

# ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

Allegheny County District 2 covers North Hills municipalities including Sewickley, Franklin Park, McCandless, Pine, Marshall, Richland, Bradford Woods, Crescent and Ohio townships.

BY ELISE LAVALLEE

## CANDIDATE



**CHRISTINE ALLEN**  
(D-Sewickley)



**CINDY KIRK**  
(R-Wexford)

## BIOGRAPHY

Pittsburgh native Christine Allen currently serves as an elected member of Sewickley Borough Council. Studied at Point Park and University of Pittsburgh. In 2006, Allen and their wife started a volunteer food bank garden in Sewickley to improve residents' access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Allen would likely become the Allegheny County Council's first openly LGBTQ member.

Cindy Kirk, a 31-year resident of District 2, was elected as county councilor in 2015. Kirk works as a nursing administrator at UPMC Oakland and earned her master's in nursing administration from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to election, Kirk volunteered in her community and served as a member of the Northland Library Foundation.

## LGBTQ

Allen supports a countywide ban on conversion therapy, stating that the practices are harmful to LGBTQ children and communities and that major professional medical and mental health organizations have condemned the controversial practice of using psychological intervention to get LGBTQ youth to change their sexual orientation. "This unregulated practice not only doesn't help but actively harms people who are subjected to it."

Kirk told a writer for Progress PA that the proposed ordinance to ban conversion therapy is too vague and could be misconstrued as banning any type of therapy. Has claimed conversion therapy is already illegal in the U.S., though conversion therapy is still legal in Pennsylvania, including in Allegheny County outside of the city of Pittsburgh.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Allen believes issues of public health start with creating equitable access to clean air and water, affordable food, and quality health care. "We have glaring disparities in health outcomes, infant mortality can be predicted by race and neighborhood," says Allen. Also believes natural gas drilling, aka fracking, and facilities like the Clairton Coke Works would "decrease the quality of our air and water."

Kirk serves as a member of the county Health and Human Services committee. In 2015, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported that Kirk said she would have "unequivocally" voted in favor of allowing natural-gas drilling under Deer Lakes Park. Voted against the county's indoor vaping ban in 2017. Supports action against air-pollution violators, like industrial facilities, and backs the continued transition to electric vehicles.

## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Allen is open to creating a countywide civilian police review board, but proposes a stronger bill, saying the current bill wouldn't give the board enough legitimate power.

Kirk voted against forming a county-wide civilian police review board in Aug. 2019. Kirk believes smaller municipalities would benefit more from combining resources and merging departments, like how the Northern Regional Police service four communities in her North Hills district.

## FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Steel City Stonewall Democrats, the American Federation of Teachers, CCAC Local 267, Allegheny Group Sierra Club, Food and Water Action, Our Revolution, Women for the Future: PGH

Financial support from the campaign of Pa. House Speaker Mike Turzai (R-Marshall), the anti-abortion LifePAC, Relight American PAC, a group affiliated with former U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-Sewickley), and the Republican Committee of Allegheny County