

## FORWARD

Since the incorporation of the Village of Depew in 1896, the political process, just as in any other democratic society, has played a role in shaping of the community. The forward looking men who played a role in the founding and incorporation of the Village of Depew were soon challenged by others in the community who felt it was necessary to now move the village forward.

The battle lines were soon drawn and political parties were organized supporting the incumbent office holders and the challengers. The Workingman's Party supported the incumbents and the People's Party supported the challengers.

As time went by the Workingman's Party evolved into the Citizens Party, which continued until 1937, when that same party evolved into the Independent Party. In the mean time, the opposition would change the party name periodically to the Reform Party, Union Party, People's Party and the American Party.

Often times there would be no opposition to the incumbent party in power or a third party might appear on the ballot.

With the growth of the village concentrated on the south side and the "400" Section as it was called, the area north of Ellicott Road and Olmstead Avenue and the Saint Peter & Paul section of the village, the political power for the most part rested on the south side of the village.

After World War II as the village-expanded north and west of Transit Road, the political power still rested in the older sections of the Village.

As the demographics began to change in the older sections of the village there appeared to be a shifting of the political power toward the north and west side.

The information for this writing came from researching the micro filmed copy of the Depew Herald and it's successor paper the Depew Bee, the Lancaster Enterprise, Village Board minutes and from a collection of political slingers, news letters and other election materials held by the Village Historian.

In the early days of the village, much of the written campaign material was printed in ads taken out in the Herald by the various political parties. The collection of campaign materials held by the Village Historian dates back to the elections of the early 1950's.

Included in this document are listings of the many who have served the Village of Depew in the elective and appointive positions including the years served and their local political affiliation.

It is the hope of the writer that the reader will get a true sense of how the Village of Depew has grown and the effect, which the various politicians and political parties have had on the Village of Depew.

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Historian Village of Depew