

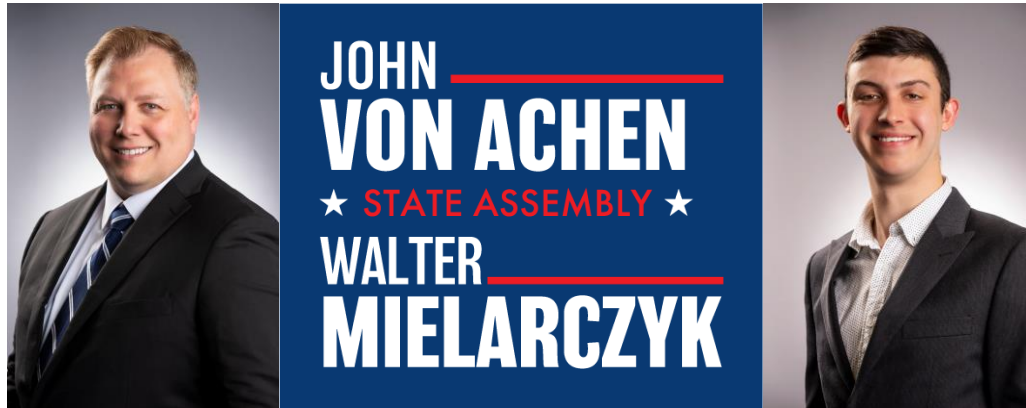
ELECTION 2023

Our Democratic LD26 Candidates for NJ Senate & Assembly



A retired lawyer, Joan Waks has dedicated her life to public and community service. She was a successful small businessperson, running her own family law practice for 20 years. Joan also served as an attorney for the Passaic County Board of Social Services. She served on the boards of Chilton Memorial Hospital and Eva's Village in Paterson and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of DePaul Catholic High School. Additionally, Joan is the President of the Trinity Washington University Board of Trustees. She is an active member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and is a long-time choir member and lector.

Joan became involved in politics in the early 1970s and worked on many national, state, county, and local elections. She served as Wayne Township Democratic Leader for several years and ran for Passaic County Freeholder in 1991 and 1992, New Jersey State Assembly in 1995, and the State Senate in 1997. Joan was elected to the Wayne Township Council in 2001 and served one 4-year term. She is the proud mother of three accomplished children and the adoring grandmother of six grandchildren. Joan moved to Pompton Plains in 2011 following the passing of her beloved husband, David Waks, a long time Wayne councilman, mayor, and Superior Court Judge. She is enjoying life with her Australian Labradoodle, Murphy, and is ready for a new journey, to bring her many skills to Trenton to ensure that our voices in LD26 are heard.



Meet Walter:

- Eagle Scout
- NJIT Albert Dorman Honors College Graduate
- Lifelong Jersey Resident
- Mechanical Engineer at a Vertical Farm in NJ
- Young Person Concerned About Climate Change

Meet John:

- Eagle Scout
- MBA
- Supply Chain Leader
- Chair of the Parsippany Planning Board
- Community Volunteer

Issues Points:

- Protecting Reproductive Freedom
- Investing in Renewable Energy
- Passing Universal Pre-K
- Supporting Unions

John Von Achen is an experienced Supply Chain leader in Biotech/Pharma industry. Currently leading the North America Supply Chain and a member of the Global Supply Chain Leadership team for Ascensia Diabetes Care in Parsippany, NJ.

As a leader in supply chain, Von Achen has managed multi-million-dollar budgets, led teams of more than 20 people, negotiated contracts, led process transformation, and driven cost-saving initiatives for his companies. Von Achen's work has been recognized as the global best practice and he has received multiple awards from his company and business partners. Von Achen always looks to uplift those around him. He shares his knowledge and teaches others as he progresses projects, enabling a stronger team going forward.

As a Democratic Party member Von Achen has been a candidate for Town Council and County Commissioner. Over the years, he has supported multiple campaigns knocking on doors, providing counsel, and as the campaign Treasurer. He currently serves on the Planning Board in Parsippany where he was previously Chairperson. He also volunteers with RISE performing service projects to mitigate poverty and with Boy Scouts where he is Committee Chairman of Pack 177 and an Eagle Scout. He is committed to:

Protecting our democracy: Ensuring MAGA republicans cannot take measures to interfere with NJ elections and issues. Calling out corruption and cronyism.

Equality for all: Ensuring every resident is granted equal treatment under the law and to promote understanding of differences within our community.

Protecting healthcare freedoms: The government should not interfere with the decisions made by a patient and their doctors. This applies specifically to women's reproductive health care and gender affirming care.

Responsible firearms laws: Our laws need to ensure those with firearms are of sound mind and trained in their responsible use.

Sustainability: The government needs to protect and preserve the environment and its resources to ensure long term sustainability. Investing in alternative energy.

Fiscal responsibility: The government needs to clean up bureaucracy where it is inefficient, utilize technology to make interaction with the government less complicated, and provide spending transparency to the public in ways that are easy for them to understand.

Von Achen has been married to his partner Kendra Von Achen for 15 years. They have two children, a dog, and reside in Parsippany, NJ.

Walter Mielarczyk is a candidate for the New Jersey General Assembly representing LD-26. He grew up and continues to live in Pequannock, where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout by serving his local community. He is a graduate of New Jersey Institute of Technology where he studied Mechanical Engineering. He currently works as an R&D Engineering Manager for a NJ based vertical farming company that specializes in growing strawberries indoors.

He is running for General Assembly because he is concerned about the direction that this country has been going in. Specifically, he wants to defend women's rights and protect children from gun violence. He will also build a better future for New Jersey's children by supporting Governor Phil Murphy's Universal Pre-K plan and establishing a statewide free school lunch program to make sure no child goes hungry. He hopes he can count on your support.