

# 2022 Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative Election of Directors



**District One Candidate Bradley Sparta** is an assistant superintendent at the Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton. Brad was appointed to the SREC Board of Directors in December 2014 and has been re-elected by the membership in 2016 and 2019. He has completed five national education courses needed to be a Certified Cooperative Director and is currently working on obtaining his Board Leadership Certificate. Brad's extensive education includes a B.S. in Management and a B.A. in Economics from East Stroudsburg University in 1992.

Brad is one of the founding members of the Vernon Education Foundation and its first president to be elected. Brad served on the Vernon Township Board of Education from 2009 to 2012 and from 2015 to 2021. Brad is a lifelong resident of Vernon. He and his wife of over 20 years, Robyn, reside in Vernon with their

two daughters.



**District Two Candidate Joseph Barca** was raised in Vernon and is a 1988 graduate of Vernon Township High School. Joe graduated in 1993 from West Virginia University with a B.S. degree in Marketing and is a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Joe was employed by Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase as a Vice President for 25 years and in his career he has worked in the Information Technology, Information Security, and Cyber Security fields. He earned his Master's Degree in Management Information Systems in 2003 from Stevens Institute of Technology during his time with Citigroup. Joe is currently employed by Lynx Technology Partners as Cyber and Third-Party Risk Manager.

Joe was first elected to his seat on the SREC Board of Directors in 2019 and has recently completed the required courses to receive his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate. In this day and age of cyber attacks, with Joe's background in Information Security and Cyber Security, one of Joe's main focuses is to protect the Co-op with his expertise, oversight, and governance from a Cyber Risk perspective. Joe resides in Vernon, NJ with his wife Allison and their three children Kayla, Dylan, and Lia. He enjoys spending time outdoors skiing and hiking with his family and is an avid sports fan.



**District Three Candidate Michael Abate** has lived in Wantage for 15 years and resides on Compton Road. Michael easily fell in love with Wantage's countryside after previously living in Newton, and finds the people of Wantage so friendly and giving. In April 2014, Michael had the opportunity to join the newly formed SREC Member Advisory Committee. Michael was honored to be accepted into this committee and values being a part of SREC's desire to improve for the benefit of its members. In the eight years since, Michael has come to understand the values and principals SREC maintains.

Michael owns his own business in residential construction/renovations called Action Services & Contracting, giving him over 30 years of knowledge and experience working with customers as well as employees.

Michael feels this would be an asset to SREC if he is elected to the board, and his experience working with SREC's board members and key employees in committee meetings has shown that he shares the same American values and belief in always doing the right thing. In addition, his past experience with automobiles and knowledge of customers' household needs can be valuable to SREC as it grows into the future of our electric world.



**District Three Candidate Michael Gall** is a resident of Lafayette Township who has dedicated himself to serving the families of Sussex County. He has served on the SREC Member Advisory Committee since 2016. He has also served on the SREC Nominating Committee, the Lafayette Township School District Board of Education, and the Sussex County Educational Services Commission Board of Education. He resides on Cedar Ridge Road with his wife Dana and their three children Gracie, Lincoln, and Jackson.

During his tenure as former Principal of Wantage Elementary School and current Superintendent of the Sussex-Wantage Regional School District, Michael has been a driving force in the greater community. He has a vast amount of experience in various areas of developing budgets, crafting policies, facilities management, and public sector contract negotiations. He worked collaboratively with all stakeholders to successfully combine the positions of Superintendent and Principal, as well as Director of Curriculum and Vice Principal, to save the district approximately \$250,000 per year. He also assisted in brokering one of the most successful contract negotiations in the history of the school district, saving taxpayers a projected \$3 million dollars over the life of the three-year public sector contract. He hopes that his leadership experience, volunteerism, and conservative voice would be a welcome addition to SREC's board of directors.