

Name: James Vassanella  
Municipality: Franklin Township, Somerset County  
Office sought: 5th Ward Councilman, 4 year position, Incumbent  
For publish phone # (732) 828-7738

I am honored to serve the residents and businesses of the 5th Ward. Four generations of my family have lived here since the 1950's. I have lived in the same neighborhood I grew up in for close to 50 years.

My knowledge of the 5th Ward, my experience and my record of getting things done for our Ward is extensive.

Please support me. I will continue to fight for our needs.

Present positions held:

Senior member of the Franklin Public Safety Committee

Senior member of the Franklin Public Works Committee

Council Liaison to the Open Space Advisory Board

Council Liaison to the Environmental Commission

Member of the Franklin Transportation Committee

Member of the Easton Ave. Corridor Study

Member of the Cable TV Advisory Board

Member of the Emergency Life Support Committee

Member of the Franklin Health Board

Member of the Franklin Green Team

Member of the Franklin Emergency Planning Committee

Member of the Franklin Emergency Management Council

President of the Franklin Community Foundation

Board of Trustees of Somerset County Coalition of Affordable Housing

## **Some Highlights of My Work As a Councilman**

### **Ethic Reforms**

- Sponsored and co-authored one of NJ's strongest Redeveloper Pay-to-Play Ordinances.
- Sponsored and co-authored Civilian Commission, Boards & Committee Absentee Policy Ordinance, which improved participation.
- Introduced new Policies for Council civilian nomination process, which is fairer and more efficient.
- Co-created a Policy allowing the broadcasting of local political debates on FTTV-25 and helped pave-the-way for the broadcasting of Zoning and Planning Board meetings.

### **Financial Reforms**

- Fought to get Franklin's first ever Township wide outside operational review/audit which can help save taxpayers millions of dollars and greatly improve efficiency.
- Co-sponsored an Ordinance changing 8 Township Attorney and Judge positions from employee status to contractors, saving taxpayers several thousand dollars a year.
- Lobbied successfully for policy change, which eliminated 50% of take home vehicles.
- Leader in the effort to pursue competitive bidding for all contracts and to reduce the awarding of non-fair-and-open contracts.
- Co-sponsored an Ordinance which re-structured commercial fire and health inspection fees, which increases revenues every year.

### **Infrastructure and Environmental**

- Created the plan adopted by council, which cuts in half the 10 year backlog for road re-surfacing, mainly funded by budget surplus.
- Co-created a plan to keep the Mini-Dump/Recycling Center open and legal, while eliminating a 200,000.00 operating deficit.
- Introduced with the good Government Committee, a Resolution endorsing the Kyoto Treaty/Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement to help stop global warming.
- Successfully fought for improvements to neighborhood Parks in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Ward.
- Co-created and co-chaired "Green Summit" in Franklin.

### **SAFETY and QUALITY OF LIFE**

- As senior member of the Public Safety Committee, worked with Police to help implement No-Parking and No-Turning laws.
- Fought for the hiring of more Police Officers which helped bring back Police Bike Patrols to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Ward.
- Helped secure more funding for volunteer Rescue Squads serving Franklin residents.
- Co-created plan for a Franklin East-West Shuttle Loop, focused on servicing low income and senior residents.
- As president of the Community Foundation, helping to secure funding for Franklin Youth at-Risk and the need of handicapped residents.