

# LETTER: 'Attacks on Bernardsville candidate are troubling'

EDITOR: I have read some of the attacks by residents of Bernardsville on Borough Council candidate JoAnne Robertson and I find them troubling.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know JoAnne and her husband personally over the last year. The Robertsons are extraordinarily kind and thoughtful people who care deeply about their country and community. They are faithful parishioners of their church and I have seen them go out of their way to help others.

I have personally witnessed JoAnne interact with individuals within the Bernardsville community who are from different racial backgrounds than she and each time she treated them with nothing but kindness and respect.

JoAnne is unapologetically a passionate Republican and Catholic. She holds firm beliefs about political and moral issues that are rooted in her passions for God and country.

She is not hateful, racist, nor a bigot. She expresses her views proudly and freely, as do her counterparts who support the Democratic party.

However, JoAnne is always willing to engage in thoughtful and open discussion with people of opposing or differing views. I know this because I have had conversations with her where we had differing views on an issue and were able to listen to each other and productively discuss the issue with respect for one another.

I would encourage anyone who is willing to go so far as to tear a local political candidate to pieces in a public forum to consider engaging in a dialogue with the candidate, rather than writing about her as a first resort.

Let us turn away from the keyboard and toward each other.

***KEVIN LIGUORI***

*Basking Ridge*