



We are excited to bring you the first edition of 215 PA's newsletter! We're here to share some updates about what 215 PA has been up to, spread some joy, and invite you to become a part of future initiatives and share your voices. In this issue, we're focusing on stories about how our members and leaders first got involved with 215 PA. You'll learn about 215 PA's successes in a difficult year, from the nourishing plates served up at the People's Kitchen to the full slate of working groups fighting for justice in our city. You'll also find out how you can join our efforts to make a better Philadelphia for everyone. Oh, and did we mention there's a delicious recipe? Read on for encouragement as we work together for equity and justice in Philadelphia.

**[-The Lit Crew]**

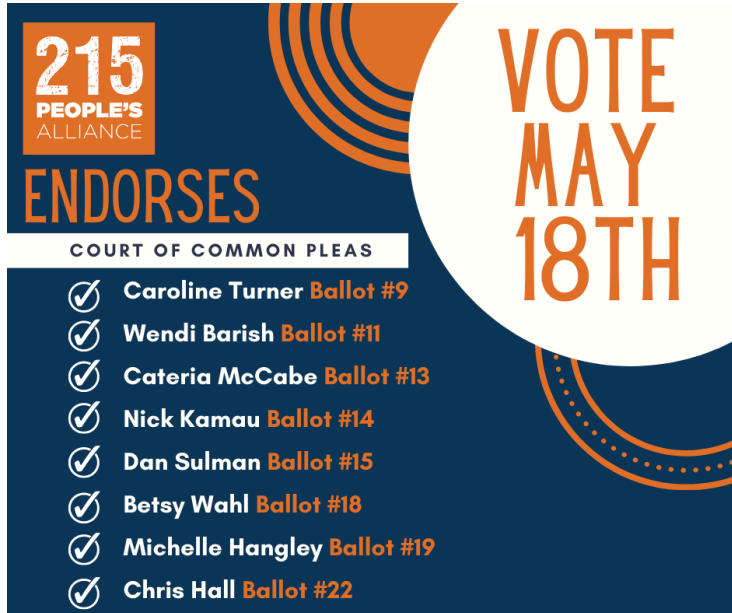
## What Sparks Joy?

We asked members to share what has brought them joy. Turn to page 7 to keep reading!



"My garden. Gardening is therapy for me and my garden is my sanctuary. I also like to play with recycled materials for art in my garden." Caitlin Fritz, Member since 2019/staff.

# May Primaries



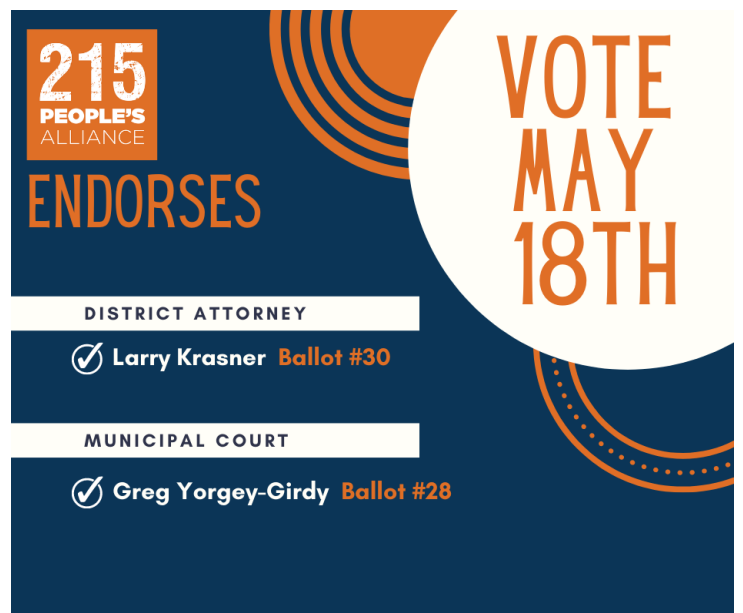
**215**  
PEOPLE'S  
ALLIANCE

**ENDORSES**

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

- ✓ Caroline Turner **Ballot #9**
- ✓ Wendi Barish **Ballot #11**
- ✓ Cateria McCabe **Ballot #13**
- ✓ Nick Kamau **Ballot #14**
- ✓ Dan Sulman **Ballot #15**
- ✓ Betsy Wahl **Ballot #18**
- ✓ Michelle Hangley **Ballot #19**
- ✓ Chris Hall **Ballot #22**

