



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 2, 2015**

## **Arkoosh Elected Secretary of DVRPC Board**

**Norristown, PA (July 2, 2015)** – Montgomery County Commissioner Val Arkoosh has been elected secretary of the board of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). Arkoosh is the vice chair of the county commissioners, and is also on the board of directors of the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association.

A longtime resident of Montgomery County, Arkoosh has been engaged in public health policy development across all levels of government during her impressive career. She is a nationally-recognized public health policy expert. She is a graduate of the University Of Nebraska College Of Medicine and has a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health. She performed her residency at Jefferson Medical College in Anesthesiology with a special focus on Obstetrics. She has an undergraduate degree in economics from Northwestern University.

Arkoosh served for five years as Chair of Anesthesiology at the Drexel University College of Medicine where she successfully drew upon her undergraduate training in economics to restore her department to fiscal solvency following the Allegheny University bankruptcy. During this challenging time, she also served as Interim Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and was actively involved in the financial oversight of the medical school clinical practice plan.

Arkoosh lives in Springfield Township with her husband, Jeff Harbison, and their three children.

The DVRPC board is an 18-member body having the authority and responsibility to make decisions affecting the entire organization as well as the nine-county region. In its capacity as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region, the board establishes regional transportation policies, determines allocation of available transportation funds, and prioritizes transportation projects for the

region. In addition to transportation planning for highways, transit, airports, and freight, the agency develops plans and policies for other regional physical planning elements such as land use, air quality, housing, water supply, and water quality.

DVRPC is dedicated to uniting the region's elected officials, planning professionals, and the public with the common vision of making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work, and play, DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment, and enhancing the economy. DVRPC serves a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey.