

Gregory P. McGuckin

Council President and Ward 4

Council President Greg McGuckin is a life long Republican who got an early start in politics working on the campaigns of his father, Jack McGuckin, the first directly elected Mayor of Brick Township. Greg proudly points out that he cast his first Presidential vote for Ronald Reagan and before deciding himself to run for elective office, he was active in numerous local campaigns.

Greg is a 1983 graduate of Providence College, where he was a Dean's List student majoring in History. He was a two year starting tackle for his college football team and worked part-time while earning his degree.

Following college, Greg returned to New Jersey and enrolled at Seton Hall University School of Law where he earned his Juris Doctor Degree in 1987. During law school, Greg was named by the faculty to be the Student Director of the Schools Juvenile Justice Clinic and was selected for an Internship with Judge John Bissell in the United States District Court. He was elected to the Student Senate, attained Dean's List honors and was a Finalist in the prestigious Frederick B. Lacey Trial Moot Court competition.

After receiving his law degree, Greg returned to Ocean County where he served a Clerkship with the Judges of the Superior Court. Following his Clerkship he became associated with the Forked River Law Firm of Dasti, Murphy & Wellerson. Greg was eventually named a Partner in the firm which is now known as Dasti, Murphy, McGuckin, Ulaky, Cherkos and Connors. During his legal career, Greg has successfully represented a number of local municipalities as municipal solicitor, planning board attorney and prosecutor. Greg led the legal challenge to prevent the establishment of an Adult Bookstore in a residential area of Ocean Township and guided the townships efforts to stop a 900 unit residential development that had been proposed by a prior democratic administration. He has successfully defended local planning and zoning boards faced with lawsuits from developers and represented the first municipality in New Jersey to receive a Town Center designation from the State Palnning commission. In 2003, Greg was appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court to serve on the District III Ethics Committee and he has been a member of the Ocean County Bar Association since 1987.

Following the 2003 change of government in Toms River, Greg was elected to the newly created council seat representing the 4th Ward. When the new Council was organized for the first time on January 1, 2004, Greg was unanimously selected by his fellow council members to serve as the first ever Council President. For six straight years he has received the Councils unanimous support to continue serving in that capacity. He was reelected to his council seat in 2005.

During his first four years as Council President, Greg was able to work in a bipartisan manner with Democratic Mayor Paul Brush on a number of critical issues facing the community. At the same time he challenged the democratic administration on their fiscal policies and spending plans. Under Greg's leadership, the Council was able to dramatically reduce tax increases proposed by the Brush Administration while completing the Townships new, state of the art Ice Skating Center, Castle Park and a new township wide paving program. Councilman McGuckin worked to provide 10 new police officers and Toms River was recently recognized as one of the 10 safest cities in the United States. While the average property tax bill in New Jersey is \$6,800, Greg is proud that Toms River has the lowest overall property tax burden of any large town in New Jersey, with the townships residents paying a total average property tax bill of \$4,200. This year, working with Republican Mayor Tom Kelaher, Toms River will be one of the only municipalities in this state to see a reduction in the local tax rate which will decrease by over 2 cents per hundred.

Greg is the father of three daughters; Kelsey-17, Emily-14 and Amy-13. He is licensed by New Jersey Youth Soccer as a Travel Team Soccer Coach and has coached all three of his daughters over the last 13 years as a coach with the Toms River Soccer Association.