

# Fall 2014 Elections

This LWV Voter Guide covers NY State Senate, NY State Assembly and county and town elections for districts within Saratoga County, NY

## NY Senate District 43

**New district:** Includes **Saratoga County:** Towns of Moreau, Greenfield, Wilton, Northumberland, Saratoga, Stillwater, Halfmoon, Waterford, most of the City of Saratoga Springs except the western part, and the City of Mechanicville. **Washington County:** Towns of Easton and Cambridge. All of **Rensselaer County** except the City of Rensselaer and the southern part of the City of Troy. All of **Columbia County**.

### Candidates (choose 1):



#### **Brian Howard**

**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 241-6441

**Education:** University at Albany, Education Doctorate University at Albany, Master of Science State University of New York, Potsdam, Bachelor of Arts

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have spent 42 years as a classroom teacher, union leader, principal and school superintendent. I am skilled at problem solving, collaborating and making sure all sides can work together. I have managed budgets ranging from \$18 million to \$101 million.

**Key Endorsements:** Working Families Party RFK Democrats

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.brian-howard.org/>

**Campaign Email:** [briehoward4senate@gmail.com](mailto:briehoward4senate@gmail.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 7 Troy, NY 12182

**Party Endorsements:** Democratic Working Families

**Party Affiliation:** Democratic

#### **Questions:**

**Q:** *What would be your top three priorities?*

**A:** -Campaign Finance Reform: The concept of one person, one vote is being drowned in New York State. I will work to limit campaign contributions, publicly fund elections, and bring one-person-one-vote democracy back to New York, based on a code of ethics that is strictly enforced. -Education and Education Funding: I will make sure that our public schools are fully funded and restore the funds lost due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment and Foundation Aid. We must fully fund our schools to meet the needs of students and provide some additional relief for local property taxpayers. Common Core must be replaced and I have a Five-Year Plan to review, analyze and replace Common Core. -Women's Equality Act: The passage of the Women's Equality Act in its entirety is a priority to me. WEA ensures that women are paid the same as men for equal work and that pregnant women are not discriminated against in the workplace. I do not want the government making any medical decisions for women.

**Q:** *What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?*

**A:** I truly believe that public education is a pathway out of poverty for many Americans. This means making a quality education accessible to all. The best way to ensure a bright future for our region is to provide the best education possible by adequately and fairly funding public education at all levels. Working men and women are the backbone of our democracy and our economy. We need a minimum wage that will allow workers to support their families. I am committed to raising the minimum wage in New York State. The property tax must be replaced as a means for supporting education. It is a burden, creates and maintains inequitable funding and is unmanageable. A fair, reasonable and sustainable alternative must be found. We must rebuild our infrastructure which includes our highways and roads, but also includes broadband and making broadband accessible to all areas of New York.

**Q:** *What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?*

**A:** I fully support modernization of the voter registration process and anything that would make it easier for voters to understand the electorate process and cast their ballots.

**Q:** *What would you like the voters to know about you?*

**A:** I am not a career politician I am running to make New York State better for future generations. I want all students educated. I want to build an economy that will grow in the future. I want to make sure every New Yorker has a voice and influence in our government.



## **Kathleen Marchione**

**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 618-8308

**Education:** Graduate of Spencer Business Institute and Shenendehowa High School.

**Experience and Qualifications:** 35 years of dedicated, honest and effective public service. Completing first successful two-year term as a New York State Senator for 43rd District having been overwhelmingly elected in 2012. Chair of the Senate's Administrative Regulations Review Commission. Member of the Senate Majority Coalition Task Force on Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases and the Senate's Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction. Served as Saratoga County Clerk (1997-2012), Halfmoon Town Council (1994-1997), Halfmoon Town Supervisor (1990-1994) and Halfmoon Town Clerk (1979-1989). Four-time recipient of "Annual Achievement Award" for service to the Association of County Clerks, selected as "Clerk of the Year" for 2008 and served as past President of the State Association of County Clerks. Advisory Board Member for Leadership Saratoga (14 years), Chaired New York State Regional Records Advisory Committee (10 years), Capital District Regional Planning Commission (14 years) and served on the New York State Local Government Records Committee (over 20 years). Recipient of New York Association of Local Government Records Officers' "Wheeler B. Melius Award," in 2007, the highest distinction a records management professional can receive.

**Key Endorsements:** Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA); Public Employees Federation (PEF); National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); PBA of New York State, Republican Party; Independence Party; and Conservative Party.

