

2016 Primary Elections

This LWV Saratoga County Voter Guide covers three state primaries held on September 13, 2016:

- **NY Senate District 49 - Republican Primary**
Christian Klueg vs. James Tedisco
- **NY Assembly District 112 - Republican Primary**
James Fischer vs. Mary Beth Walsh
- **NY Assembly District 113 - Republican Primary**
Christopher Boyark vs. Gerard Moser

NY Senate District 49

Description:

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):



Christian Klueg

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (518) 332-0218

Education: Northville Central School Fulton Montgomery Community College Manfred Real Estate Learning Center

Experience and Qualifications: Successful small business owner. Founder of CMK and Associates Real Estate currently employing over 60 agents and staff with 63 Million in Real Estate sales in 2015 alone.

Key Endorsements: Upstate Conservative Coalition

Campaign Web Site: <http://www.christiankluegforsenate.com>

Campaign Email: cklueg@gmail.com

Campaign Mailing Address: 122 Bridge Street Northville, NY 12134

Party Affiliation: Republican

Questions:

Q: *What would be your top 3 priorities?*

A: Term limits, it's time for an end to the practice of career politics. The foundation of our government was based on part time public servants with real world experience crafting legislation to help citizens. Today, we have career politicians serving themselves and special interests. As Senator, I'll propose term limits and limit myself to 4 terms (8 Years). Root out corruption with an aggressive push to hold elected officials accountable today. It's necessary to change the culture of Albany that has allowed for back room deals and unilateral decisions to be made through the usage of a "message of necessity" without the proper vetting of legislation, the budget, and so-called previous reform measures. Improving New York's business climate. As a small business leader I'm very aware of the red tape and regulations that has made it nearly impossible for small businesses in NYS. Instead of carrot and stick policies like Start Up NY, it's time for less government and real job creation.

Q: *What steps would you propose to maintain the state's transportation infrastructure?*

A: Upstate New York is consistently ignored when it comes to infrastructure. It's more complex than infrastructure problems specific to transportation. Water and sewer infrastructure along with high speed internet access plus transportation infrastructure are all keys to communities being able to succeed. I'll lead the charge to create a comprehensive 5, 10, and 15-year plan to address the growing needs to important infrastructure issues that are hindering the success of Upstate communities like the 49th Senate District.

Q: *What further changes, if any, to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State do you propose? Please explain.*

A: More stringent restrictions need to be placed on political party committee transfers to candidates and their committees. The lack of adequate oversight on these large transfers allow for questionable activity to occur during campaigns. In addition, the maximum donation for lobbyists, special interests, and PACs should be lowered for donations to candidates and political party committees. Campaigns supported by regular people should be the norm, not the cash windfall that career politicians enjoy in office.

Q: *Would you support a Constitutional Convention in 2017? Please explain.*

A: 3

Q: *Please explain.*

A: We need to follow the constitution that we have. While a constitutional convention can be beneficial it also can be something that opens a can of worms.

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

A: This question overlooks the most basic problem that is plaguing the election process. The political party endorsement process has become a fallacy. The process was created to allow for informed members of the party to make recommendations to the general populous but today, party leaders and the establishment are forcing unqualified and/or career candidates onto the general electorate. The process is even more plagued for third party lines, where qualified candidates don't even get the chance to present their qualifications and the party leadership has control that would be envied by dictators. I believe that voters should decide, not a select few behind closed doors.



James Tedisco

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (518) 371-0151

Education: Bishop Gibbons High School, B.A. in Psychology from Union College and master's degree in Special Education from the College of Saint Rose.

Experience and Qualifications: NYS Assembly Member, Former Schenectady City Councilman, Special Education Teacher, Guidance Counselor and Coach and Athletic Director

Key Endorsements: Republican Party, Conservative Party, Independence Party, Reform Party, NYS Rifle & Pistol Association, NYSUT, PEF, CSEA, AFL-CIO, NYS Right to Life, Alliance of Public Retirees of New York

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

Campaign Email: jim.tedisco@yahoo.com

Campaign Mailing Address: Tedisco for Senate PO Box 992 Clifton Park, NY 12065

Party Endorsements: Republican, Conservative, Independence and Reform

Party Affiliation: Republican

Questions:

Q: *What would be your top 3 priorities?*

A: 1) Expand the economy and jobs via mandate relief to rollback property taxes with a state takeover of Medicaid and help small businesses create jobs. 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 rolling back Common Core and protecting the rights of parents to opt their children out of the high stakes, developmentally inappropriate Common Core tests by passing my Common Core Parental Refusal Act. 3) Fight government corruption by passing my "Spirit of '76" bill for a rank and file revolution against the accumulation of power by legislative leaders to enable reform legislation to move forward, my "Truth in Spending" bill for total transparency in how state funds are spent that has been endorsed by several good government groups including the League of Women Voters, and give voters power to Recall elected officials who are derelict in their duties.

Q: *What steps would you propose to maintain the state's transportation infrastructure?*

A: Infrastructure is a transportation, economic development and public safety issue that's critically important to our state. In addition to ensuring our roads and bridges are safely maintained, as we've seen this year, we need to protect our underground infrastructure and the safety of our water supply. I'm sponsoring legislation called S.W.A.P. Safe Water and infrastructure Action Program to provide a reliable funding source to complement our CHIPS highway program to maintain our underground drinking water, storm water management, sewer, dams and water towers, and gas line infrastructure. In my travels throughout the district, I've heard from local officials and businesses that we have a lurking monster in our underground infrastructure that we must deal with or residents and business could negatively be impacted.

