


**South Plainfield**  
**Republican**            **Organization**

*For Immediate Release*

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## **GOP Chooses Anesh, McConville & Rusnak**

**South Plainfield** – The South Plainfield Republicans have officially announced this year’s candidates, who will be led by Council President Matt Anesh, the party’s candidate for mayor. Joining Anesh will be incumbent Councilmen Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak, who will be seeking re-election to three-year terms

GOP Chair April Bengivenga pointed to the trio’s accomplishments when explaining why they earned the unanimous support of committee members: “Matt, Tim, and Ray are responsible leaders. They are moving our town in the right direction by cutting spending and holding the line on costs. We need them to continue that.”

“Matt is a superb choice for mayor,” added GOP Vice Chair Alex Barletta. “He’s someone who can take us forward, not backward, and make South Plainfield a better place for our families and seniors.”

“Tim, Ray, and I are proud of what we’ve accomplished so far,” said Anesh. “But we know there’s more to do. We’re cutting costs and trimming positions in an

effort to lower taxes, and we want to continue that next year, when we’ll see the full benefit of many of the things we started this year.”

Anesh said the work to control costs began even before the GOP began governing in January when they took control of the council majority. Back in December Ray Rusnak was able to renegotiate the salaries for new public works employees and reduce the pay scales by nearly 30%.

“This will be a long-term victory for taxpayers,” said Anesh. “This is the first time the council has looked at its finances from a long-term perspective.”

“Councilman McConville also did a great job with revamping the recycling program,” added Anesh.

“Most towns were using the county’s recycling program without looking at other alternatives,” said Anesh. “South Plainfield was the first to look to see whether bidding it out on their own would save money. Thanks to Tim, we will save about \$30,000

this year alone. In fact, the idea was so successful that other towns are now looking to bid out their recycling based on the savings South Plainfield is seeing.”

But according to McConville, the town is moving forward on key projects, not just with finances. “We’ll be reconstructing New Market Avenue this summer, and we’ve been looking to add more handicapped ramps and upgrade our parks using county grant money,” he said. “We’re also hoping get state funds to continue the *Safe Streets, Safe Kids* program, which Matt started in 2008. It’s one of the most innovative community safety programs in the state.”

Anesh would be the first Republican mayor in over 15 years if elected in November. He was first elected to the council in 2005, and this year the council unanimously picked him to lead as council president. A lifelong resident and SPHS graduate, Anesh resides on Hidden Court

with his wife Kimberly and twin boys, Harrison and Joseph.

Both McConville and Rusnak are seeking their second term. Rusnak, who has over two decades of experience in finance and investing, lives on Field Avenue with his wife Robyn. He currently serves as chair of the council’s finance and administration committee.

McConville has a background in computer science and does work in homeland security. He and his wife Gina were high-school sweethearts and both graduated from South Plainfield High School. They reside on Eleanor Street with their son Sean and two daughters, Caitlin and Jillian.

“We could not be more proud of Matt, Tim, and Ray’s accomplishments,” said Bengivenga. “They are leaders who do the right thing and listen to the people they serve. Their election will move us forward”