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.KathyMarchione.com>

**Campaign Email:** [info@kathymarchione.com](mailto:info@kathymarchione.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 236 Clifton Park, NY 12065

**Party Endorsements:** Republican, Independence, Conservative

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What would be your top three priorities?*

**A:** My first priority is growing our economy to create more jobs and opportunities for all New Yorkers, especially upstate where our economy struggles. This year, I helped deliver another on time, fiscally responsible budget that lowered taxes on manufacturers, further reduced the 18-a energy surcharge, provided a manufacturers' property tax credit and increased funding for job training programs. My second priority is to make our state a more affordable place to live, work and raise a family. The budget I supported included record funding for the School Tax Relief (STAR) program and new, family tax relief checks that will save families with children \$1.23 billion over three years. My third priority is improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers by supporting policies that lead to safer communities and stronger families. I co-sponsored and supported bi-partisan legislation that combated heroin abuse, provided more assistance for victims of Lyme disease and supported family farmers.

**Q:** *What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?*

**A:** Addressing income inequality in a manner that encourages economic growth is a serious challenge requiring bi-partisan solutions. This year, New York State will invest \$1 billion on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that has proven to be one of the most effective ways of increasing workforce participation and supplementing wages. Our state's EITC now represents America's largest state-level work incentive of its kind. In addition, this year's budget included \$1.1 billion in additional State Education Aid, the largest increase in the past five years, for even better schools. The budget also provided more funding for community colleges to ensure that a college degree is affordable for more New Yorkers. I also supported more funding for job training and workforce development programs,

along with an increase in the State's Minimum Wage. All of these positive steps will help address income inequality while ensuring that the economic ladder of success extends to everyone.

**Q:** *What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?*

**A:** Yes to all of the above! I support early voting, voting by mail, better ballot design and modernization of voter registration, all of these are terrific ideas that need to move forward on a bi-partisan basis. Of course, we must insist that Albany provides the necessary funding for these election reforms so they do not become yet another unfunded state mandate on already overburdened local governments. New York State's levels of voter participation are embarrassingly low and that must change. We need more people, more voices, and more ideas taking part in our democratic process. Our constitutional republic works best when voters make their voices heard, participate and then vote.

**Q:** *What would you like the voters to know about you?*

**A:** I believe that public service truly is a public trust – and that trust must be earned. Every day, I wake up thinking about the middle class families who work hard, play by the rules and are worried about New York's high cost of living and their children's future. As a former single mother who once worked three jobs to support her children, I have lived the struggles and shared their dreams that so many upstate families face. I have known long days of hard work and many sleepless nights filled with worry about paying the mortgage and keeping the heat on. I have dedicated my life to public service, making a positive difference and representing my community in Town, County, and now State government. My focus is on helping families and making their lives better than before. I have worked hard and kept my promise to use my voice, and my vote, to work for a safer, stronger, more affordable New York State. I would be honored to receive your vote and continue serving as your Senator. Thank you.

## NY Senate District 49

**District:** Includes **Fulton and Hamilton** Counties. **Saratoga County:** Towns of Day, Hadley, Edinburg, Corinth, Providence, Galway, Milton, Charlton, Malta, Ballston and Clifton Park and western part of Saratoga Springs. **Schenectady County:** Towns of Glenville, Niskayuna and most of the City of Schenectady. **Herkimer County:** Towns of Webb, Ohio, Fairfield, Russia, Salisbury, and Manheim.

### Candidates (choose 1):



#### **Hugh Farley**

**Party:** REP, CON, IND, SCC

**Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Juris Doctor degree from American University Law School, Bachelor of Science from SUNY Albany, graduate of Mohawk Valley Community College

**Experience and Qualifications:** State Senator representing the second largest geographic district in the State, former town councilman, former college professor and high school teacher, Army veteran

**Key Endorsements:** National Federation of Independent Business, Police Benevolent Association of NYS, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), Public Employees Federation (PEF), NYS AFL-CIO

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.hughfarley.com>

**Campaign Email:** [friendsoffarley@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsoffarley@yahoo.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** Friends of Farley, P.O. Box 9223, Niskayuna, NY 12309

**Party Endorsements:** Republican Party, Conservative Party, Independence Party

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What would be your top three priorities?*

**A:** First, we need to focus on initiatives that will encourage and support economic revitalization and job creation. Second, on a related matter, we need to continue to control government spending and provide tax relief to families and businesses. Third, we also need to seek further relief for local governments and schools, while cutting the bureaucratic red tape that hinders small businesses.

**Q:** *What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?*

**A:** Job growth is key to strengthening families and communities, and we need to create opportunities for stable, well-paying jobs. In the Capital Region, we will work to build on our successes in encouraging the development of high-tech industries. In addition, we need to support and expand the ability of schools, libraries and other organizations to offer programs that provide people with the necessary skills and occupational training.

**Q:** *What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?*

**A:** Voting is an important right and privilege in this country, and we need to encourage participation in our democratic process while ensuring the integrity of the system. While I share some of the concerns that have been raised about early voting initiatives, I remain open to proposals that would improve the process for registering and voting. Also, I've received many complaints about the layout of the new paper ballots, as well as a lack of privacy at voting locations, and we will be looking to make improvements in these areas as well.

