

Jordan Glatt C'84

Former mayor, Summit, New Jersey

I was the first Democratic mayor in the hundred-plus year history of the town. Summit is a very Republican community. For many years, nobody even ran. It was a fool's errand.

I was reading a book about Mayor [Fiorello] LaGuardia of New York and came across a quote where he said there really was no Democratic or Republican way to pick up the garbage. That was kind of the inspiration of this whole thing.

There was a sense of a lack of connection between the council and the community. The council meetings would go to 11 o'clock, and they wouldn't take public comments until the end.

When a member of the public would speak, they would flip an egg timer over to give him three minutes. I pointed that little fact out, and it gave me a lot of traction. It was a good demonstration of what happens when you have a single party running things for a long time.

My first mayor's election I won by under 200 votes. The second election I got 60-plus percent of the vote.

Remember, we're talking local stuff, so the big issue in town was athletic fields. We built four turf fields. I also put in a Habitat for Humanity home, for affordable housing. Those are the two things I'm probably most proud of.

Everybody asks, "Why didn't you go further?" Unfortunately, I can't think of the last person who, at a higher level, got out with their dignity. I think the last person was Tom Kean Sr.

Drew was a fabulous experience, life-altering. That's where I grew up. I found professors that turned me on to figuring out what I liked. I was a political science and philosophy major. I always say philosophy taught me how to communicate and write. My real profession is being a CEO of a company, and it's all about communication.

I think Drew gives you all the advantages of being in a metropolitan area—being right outside Manhattan—and a campus life. It's an oasis you can retreat to while taking advantage of really being in the center of the world. But it is up to the student to push out beyond those gates.—**SHANNON MULLEN**

When he's not hanging around the Summit Diner, Glatt is a partner with Free All Media, an advertising software company.

Peter Murphy