**VOTE  
MAY  
18TH**



**215**  
PEOPLE'S  
ALLIANCE

**ENDORSES**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

- ✓ Larry Krasner **Ballot #30**

MUNICIPAL COURT

- ✓ Greg Yorgey-Girdy **Ballot #28**

**VOTE  
MAY  
18TH**

All Philadelphians want our communities to be safe, healthy, and thriving. We deserve investments into housing, education, jobs and healthcare. Yet too often, corrupt politicians funnel money into a police force and prison system that fails to prevent violence or support communities. We deserve a District Attorney and judges who understand the root cause of most crime and violence is poverty and believe in providing second chances. That's why 215 People's Alliance is happy to announce the **endorsement of Larry Krasner for District Attorney and a slate of progressive judicial candidates for the May 18th election**. Join us as we collectively build a Philadelphia where all members, of every community can get the resources needed to heal and thrive: <https://bit.ly/2PJvsGC>

Join us for a **GOTV Rally for Justice and Safety on May 15th** at 3:00PM at Disilvestro's Playground on 15th & Morris! We will have delicious food by Everybody Eats Philly and hear from speakers such as Council member Kendra Brooks and District Attorney Larry Krasner.



# Ego's Mixiote Recipe

## Ingredientes

Red Pork Mixiote

8 servings

1 kg pork loin or pork ribs

Water as needed

125 gr guajillo peppers

125 gr ancho peppers

2 tablespoons oregano

1 pinch cumin

1/2 onion

1/2 garlic head

1 1/2 tablespoons vinegar

1 jar of green olives with pits

8 peeled and washed nopales

avocado leaves

salt to taste

butter as needed

paper or bag for the mixiotes

First wash the meat very well and cut it in small pieces. Add a little bit of salt and put it in a storage container.

After removing the stems from the chilies, boil the chilies for 30 minutes. Drain the chilies once they are tender and blend them with the onion, oregano, cumin, garlic, and vinegar.

Add this salsa to the meat and allow to marinate for 2 hours in the refrigerator.

Cut the nopales into small squares or pieces, and boil them in sufficient salt water. Once the nopales are cooked, remove from heat, drain and rinse with cold water and set aside. In the bags add 2 olives and an avocado leaf marinated with a bit of the salsa.

Put one or two chunks of meat with two spoonfuls of nopales and a bit of butter and bathe them with the same salsa.

Seal the mixiote very well so that nothing leaks out; try to make it so the bag doesn't stay inflated and squeeze out the air and tie it with hemp string. Put the mixiote in a steamer pot to cook for 2 hours while continuing to check the water level. Once cooked, they will be ready to enjoy. They can be served with rice or beans.

**Recipe by Eréndira Zamacona**

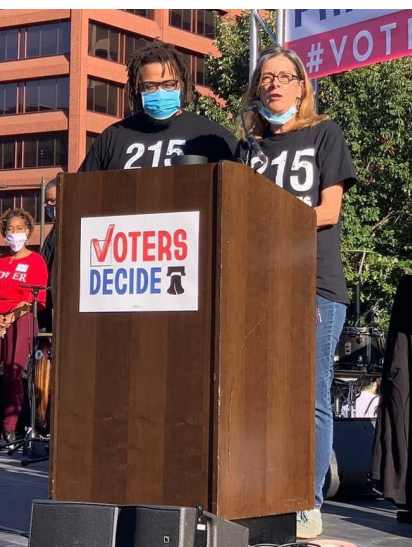
## ORIGIN

The name of Mixiote comes from the Náhuatl words metl, which means maguey (type of agave plant), and xiotl, interpreted as the "film of the leaves."