**Q:** *What would you like the voters to know about you?*

**A:** I am honored that the voters have continued to place their confidence in me to represent them in the State Senate. I am very enthusiastic about running again, and I work hard to be responsive to my constituents to make sure that their views and concerns are heard in State Government, and to assist them in problems they may encounter with government bureaucracy.



## **Madelyn Thorne**

**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 727-6689

**Education:** St. Rose College - Certificate ASL

**Experience and Qualifications:** 30 years Industrial Sales-working with businesses on budgets, ROI, investments, projections. 3 years as Pastoral Care Director.

**Key Endorsements:** NOW, 1199, Planned Parenthood, Empire Pride, CWA, UA773, Carpenters, Bricklayers.

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://madelynthorne.com>

**Campaign Email:** [madelynthorneforstatesenate@gmail.com](mailto:madelynthorneforstatesenate@gmail.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 569, Schenectady, NY 12301

**Party Endorsements:** Saratoga, Schenectady, Hamilton and Herkimer Democratic Committees Working Families Party

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What would be your top three priorities?*

**A:** 1) Equalize our school funding formula through elimination of GAP so all public school students have the same opportunity to receive a quality education. 2) Passage of the full WEA 3) Accelerate the increase in the minimum wage and tie the minimum wage to our Consumer Price Index.

**Q:** *What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?*

**A:** We need to invest in more work force development and job re-training so our citizens can take advantage of the better paying, technology-based employment opportunities that are growing in upstate New York. We also need to provide tax incentives to small businesses, which are the backbone of our economy.

**Q:** *What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?*

**A:** I have spoken frequently about educating citizens of the necessity of voting and will work to make sure all have access to submitting their vote. I support early voting and voting by mail. Any process that allows more to participate in voting should be investigated and implemented, if appropriate. I would also combine Federal/State primaries to save our counties - and therefore our taxpayers-- monies.

**Q:** *What would you like the voters to know about you?*

**A:** I am a hard working, ethical, middle-class woman who has worked for everything I have. I am deeply concerned that the voice of the working person has been forgotten and will continue to be ignored unless we are represented by someone who understands the day to day struggle of the middle class. I have children and grandchildren and I want them to have every opportunity to have a safe

home, a good education and a career that will afford a decent living wage, security and dignity. I believe we can make our system work.

# New York State Assembly

## NY Assembly District 112

**New district:** Includes **Saratoga County:** Towns of Providence, Greenfield, Galway, Milton, Charlton, Ballston, Clifton Park, and Halfmoon. **Schenectady County:** Town of Glenville.

### Candidates (choose 1):



#### **Jared Hickey**

**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 878-7017

**Education:** graduate of Albany Law School

**Experience and Qualifications:** Schenectady County Attorney's Office NYS Senate Intern B'nai B'rith Board Member

**Key Endorsements:** Democratic party

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://friendsofjaredhickey.com>

**Campaign Email:** [friendsofjaredhickey@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjaredhickey@gmail.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** Friends of Jared Hickey c/o Frank Salamone 58 Washington Avenue, Apt. 5 Schenectady, NY 12305

**Party Endorsements:** Democratic party

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Statement at Candidate Forum:** <http://www.youtube.com/v/frj6K>

#### **Questions:**

**Q:** *What would be your top three priorities?*

**A:** 1) I will work to create new jobs and new opportunities for our young residents. This is accomplished by increasing funding to education and state investment in our communities. I will increase funding for education to the 2008 levels. Further I will introduce legislation to have the state match all Industrial Development Agency and Metroplex incentives. 2) I will fight for equality for women, minorities, seniors and the LGBT community. I have signed the Women's Equality Pledge and I will ensure passage of all 10 points of the Women's Equality Act. The women of New York State deserve full passage of the Women's Equality Act and anything less is unacceptable. 3) I will seek a state take over of Medicaid. New York is 1 of only 2 states which funds Medicaid through local property taxes. This will reduce county property taxes by over 50%.

**Q:** *What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?*

**A:** I will fight for pay equity for all members of our community. An hour's work is an hour's work. In addition I will fight to increase the state minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, indexed to inflation. It is time we solve this issue once and for all. The families of this State should feel secure that by working full-time they can afford to feed their families. It is unacceptable that those living on minimum wage may still qualify for food stamps. By providing a livable minimum wage, families will be able to provide for themselves, alleviating the burden on the tax payers. In addition, by providing the middle class and lower middle class with a living wage they will reinvest in the economy, which will continue to strengthen the economy.

