

Victor M. Frederick IV seeking 2nd term as district judge

By **Mary E. Young**
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A need to serve the public has grown for District Judge Victor M. Frederick IV.

That's why he gave up a job he enjoyed as an Amity Township police detective to run for the office he now holds.

Being a district judge is everything he thought it would be, and he wants to do it for another six-year term in the May 17 primary election, said Frederick, a Republican cross-filing as a Democrat.

On the county level, Frederick led a subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, improving the process used for serving protection-from-abuse orders.

On the state level, he's worked with a judges group that recommends changes in criminal laws.

"Those are things I did beyond my borders to help bring about change in Berks County as a whole," Frederick said. "While other people are talking about how to fix a problem, I'm already solving it."

"I enjoy setting things right, and seeing people treated fairly."

Frederick said he also reaches out into the community in many ways, including talking to students about a wide range of topics and making available to parents and students online courses on underage drinking, marijuana use and tobacco use.

He meets with school district officials to talk about ideas for getting truants to stay in school.

In addition to community service for juveniles, Frederick often requires them do research projects.

For example, he said a juvenile caught with a BB gun that looks like a real gun would be asked to look up how fast a projectile must move to break the skin, incidents in which people were shot because police thought the guns were real and how to use the guns safely.

Using these other options gives people a chance to learn from their mistakes, and move on without being hurt for the rest of their lives, Frederick said.

"It takes time and effort to find out what was going on in a person's life that led him to this decision," he said. "I would rather take the risk and be wrong than do nothing, and wonder whether this person could have done something wonderful."

"In a position of power, the most powerful tool you have is your discretion. When you exercise your discretion properly, you can do an awful lot of good."

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Victor M. Frederick IV

