

April 9,2018

**Dr. Mecaj Calls Out Dickson and Schlaffer for False News
and Their Desire to Disempower the People**

Newton, NJ- Before news organizations have even printed their researched news articles, Dr. Mecaj's challengers for a Newton Council seat are going the route of spreading **False News**. This type of knee-jerk politicization of a cost-saving change to our voting process (that will bring a larger voter turnout, and therefore more democratic process), is wrong.

Last week, a Faulkner Petitioners Group was formed to lead the petitioned demand that Newton's Council change from a May to November Election. The Petition clearly states that should the Council decline to do so, a referendum be held at the time of the general election. That Dr. Mecaj's challengers try to thwart the will of the people, by manipulating them with an outright lie that this action will cost taxpayer's money, is wrong.

The move in the voting date is an important change that will bring more voters to the election, thus reducing the influence of special interests. It will also save the taxpayer the cost of a May election.

The Petitioners renew our call for the public to sign this Petition and get some action out of our do-nothing Council. Join with Dr. Mecaj, Mayor Levante and a whole host of other thoughtful Newtonians in demanding beneficial change.

As for Dr. Mecaj's opponents, ***the Petitioners ask that they please remove their false news. They are doing a disservice to the Newton community and dis-empowering the voting residents. That type of leadership is not wanted in Newton.***

Please refer to April 6 Press release and Petition for additional important background information

April 6, 2018

**Dr. Mecaj, Newton Council Candidate,
Chastises Empty Talk and Launches Faulkner Petition
to Move Newton Municipal Election from May to November.**

Newton, NJ – Dr. Mecaj, a candidate for Newton Town Council, frustrated by years of missed opportunities and painful status quo in Newton, is not waiting for when she will be on the Council to bring meaningful change. Dr. Mecaj is leading a Faulkner petition drive to combine the May municipal election with the November general election. This would have two significant benefits. First, it would bring a larger, more varied turnout for the selection of Newton's leaders, since there is always a greater participation in the national election. Second, it would save the taxpayers the cost of a separate election.

Using the Newton public's powers of Faulkner Initiative and Referendum (N.J.S.A. 40:69A-1 et seq), the Petitioners are demanding that the Newton Council move the date of the municipal election from May to November. An increased voter turnout with more varied interests will result, thus increasing the power of the broader public. Insiders will lose their inappropriate, status-quo influence which arises from specially-timed elections that have light, controlled voter turnout.

While Dr. Mecaj's candidacy seeks to bring meaningful, beneficial change and new ideas to Newton governance, this Petition drive is about structural change to give the leaders of change a chance. And most important, it shows Dr. Mecaj will take action to replace past, idle governance talk. Bottom line, the public is favored over entrenched interests by this change. And the taxpayer saves the additional cost of the May election!

Should the Council decline and put this to referendum, the petition requires the following question to be placed before the voting public at the general election, November 6, 2018:

Shall the Town of Newton, NJ change the date of the municipal elections from May to November thereby increasing voter participation and saving tax monies?

"It is discouraging to hear a leader say they 'tried' when they never put forth the effort to succeed. There is no excuse to just talk about this long-needed change. Newton would still remain nonpartisan and both the voter and taxpayer would be benefited. I ask that the Council get this done or let the public decide by referendum."
Dr. Mecaj declares.

Dr. Mecaj's Petitioners Committee consists of four longtime Newton residents: Suzanne Kimble, William Kimble, Barbara Morris and Neil Morris. Additionally, circulators of the petition include members of the *Intelligent Taxation* advocacy group and Mayor Wayne Levante. Levante has previously stated his support for this change. "I commend Ludmilla for taking action and fully support empowering the people to make the changes they desire to see in our town," Levante states. "Despite the votes lacking on the current council to accomplish this needed change, like Ludmilla, I do not easily take 'no' for an answer when it comes to protecting our residents."

The petition is currently being circulated. Dr. Mecaj expects the petition to be filed with the required signatures within the next few weeks.

Contact: Dr. Ludmilla Mecaj, candidate for Newton Council 862-268-6652

Address: 9 Madison Street, Newton NJ 07860 / email: lmecaj@gmail.com

Find out more on Facebook by searching "[Petition to move Newton's Municipal Election to November](#)"

Or copy and paste the link below

<https://www.facebook.com/Petition-to-move-Newtons-Municipal-Election-to-November-198248414149062/>

PETITION OF INITIATIVE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40:69a-1 *et seq*

Under the provisions for Initiative under the Optional Municipal Charter Law/Faulkner Act (N.J.S.A. 40:69A-1 et seq) we, the undersigned duly registered voters of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, hereby take the initiative to petition the Newton Mayor and Council to pass the below ordinance or cause it to be placed on the General Election Ballot for November 6, 2018 with the question to be put to the voters in this manner:

Shall the Town of Newton, NJ change the date of the municipal elections from May to November thereby increasing voter participation and saving tax monies?

ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF NEWTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY
Ordinance To Move The Municipal Election From May to November
Now therefore be it ordained by the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the Newton municipal elections under the Optional Municipal Charter Law/Faulkner Act be moved from May to November pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:45-7.1

The Committee of Petitioners:

Dr. Ludmilla G. Mecaj 9 Madison St. Newton, NJ 07860	Ms. Suzanne M. Kimble 20 Orchard Street Newton, NJ 07860	Mr. William R. Kimble 20 Orchard Street Newton, NJ 07860	Ms. Barbara J. Morris 4 Franklin Street Newton, NJ 07860	Mr. Neil L. Morris 4 Franklin Street Newton, NJ 07860
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Registered Voter (Printed)

Address

Voter Signature

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