**Q:** *What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?*

**A:** I would fight to combine the federal primary and state primary. This would save the state taxpayers millions of dollars. Further, I would fight for a public campaign finance system that will remove the special interest groups that plague our electoral process.

**Q:** *What would you like the voters to know about you?*

**A:** I am running for New York State Assembly to provide a better life for the people of our district where my opponent has failed. It's time our communities are represented by someone who understands the concerns of our families and who will stand up and fight for us. As a husband and father of an 8 month old son, I share the concerns of the families in this district. In the Schenectady County Attorney's Office I negotiated the labor agreements that have resulted in over \$10 million in savings per year through innovative health care initiatives, and the labor agreements related to the construction of the new Glendale Nursing Home which came in \$7 million under budget and on-time.



## **James Tedisco**

**Party:** REP, CON, IND, SCC

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 377-9818

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Psychology -- Union College Master's Degree in Special Education -- College of Saint Rose Bishop Gibbons High School

**Experience and Qualifications:** -NYS Assembly -Schenectady City Council -Special education teacher, resource room instructor and varsity basketball coach at Bethlehem Central High School -Guidance counselor, varsity basketball coach and athletic director at Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons High School

**Key Endorsements:** National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), Public Employees Federation (PEF, Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), NYS AFL-CIO, Farm Bureau Circle of Friends

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.jimtedisco.com>

**Campaign Email:** [jim.tedisco@yahoo.com](mailto:jim.tedisco@yahoo.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 992, Clifton Park, NY 12065

**Party Endorsements:** NYS Republican Party, NYS Conservative Party, NYS Independence Party, Stop Common Core Party

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Statement at Candidate Forum:** [http://www.youtube.com/v/qM5r4\\_YLK\\_U](http://www.youtube.com/v/qM5r4_YLK_U)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What would be your top three priorities?*

**A:** 1) Mandate relief to rollback property taxes and state takeover of Medicaid to reduce property taxes. 2) Invest in education to prepare workers for the kind of jobs that will drive the 21st century economy and stop the brain drain of New Yorkers leaving the state by offering a tax credit to recent college graduates to enable college graduates to exempt their first \$250,000 earned after graduation, with a maximum of \$50,000 per year. Why is this important? Because chances are within five years these graduates will get married, start a family and buy a home where they'll be paying state, local and property taxes and serving and investing in New York State for at least the next 25 to 30 years. 3) Help small businesses create jobs by reducing burdensome and unnecessary state regulations such as amending the wage theft reporting act that creates a costly paperwork burden on small businesses.

**Q:** *What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?*

**A:** This term we passed the lowest middle class tax rate in nearly 60 years, capped property taxes and created a tax freeze to bring relief to over-burdened taxpayers. Moving forward, our state government must move away from the altered reality that there is always a revenue problem when in many instances the state has had a taxing and spending priorities problem. This will go a long way to reprioritizing the steps that are needed to cure New York's ailing economy. A part of this cure is championing an educational system that provides real opportunities for people to compete, grow and take part in the work force of the 21st century. We can do this by reforming the state education formula to ensure equitability for our schools and to close the funding gap. Our state government's role must be as an ombudsman to help remove obstacles so that people can be everything they can be with their God-given talents and provide the best level of services at the lowest cost.

**Q:** *What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?*

**A:** The #1 election reform that can truly give enhanced power to the people in New York State is enacting legislation I am sponsoring to enable voters to petition to recall elected officials who are derelict in their duties. We also need campaign finance reform including limits on the amount of contributions and full disclosure of political contributions and relationships. I've authored legislation to

end the practice of bundling-sidestepping individual contribution limits by having an intermediary gather donations and then delivering them to a candidate to get credit for soliciting the funds. I also am sponsoring legislation to put teeth in the enforcement of campaign finance laws by making it a misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail for failing to disclose campaign donations and expenses after failing to report disclosures three times.

**Q:** *What would you like the voters to know about you?*

**A:** I've successfully been able to, as the Associated Press wrote, "break through with ideas that affect New Yorkers" in their quality of life. Whether it's sponsoring, debating and passing Proposition #2 on the ballot this November to save up to \$53 million and the environment by moving state government into the 21st century - going digital with the printing of legislation; originally sponsoring the property tax cap; leading the way to stop dead in its tracks a proposed 45 percent job-killing Thruway toll hike; passing and authoring legislation to support our veterans and get disabled veterans back to work; cutting the job-killing estate tax, manufacturer's tax and 18A energy tax to help small businesses create jobs or standing up for defenseless pets and their owners by helping pass Buster's animal cruelty law, I believe I've shown that one voice can make a difference against overwhelming odds. My pledge is to continue to be a strong voice to keep NY working.