These are native to the southern region of the Mexican High Plateau, which is formed by the Anáhuac Valley and the Huasteca of Hidalgo (forming the states of Querétaro, Hidalgo, México, Morelos, Tlaxcala and Mexico City) where raising lamb and cultivating maguey are common.

# 215 PA Origin Stories

**Caitlin Fritz**, 215 PA's Managing Director, previously worked at UPenn doing school partnership work. In 2016, Caitlin met people like Shivaani Selvaraj, Ron Whitehorn, and Kendra Brooks at the Community Schools Task Force. "Ron convinced Shivaani and I to go to one of the first 215 meetings at the taxi driver union office, and it was the very beginning of the fight to end the School Reform Commission," Fritz said, of the very beginning days of her involvement. Caitlin loved the work of 215, but it was not until Caitlin moved into the city that she began regularly attending member meetings and doing work around Kendra Brooks' campaign. Then, before she knew it, Shivaani offered her a job. By 2020, Caitlin became the Managing Director of 215PA. "People like Ron and Kendra were always very welcoming and approachable, and I feel like our northeast chapter is like a family...it's those relationships you build, and I think it's hard to describe that because it's more of a feeling," Fritz said of her love for the organization.



**Patty Eakin**, retired RN, was peripherally involved with 215PA since the beginning via her husband, Ron Whitehorne, who was a founding member. Her first campaign with 215PA was working for the 2015 election for Helen Gym who won a City Council seat, and she got more involved after she fully retired in August of 2019. For Patty, her work is directly connected to her Union organizing and that is the heart of her work. She believes that it's a necessity to combine electoral work with community and labor organizing and says, "You need organized and powerful workers involved in order to create the massive changes needed to win equality and social justice for all of the working class."

**Kevin Kuriakose:** "I went to a live candidate forum during the 2019 primary. 215 PA and other organizations from Alliance for a Just Philadelphia organized an event for city council candidates to talk about why they should be elected. It was in a big auditorium and all the seats were filled. It was a big, well-put-together event. They were mentioning all the different organizations that were involved, and when they mentioned 215 PA, they got a really loud applause. After that, I started doing some research to find out more. I really value the diversity and the values of economic and racial justice that 215 PA holds – realizing that we have to be in solidarity with each other – and at the same time I was interested in orgs that had an anti-capitalist lens. That's another one of the reasons that drew me into 215 PA."



# What Makes 215PA Unique?

We asked 215 PA members and leaders what makes 215 PA unique. They all highlighted the organization's focus on people and relationships. 215 PA is made up of people with strong relationships to each other and a commitment to building a people-powered movement.

Patty described 215 PA's mission with people at its center saying, "215's mission of trying to build a working class movement with Black and Brown people in the lead is key. That's our goal and that's what we need to build." She appreciates that 215 PA is "grounded and accessible."

That focus on interpersonal engagement was highlighted throughout 215 PA's work during the 2020 election season. Kevin noted, "We really wanted to have conversations with people, meet them where they are, find out what issues people were most concerned with and start from there." Caitlin praised 215 PA's emphasis on building joy and solidarity, not just racking up numbers. She said, "Instead of thinking about how many doors we can knock, [we focused on] bringing live music or food to polling places." The People's Kitchen grew from a realization that the community had an immediate need for food and a larger need for more just food systems. As Caitlin put it, "fighting a revolution is hard on an empty stomach."

As Kevin said, "It's always the people who are doing the work that really start positive change, not necessarily elected politicians – it's due to movement work." 215 PA is building that movement with people at its core.



