## **Fair Ballot Democrats - Maplewood Statement**

As Fair Ballot Democrats running for District Leader positions in Maplewood, we recognize the important work the Maplewood Democratic Committee (MDC) has done to engage voters and promote democratic values in our community. We believe that by working together and bringing fresh perspectives to the table, we can further strengthen our local Democratic Party and accelerate the pace of change towards a more transparent and inclusive political process.

Maplewood Fair Ballot Democrats bring a wealth of experience and dedication to the cause of reforming our political system:

- Far from being political novices, Maplewood FBD District Leader candidates collectively have decades of experience organizing and advocating for transparency and democracy in Essex County and around the state.
- While Maplewood Democratic Committee District Leader seats have been largely occupied, vacancies persist. We believe that every district in the Township should have two active District Leaders who are eager to serve and engage their communities.
- FBDs elected as District Leaders in Maplewood will bring fresh perspectives and greater people power to the fight for more transparency in our elections and among our party's leadership. Reforming established political structures can be frustratingly slow in New Jersey, but FBDs will bring new voices to the table and can accelerate the pace of change.

As Fair Ballot Democrats, we strongly support fair ballots (including a permanent "office block" ballot for all races) and insist that the county party hold a convention and use a secret ballot to endorse candidates.

By running for District Leader positions, we aim to work alongside the MDC to bring more transparency, inclusivity, and fairness to the party and ensure that it truly represents the diverse interests of our community.

On Election Day, vote for Fair Ballot Democrats to bring new ideas, fresh energy, and additional leadership to the Maplewood Democratic Committee. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant local Democratic Party that effectively serves the needs of all Maplewood residents and continues to champion democratic values.