## NY Assembly District 113

**New district:** Includes **Saratoga County:** Towns of Moreau, Wilton, Northumberland, Malta, Saratoga, and Stillwater, and the Cities of Saratoga Springs and Mechanicville. **Washington County:** Towns of Kingsbury, Hartford, Fort Edward, Argyle, Greenwich, Salem, Jackson and Easton.

### Candidates (choose 1):



#### **Steve Stallmer**

**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 547-4546

**Education:** Geysers Road Elementary School, Saratoga Springs High School - class of '94, Marymount University

**Experience and Qualifications:** As Chief of Staff to Congressman Chris Gibson for the past three years, I have worked with local officials, chambers of commerce and constituents throughout the 113th district on a number of issues. I led Mr. Gibson's efforts to pass a federal Farm Bill that protected the safety net for our dairy farmers and increased funding and availability for rural broadband programs. As a native of this district, with deep family roots, I can use this knowledge and experience as your representative in Albany.

**Key Endorsements:** National Federation of Independent Businesses, NYS Rifle and Pistol Association, Unshackle Upstate

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://stallmerforassembly.com>

**Campaign Email:** [stallmerforassembly@gmail.com](mailto:stallmerforassembly@gmail.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 3180 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Party Endorsements:** Republican, Conservative, Independence

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What would be your top three priorities?*

**A:** 1. Tax Reform - if we utilize an anticipated budget surplus, eliminate the \$420 million Hollywood tax credit, enhance government efficiency and reduce waste, fraud and abuse in our welfare programs, our state government would have the revenue to pay for the tax relief New Yorkers have long sought. My plan includes: Double the STAR property-tax exemption for all homeowners, saving the average homeowner \$700 annually and seniors \$1,400 and Institute a 30 percent income tax rate cut on families making less than \$300,000 per year, saving each middle-class taxpayer an average of \$1,033 annually. 2. Education - slow down Common Core implementation and use a phased-in approach guided by real educators, with input from parents. Restore the funding cuts made during the recession. 3. Fight Corruption - establish term limits for legislative leaders, strictly limit how politicians spend their campaign donations and enact tougher penalties for elected officials that break the law.

**Q:** *What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?*

**A:** As noted above, I think middle-class tax cuts would help address income inequality. We also need to improve our infrastructure to help create more good-paying jobs. To me, infrastructure means roads and bridges, water and sewer lines, broadband to our rural communities, and improvements to our energy transmission grid. Eliminating unfunded mandates from the State would also help our local governments provide tax relief or make these necessary infrastructure improvements to attract new businesses. If we can create more jobs, and help lower the cost of living, we can begin to close the income inequality gap.

**Q:** *What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?*

**A:** Voter apathy and mistrust is at an all-time high. I think the best way to increase voter participation is to end the partisan bickering and focus on results. Everyone should be treated with dignity and respect. When we disagree, we need to do so politely and respectfully. Focus on the areas of agreement, pass those measures and then continue to debate the points of contention. Eliminating the corruption and abuse of campaign funds will also help restore some trust in our elected officials.

**Q:** *What would you like the voters to know about you?*

**A:** I was born and raised in a middle-class family in Saratoga Springs. My father delivered mail in downtown Saratoga and my Mom was a local teacher. I graduated from Saratoga Springs High School in 1994 and was awarded a full academic scholarship to Marymount University in Arlington, VA. As a senior in college, I interned for Congressman Jerry Solomon. After a few years as a congressional aide, I returned to Saratoga Springs to raise my family. Now, I am raising my two kids, Kaylee (10) and Andrew (7) not far from where I grew up and near both my siblings. My campaign is focused on my deep local roots, and my experience helping the communities in this area as Congressman Gibson's chief of staff.



## **Carrie Woerner**

**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 694-2479

**Education:** MBA, Santa Clara University BA, Carnegie Mellon University

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have 30 years of experience in the private sector, 25 years working in high-tech companies both large and small, and 5 years as Executive Director of the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation. I have created jobs, managed

a payroll, and grown successful businesses. I am an elected official, now serving my 4th term as Village Trustee in Round Lake; I understand the challenges municipalities face creating and balancing budgets in the face of state mandates. I have served on the Saratoga Arts Board of Directors for 6 years, and am now on the Advisory Board for Saratoga P.L.A.N. I volunteer with the Wilton Food Pantry. I am a member of the Malta Sunrise Rotary Club and the Saratoga Chamber of Commerce.

