



PLAINSBORO

Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu Will No Longer Seek to be Mayor in January 2025 but Will Retain his Township Committee Seat.

Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu informed his Plainsboro Township Committee colleagues on Wednesday, Dec. 11 that he will not be asking them to support him for another term as mayor, commencing on January 1, 2025. Having been mayor for 44 years and a member of Plainsboro Township Committee for 50 years, Cantu says he intends to remain a committee member – his current term goes through December 2026.

In the township committee form of government, the committee members at the annual municipal reorganization meeting choose a mayor for a term of one year. The committee members in Plainsboro now have a few weeks to consider other candidates for the position of Plainsboro's mayor. The annual reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2025, at 6 p.m., when Cantu's decision will be formalized.

"I am happy to assist in the transition in any way possible," says Cantu. "I have full confidence that my colleagues will agree upon a highly qualified and dedicated individual to become mayor, who will work with township committee members to keep the town moving forward with its vibrant and successful economic, cultural, health, and educational initiatives," he says.

The reason for the decision to end his decades of service to the town as mayor is "nothing dramatic, no particular health or personal crisis. At the age of 84, I feel it is time for me to back away from the considerable day-to-day mayoral responsibilities and demands. This is a job to which I have devoted enormous time and energy – as has my wife of 63 years Gale Cantu, who has been with me on this incredible journey every step of the way," Cantu says.

Cantu, a Democrat, has been a member of the Plainsboro Township Committee since 1975, and he was first chosen by committee members to serve as mayor in 1977. Cantu has been a resident of Plainsboro since 1955, and neither he nor his wife, who was born in Plainsboro, has any desire to leave "this terrific, multicultural community," of 24,000 residents.

"Plainsboro certainly is different from the very small farming town I encountered when I first came to Plainsboro that featured a population of 1,200 people and 1,600 cows. Plainsboro nowadays has been recognized by New Jersey Monthly magazine as one of the top 10 "Best Places to Live" in New Jersey and by Fortune Small Business magazine as one of the "100 Best Places to Live and Launch a Small Business."