

# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## Subverting democracy

On Dec. 4, state Rep. Tim Hennessey, who represents about half of Pottstown, degraded himself in a way I would never have thought possible.

Together with more than 60 other Republican legislators, Hennessey signed a letter to Pennsylvania's congressional delegation asking the delegation "to object, and vote to sustain such objection, to the Electoral College votes received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the Joint Session of Congress on Jan. 6,



Commentary by  
Thomas Hylton

2021."

Under the 1887 Electoral Count Act, if one senator and one representative from any given state challenges that state's electoral votes, the House and Senate will then decide whether to accept those votes.

Given that both of Pennsylvania's senators, Republican Pat Toomey and Democrat Robert Casey Jr., have publicly accepted Joe Biden as the legally elected president, a challenge by Pennsylvania's congressional delegation Jan. 6 is highly unlikely.

The letter that Hennessey signed, therefore, is little more than a publicity stunt.

But it's dangerous and destructive.

As Loyola Law School professor Justin Levitt has noted, "It's a sideshow, but it's a harmful sideshow. The continuing baseless, evidence-free claims of alternative facts are actually having an effect on a substantial number of Americans. They are creating the conditions for elections not to work in the future."

Polls show that 70 percent of Republicans believe the Nov. 3 election was fraudulent.

The letter Tim Hennessey signed perpetuates that blatant falsehood.

Joe Biden won 80,000 more votes for president than Donald Trump in Pennsylvania.

The same election that Biden won saw two Republicans win statewide office, treasurer and auditor general. It would have taken an unbelievably sophisticated fraud to flip 80,000 votes for Biden and, on the same ballot, keep Republican majorities for treasurer and auditor general.

And, of course, that same election saw Rep. Hennessey win a thirteenth term in the General Assembly.

Last month, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, acting as Trump's lawyer, asked a federal judge to throw out 6.8 million votes cast in Pennsylvania on nebulous accusations of irregularities.

The judge, Matthew Braun, a Republican and conservative Federalist Society member, wrote that Trump's campaign presented "strained legal arguments without merit and speculative accusations." He dismissed the case.

Even U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr, a Trump appointee, has said there is no evidence of fraud that could overturn the election.

I've known Tim Hennessey since he was fresh out of Villanova Law School in 1972. He went to St. Aloysius Elementary School, St. Pius High School and St. Joseph University, where he had a rigorous exposure to ethics and high ideals.

I've always seen Hennessey as a rational, decent person with the best interests of the community in mind.

But no one knows better than Tim Hennessey that his signature is endorsing a corrosive myth.

Yet he demeans himself to pander to his Republican base.

Russian writer and historian Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn has said "The simple act of an ordinary brave man is not to participate in lies, not to support false actions."

Hennessey has failed to meet that simple test.



*Tim Hennessey*  
Tim Hennessey  
Representative, 26<sup>th</sup> District

**REP. TIM HENNESSEY signed a letter to Pennsylvania's congressional delegation asking it to challenge and discard Pennsylvania's electoral votes.**