**Key Endorsements:** Emily's List, Women's Campaign Fund, AFL-CIO, Capital District Area Labor Federation, NYSUT, CSEA, PEF, NYS Building and Construction Trades Council, Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters, Empire Pride Agenda, NYS League of Conservation Voters, NARAL

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.vote-carrie.com>

**Campaign Email:** [info@vote-carrie.com](mailto:info@vote-carrie.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** Friends of Carrie Woerner PO Box 888 Round Lake, NY 12151

**Party Endorsements:** Saratoga County Democratic Committee Washington County Democratic Committee Working Families Party

**Party Affiliation:** Democratic

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What would be your top three priorities?*

**A:** Education, Jobs/Careers, and Agriculture are my three top priorities. I will work to restore the Gap Elimination funds and adjust the school funding formula so that our rural schools are funded fairly. I will champion bringing Common Sense back to Common Core and putting local schools and teachers in charge of setting the curriculum for their classrooms; reforming the testing requirements for all students but particularly special education students. From my experience as a business person, I will bring focus on small businesses and removing the impediments to starting/growing a successful business; investing in the infrastructure upgrades our communities need to bring in private investment in businesses that will create jobs; addressing the tax and regulatory burden that

overwhelms small businesses. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy and I will work to address the challenges that farmers, particularly young/new farmers, confront in an effort to remain profitable enterprises.

**Q:** *What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?*

**A:** We need more good paying jobs, and we need more careers. Small businesses were once the center of our communities -- they supported the families of the people who owned them and of their employees. Many of the towns and villages of the 113th district struggle to get businesses to fill their empty storefronts -- because the cost of being in business is high, because it is difficult for a small business to compete against a big box store that has received tax incentives to set up shop, because the town doesn't have the kind of infrastructure a 21st century business needs. Encouraging entrepreneurship, designing a tax system that doesn't disadvantage small business owners, simplifying the paperwork, investing in infrastructure, all of these initiatives would help create more small businesses, and these in turn will create good paying jobs and careers for the next generation.

**Q:** *What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?*

**A:** We are so fortunate to have the right to vote, and it is discouraging to see how few people vote each year. I believe that making it easier to register to vote, and making it easier to cast a vote, are worthy goals. I would like to see it be possible for people to vote early and/or vote by mail so if you aren't certain you can make it to the polls on election day, you still can cast a vote. I would like to see improvements in the voting machines: the ballots should be sized to lie flat in the voting carrels and the voter should receive a confirmation that their ballot has been scanned/read correctly before confirming that they want the vote cast.

**Q:** *What would you like the voters to know about you?*

**A:** I am passionate about our region -- our farms, our historic sites, our high tech future. I am passionate about the amazing potential of our communities because of the people and natural resources we have to offer, and I am committed to doing everything I can to help us realize that potential. I believe our government was designed around the concept of the Citizen Legislator -- someone who has a career outside of government and who, for a period of time, provides service to their community as an elected official. I am not a political insider -- I am, like you, a person who has worked her whole adult life in the private sector. The skills I bring -- practical problem solving, collaboration, fiscal conservatism -- are borne out of my years of working in business. I believe in transparent and accountable government. If you bring a problem or concern to me, you will receive a timely and thoughtful response. We may not agree on everything, but you will always know how I vote and why.

## **NY Assembly District 114**

**New district:** Includes **Essex and Warren** Counties. **Washington County:** Towns of Putnam, Dresden, Fort Ann, Whitehall, Hampton, Granville, and Hebron. **Saratoga County:** Towns of Day, Hadley, Edinburg and Corinth.

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

**Daniel Stec**

No response

# Saratoga County Races

## Saratoga County Court Judge

Candidates (choose 1):

**James Murphy**

Party: REP, CON, IND

No response.

## Saratoga County Treasurer

Candidates (choose 1):

**Andrew Jarosh**

Party: REP, CON, IND

No response.

## Saratoga County District Attorney

Candidates (choose 1):

**Karen Heggen**

Party: REP, CON, IND

No response.

# Saratoga County - Town Races

## Ballston Town Justice

Candidates (choose 1):

**John A. Fantuzzi**

Party: REP, CON, IND

No response.

## Edinburg Town Assessor

Candidates (choose 1):

**Ronald Beckering**

Party: REP

No response.

# Halfmoon Town Council (3 year term)

Candidates (choose 1):

## Jeremy Connors

Party: REP, CON

No response.



## Deanna Stephenson

Party: DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 225-3398

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://balanceforhalfmoon.com>

**Education:** BA Biology. Currently working on Masters in Health Administration

**Experience and Qualifications:** Deanna is a healthcare administrator with experience in financial oversight, outcomes management, strategic planning, team and resource management. She is currently employed by Elderplan.

**Key Endorsements:** Saratoga County Democratic Committee, Halfmoon Democratic Committee

**Parties:** Democrat

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What is your motivation for running for this office ? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

**A:** My vision and goals have not changed or wavered since my candidacy in 2011. I continue to seek balance, fiscal health, smart growth and provide a ethically centered presence for a town government that has lost the faith of many of residents. I have been and continue to be an active leader for numerous community groups spanning 10+ years. In 2011 I Co-Founded Future Halfmoon, a grassroots bi-partisan organization made up of 500+ residents who, collectively have brought a much needed level of scrutiny to the town's handling of planning and growth.

