain local centers and believe that keeping seniors in their community is important, they will have to provide support. That doesn't change the desire for different



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programming and access to information. It is difficult to affordably improve quality of life without mirroring private sector efforts to combine services and build partnerships to expand access.

I'd like to see compromise allowing local centers to decide if they can sustain with less assistance, while providing the alternate mall center with expanded offerings. If any center becomes unsustainable, it will have to close with service offered in an alternate location.

**4) Will the board have to restore civility among commissioners? What specific steps would you take to do that?**

It's up to the voters and the Chairman. We shouldn't have to ask this question. Voters I've talked with clearly don't want business as usual on either side. Leaders working with diverse individuals and groups know how to listen, clarify, negotiate, build consensus and ultimately make decisions. We should **not** expect the board to happily agree on all issues. It's important for them to question, disagree, and raise concerns in order to represent the best interests of constituents. Once a decision is made, the board should be accountable to deliver, support, and defend.

The first step will be internal board conversation to understand each commissioner's values and goals, preferred communication and decision-making methods. The second would be conversation about individual and collective communication with County leadership, staff, the public, and media. We can't dictate a person's style or communication, but we can seek to understand, respect, and work with it.

**Leslie Osche**

**DOB:** 03/15/1964

**Residence:** Butler Township

**Party:** Republican

**Occupation:** Non-Profit Leadership

**Background:** (See attached)

**Previous political experience:** Other than advocacy and government relations experience at state and federal levels through United Way and Butler County Chamber of Commerce, no direct political experience.

**Education:** B.A. Journalism, Duquesne University, 1996

**Family:** Husband: James Osche, 56. Sons: Joshua Osche 25, Nathan Osche 23, Zachary Osche (deceased).