Photo credit: Avigail Milder (center photo); Carly Pourzand (left & right photos)

# Some Work Group Successes

## Reimagining Philadelphia Series

When the COVID-19 pandemic limited opportunities to organize in person, 215 People's Alliance created a series of virtual meetings to build power by keeping people connected, discussing new and perpetual injustices affecting working people and marginalized communities, and imagining transformative changes in Philadelphia.

### 2020 Election

On Election day, organizers and solidarity workers worked in collaboration with amazing Philly chefs to #FuelTheMovement by feeding voters and spreading joy at polling sites throughout the city. In the days that followed, 215PA continued to share food and hit the streets with the demand to #CountEveryVote.



Photo Credit: Erendira Zamacona

**WE MUST  
NOT REMAIN  
SILENT.**

Graphic Credit: Philip Berezney

### Worker Committee Collab

The Coalition for Restaurant Safety & Health (CRSH) and 215PA have been collaborating with food service workers to create safer and fairer work cultures. Together, we are reimagining a safer industry for all! Check out our recent #OurVaccineStories campaign on Instagram @215peoplesalliance @CRSHPhilly

### Justice For All

The Justice for All group has been working to demystify the courts and legislative processes in order to end mass incarceration and build a safe Philadelphia. The group has been leading “teach-ins” to collectively educate, including a lot of work to help us understand gerrymandering. They are now focused on the May 18th primary since 215PA’s endorsement of Larry Krasner.

# What Sparks Joy?

(cont'd. from page 1)

"A newly adopted cat with an unstoppable purr" - Lit Crew Member

"Seeing my senior cat, Debbie, start to embrace her new kitten sister, Dot." -Laura Chance, Lit Crew and Political Education Working Group



"Foraging season has been making me so happy! Been gathering garlic mustard, ramps, stinging nettles, edible flowers, and anything else I can find." - Sarah Thompson, Member of the Justice for All team & the Worker's Committee.



"Bedroom flowers" - Haley, Steering Committee Member, solidarity worker with People's Kitchen



"Getting my vaccine. That's been such a relief. And that it means I will be able to see 215 PA people in person!" - Patty Eakin

Spring Flowers!  
- Lit Crew Member



# Other Events and News

## Growing Together Garden

215PA has partnered with **Church of the Redeemer Baptist** to grow fresh produce in Point Breeze. We are growing as an act of resistance in a neighborhood that is sought by developers. We have also partnered with **The Trust for Public Land - Heat Response project** to lead a Gardening and Mural Club for youth. All ages are welcome! Interested in helping with our rented plots or the gardening and mural club? Email [carly@215pa.com](mailto:carly@215pa.com)

Check out the Philadelphia's **Urban Ag Strategic Plan 2nd Public Meeting**, live through May 15th: <https://sites.google.com/interface-studio.com/publicmeeting2/home>

## Sign the Petition to the Board of Education from Our City Our Schools

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-to-the-board-of-education-stop-silencing-community-voices>

## Labor Committee

Thousands of Philly workers' contracts are set to expire from the spring through the fall. These are our neighbors and friends who have been working and sacrificing all through the pandemic, including postal workers, teachers, grocery workers, bus drivers, and all the city workers who keep the city going, from water department engineers to trash collectors to nurses in the clinics. They have been forced to fight for adequate PPE and have lost many members who have died from COVID-19. 215 supports their fights for fair contracts that provide a good standard of living, respectful working conditions and adequate safety protections. We oppose the idea that the predominantly Black and Brown working class needs to sacrifice any more due to economic issues of the pandemic, especially while the city's elites like Comcast and UPenn have amassed fortunes and pay little or nothing. To get involved with the Labor Committee contact Patty Eakin at [peakin65@gmail.com](mailto:peakin65@gmail.com)



## 215 PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

✉ [info@215pa.com](mailto:info@215pa.com)  
☎ 215-399-2243  
🖱 [215pa.com](http://215pa.com)



@215alliance



@215peopleskitchen