**Q:** *What are the two most critical issues facing your office? How do you propose to deal with them?*

**A:** To work collaboratively with the elected board to establish a transparent, balanced government that works in the interests of ALL the citizens of Halfmoon as well as create a fiscally healthy environment that includes strategic planning and forecasting to assure Halfmoon resources and reserves are allocated and tracked appropriately to avoid shortfalls and deficits of any kind. A sound comprehensive growth plan needs to be established, one that represents the town ,its residents and their needs, This includes the need to balance commercial and residential growth along with current failing infrastructure. Basic human needs such as water, sewer and gas lines should be addressed for the residents that continue to be in need. The residents deserve a government that works tirelessly for them, not at the expense of them.

**Q:** *How will you reach out to your community to assure broad based community support?*

**A:** It is essential that ALL residents of Halfmoon are represented and have a voice in their government. Different issues affect different residents, but all must be heard and addressed. A cohesive, collaborative, transparent and balanced government will effectively work for all the citizens it represents. I am currently a member of the town's Resident Relations Committee, a task force that is open to anyone in Halfmoon to join. Open, constant communication is key to any good government. This can be accomplished through small community meetings, social media and web casting of town meetings in order to establish accountability of the town's government and elected officials.

# Halfmoon Town Council (1 year term)

## Candidates (choose 1):



### Joseph Christopher

**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 526-0170

**Education:** BA SUNY at Albany MA Russell Sage College

**Experience and Qualifications:** I am a teacher who is active in the community, and I am a life-long resident of Halfmoon. My family has lived in the town for five generations and I am truly committed to bringing health to Halfmoon.

**Key Endorsements:** Saratoga County Democratic Committee

**Parties:** Democrat

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What is your motivation for running for this office? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

**A:** My motivation for running for a seat on the Halfmoon Town Board is to provide balance, transparency and integrity to town government and offer residents a candidate who is accountable to the people. I have personally witnessed disconnect between the town government and the best interests of its constituents. The town board has an obligation to serve the residents of Halfmoon—we are supposed to be on the same team. Traffic matters, infrastructure concerns, increasing class sizes in our schools, and a host of other technical and ethical problems continue to develop and be ignored. Halfmoon's residents need accurate representation that can only be achieved by selecting a candidate that is truly elected by the people. Years of appointments and uncontested elections have destroyed the competition necessary to perpetuate principled and just representation. I believe my candidacy will provide legitimacy to the process.

**Q:** *What are the two most critical issues facing your office? How do you propose to deal with them?*

**A:** Traffic matters, infrastructure concerns and increasing class sizes in our schools need to be addressed immediately. Halfmoon needs to be fiscally sound so that we can address these issues and take control of our future. The board needs representatives beholden to no one who can make clear decisions about the development of our town and the expenditure of its resources.

**Q:** *How will you reach out to your community to assure broad based community support?*

**A:** As an elected official, I will do everything I can to represent all of the residents of Halfmoon and go the extra mile to encourage the involvement of all citizens in governmental affairs. I am a teacher who has three boys in the public school system. My children play sports and I am active in the community. I share the same interests that are of concern to majority of Halfmoon's residents and will naturally address them.



### Daphne Jordan

**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 495-5998

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.DaphneJordan.com>

**Education:** Lehigh University, BA Government and English; Penn State Dickinson School of Law, Juris Doctor Degree

**Experience and Qualifications:** Halfmoon Town Councilwoman; served on the Halfmoon Zoning Board of Appeals and Halfmoon Planning Board; former Trustee/Treasurer of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library; Legislative Director for NYS Senator Kathy Marchione; small business owner; active volunteer in our community

**Key Endorsements:** Republican, Conservative and Independence Parties

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative and Independence Parties

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What is your motivation for running for this office ? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

**A:** My motivation focuses on one goal: keeping Halfmoon a great place to work, live and raise a family. As a member of the Town Council, I have built upon our successes and recognize the challenges our Town faces. Since moving to Halfmoon 17 years ago, I have volunteered, served and led in many positions that prepared me to make smart decisions on behalf of Halfmoon families. These include serving as a member of the Halfmoon Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and as Trustee-Treasurer of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library where I successfully managed a \$3 million operating budget and a \$15 million construction budget. As Senator Marchione's Legislative Director I've worked closely with the Senator to create her bi-partisan public policy agenda creating 18 new State laws. I'm honored to serve our community as Councilwoman where honesty, integrity, openness and responsiveness have been restored. All of these experiences are some of the skills that I bring to this important position.

