

John Birkner Jr. was elected Mayor in November of 2007. He was sworn in and began his mayoral term on January 2, 2008. Mayor Birkner was born and raised in Bergenfield. He graduated from Bergenfield High School. Mayor Birkner attended Bergen Community College and Ramapo College as an undergraduate student. He had done advanced professional study at Rutgers University/Cooke College focused on industrial wastewater treatment and wastewater microbiology.

Mayor Birkner moved to Westwood in the late 1980's. He is an avid cycling enthusiast. During that time he lived and trained in the area as a member of the GS Park Ridge Cycling team and has competed in numerous prestigious Pro -Am bicycle road races. After marrying his wife Susan in 1994, the couple lived in Monmouth County. They moved back to Westwood in 1997 to raise their family. The Mayor and his wife are the proud parents of a daughter Paris and son Kyle. Both are enrolled in and are enjoying the Westwood Regional school system.

Mayor Birkner is employed in the wastewater treatment industry as a consultant with Bigler Associates, Inc. He is also employed as an Environmental Health Specialist for the Bergen County Utilities Authority. Mayor Birkner currently serves as the President of the Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO Local 534. He is a strong advocate of community service. The Mayor volunteers and is active with the Knights of Columbus St. Thomas Moore Council 2188. He also volunteers with St. Andrew's R.C. Church where he has served as Director of the Men's Cornerstone program and as an elementary religious education instructor. Mayor Birkner is a coach for the Dragon's Soccer Club.

He also serves the Westwood Baseball Association as a League Trustee and recreation and travel level coach. The Mayor is also involved with the Westwood Wolverines Youth Football program and Washington Township/Westwood wrestling program.

In his dwindling free time, Mayor Birkner enjoys outdoor activities with his family and dog Truffle. He enjoys cooking and is continuing his athletic career by playing baseball as a member of the Westwood Indians men's baseball team for as long as his body will hold out.