**Q:** *What are the two most critical issues facing your office? How do you propose to deal with them?*

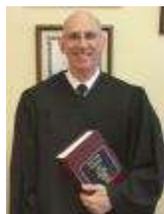
**A:** Keeping Halfmoon an affordable, great place to live by making certain that our community remains Town and Highway tax-free is one of the most critical issues we face. Serving as Chair of the Halfmoon Business and Economic Development Committee, I have taken the lead in bringing more small businesses to Halfmoon to grow our sales tax base and ensure Halfmoon remains Town tax-free. To remain Highway tax-free, we must implement a dedicated highway fund where those who are adding to road maintenance costs with the development of new roads are its contributors. Along with continuing fiscal accountability and keeping Halfmoon Town and Highway tax-free, responsible growth in Halfmoon is another critical issue. I believe that each project must be carefully planned, and evaluated based on its merits, economic value, public benefits and aesthetics in order to maintain Halfmoon's charm and preserve our open spaces. I am committed to protecting and enhancing our Town's terrific quality of life.

**Q:** *How will you reach out to your community to assure broad based community support?*

**A:** I believe in open, honest communication, teamwork, being accountable and bringing people together for the greater good of our Town. If something can be better, if there is a good idea that can benefit Halfmoon, I will support it, work for it and make it happen. As a member of our Town Council, I have been accessible, accountable and responsive to the families I serve. I routinely have early morning and evening meetings to listen and learn from Town residents so they can provide their feedback and share their ideas to make Halfmoon an even better place. I also maintain an active Facebook page where I regularly share important updates about our Town and seek feedback from all community stakeholders as to how we can keep Halfmoon a special place.

## Saratoga Town Justice

### Candidates (choose 1):



#### **Kurt Mausert**

**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 683-4583

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.mausert4justice.com>

**Education:** Juris Doctor (Franklin Pierce Law Center---now UNH Law School); BS (SUNY Regents College Degree Program)

**Experience and Qualifications:** 27 years experience as attorney. Served as prosecutor in NH & NY. Experienced in areas of Criminal Defense (25 years) Civil (Plaintiff's attorney), Vehicle & Traffic, Family Court (including as "Attorney for the Child"). Trial experience in felony and misdemeanor cases, including homicide, DWI, misdemeanors, Family Court, civil matters, Surrogate's Court, & traffic cases.

**Key Endorsements:** Town of Saratoga Democratic Party; Independence Party

**Parties:** I am registered as an independent voter. I believe judges should refrain from belonging to any political party so as to be as independent and unbiased as possible.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What is your motivation for running for this office ? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

**A:** I was appointed in March by unanimous vote of the Board to serve the remainder of a retired Justice's term. I have practiced law since 1987. In NY, Town Justices don't have to be lawyers & don't even need a high school diploma. I have seen how lay Justices are often in over their heads. The public suffers when a Justice doesn't understand the law. The 6 day course Justices take can't substitute for 3 years of law school. Non-lawyer Justices handle serious cases & have to decide arguments between lawyers, but they don't have the same knowledge. Lay Justices make many more mistakes. City & Town Courts have similar powers. Judges in City Courts have to be lawyers with 5 years of experience. Town Courts should have the same standard. I have 27 years of experience trying cases. My opponent is a retired NYC police officer. He is not a lawyer. Our town deserves a Justice with the proper education & training. I am the only candidate with them.



## **Daniel Waldron**

**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.waldronforjustice.com>

**Education:** Fordham University - B.A. Political Science - Concentration on Constitutional Law, Civil Rights & Liberties, etc. NYC Police Academy - College Accredited Program in Penal Law, Criminal Procedural Law, Vehicle & Traffic Law, etc.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Honorably Retired 20-year veteran of the New York City Police Department. Highly trained and experienced in areas such as dispute mediation, conflict resolution, criminal investigations, courtroom testimony, rules of evidence, etc.

**Key Endorsements:** Republican Party Conservative Party

**Parties:** Registered Republican. Seeking Republican and Independence nominations in September Primaries. Already secured Conservative Party nomination.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What is your motivation for running for this office ? What special skills, knowledge, experience or training do you bring to this position?*

**A:** I have spent my entire life serving others, both professionally and with volunteer organizations. I am a firm believer in our laws and our criminal justice system, but this is tempered with a healthy distrust of the power of big government and it's intrusion into our daily lives. In my opinion a Town Justice should, above all else, possess and display qualities such as integrity, humility, a calm and reserved temper, and should employ common sense and fairness in mediating and resolving issues before the court. A Town Justice's duties and responsibilities are largely procedural and administrative in nature with regards to the more serious criminal cases, which are transferred to the county courts. Justice Courts predominantly mediate and adjudicate cases involving code violations, traffic tickets, small claims matters, landlord-tenant disputes, etc. Some respected people in town knew of my experience, education, and demeanor, and asked me to serve once again. I would be proud to do so.