Q: *What further changes, if any, to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State do you propose? Please explain.*

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 closing the LLC loophole, 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. Finally, we should limit outside income for lawmakers.

Q: *Would you support a Constitutional Convention in 2017? Please explain.*

A: 2

Q: *Please explain.*

A: The state constitution can be amended via the legislative process such as legislation I sponsored and promoted, Proposition 2, to go digital and stop wasting paper at the Capitol which passed by 77 percent of the vote in 2014 and will save taxpayers \$13 million a year. My concern with a Constitutional Convention is it could open a Pandora's Box of things that could have negative consequences on our state. I'm also concerned that downstate interests would try and stack the deck at a convention and change the state's constitution in a way that would be harmful to Upstate.

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

A: As I mentioned, 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.

NY Assembly District 112

Description:

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):



James Fischer

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (518) 365-0405

Education: B.A., 1983, SUNY College at Cortland, Economics Major, American History Minor

Experience and Qualifications: 26 year small business owner, Town of Ballston Planning Board member, 2014 NY20 Congressional candidate

Key Endorsements: National Federation of Independent Business

Campaign Web Site: <http://www.fischerforassembly.com>

Campaign Email: fischerforassembly@gmail.com

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2516 Flenville, NY 12325

Party Affiliation: Republican

Questions:

Q: *What would be your top 3 priorities?*

A: 1) Robust Ethics reform to include true pension forfeiture, Legislative Leadership term limits of 4 years, 12 year term limits on Assembly and Senate Members, and legislative reforms that would empower rank and file members, such as the 'Spirit of '76 Bill' that would mandate that a bill come to the floor for a vote if it has half of Assembly members signed on as endorsers. 2) Tax and spending reductions, including mandate relief, and Medicaid and Welfare Reform. NYS residents are saddled with the highest state and local tax burden in the country and we will continue to lose businesses and residents until this is remedied. 3) Infrastructure repair investments. We must provide the means for local municipalities to bring their water and sewer systems up to date in order to provide safe, reliable drinking water, and entice business investments which lead to job growth and an improved tax base.

Q: *What steps would you propose to maintain the state's transportation infrastructure?*

A: - no response -

Q: *What further changes, if any, to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State do you propose? Please explain.*

A: Strengthening transparency is the key. Voters have the ability now to see who is donating to the campaigns of elected officials and candidates. Anything to make it easier for them to get this information would be advantageous.

Q: *Would you support a Constitutional Convention in 2017? Please explain.*

A: 2

Q: *Please explain.*

A: I am of the opinion that we can solve the problems we have without the need for a Con Con. If we enact some of the Ethics reform measures I mentioned above, we will be on the road to better government in NYS.

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

A: I support Voter ID measures to ensure only registered voters are able to cast a ballot. I would support measures to make it easier to register, providing Identification measures are included.



Mary Beth Walsh

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (518) 421-8299

Education: B.A. Political Science, University of Rochester (1987); J.D. Albany Law School of Union University (1990)

Experience and Qualifications: Small business owner; attorney for 25 years; 8 yrs.

as Ballston Town Councilwoman

Key Endorsements: Endorsed Republican candidate; Also endorsed by Conservative Party, Independence Party, Reform Party; Endorsed by Assemblyman Jim Tedisco, Senator Kathy Marchione, Senator Hugh Farley, Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, Town of Ballston GOP, NY Public Employees Federation, and NY Rifle & Pistol Association

Campaign Web Site: <http://MaryBethWalsh2016.com>

Campaign Email: MaryBethWalsh2016@gmail.com

Campaign Mailing Address: 251 Scotch Bush Rd., Burnt Hills, NY 12027

Party Endorsements: Republican, Independence, Conservative, Reform

Party Affiliation: Republican

Statement at Candidate Forum: https://www.youtube.com/v/2za_auJa_JE

Questions:

Q: *What would be your top 3 priorities?*

A: My top three priorities are (1) Ethics Reform; (2) Fight for lower property taxes and good paying, local jobs; and (3) the repeal of Common Core. (1) Ethics Reform. I specifically support A.4617, the "Public Officers Accountability Act" to hold lawmakers more accountable and foster greater transparency by implementing term limits for legislative leaders and committee chairs. This was introduced by the Assembly Republican Conference. In 2015 and 2016, the Assembly Republicans proposed a number of Assembly Rules Reforms to promote transparency and accountability in the Assembly, which were rejected by the majority, including limitations on the use of "messages of

necessity" and reforms designed to allow bills proposed by the minority to get out of committee. (2) Lower Property Taxes and promote good paying local jobs. Protect the STAR exemption. Reduce barriers, unfunded mandates, red tape. (3) Common Core. Repeal Common Core and return control to our schools.

Q: *What steps would you propose to maintain the state's transportation infrastructure?*

A: A safe, adequate public transportation system is needed everywhere in New York State, including in rural areas. The 112th Assembly District includes densely populated suburban areas as well as rural areas. The CHIPS program for road improvement, as well as the 4-year PAVE-NY program (which will provide an additional \$400 million for local roads) are both excellent programs. I also support the development of a program similar to the CHIPS program, using a similar non-partisan formula, to be used for sewer and water infrastructure improvement. As a former board member of the Saratoga County Water Authority, a current member of the Saratoga County IDA, and a former town elected official, I have seen first-hand how important good clean water, good roads, and sewer infrastructure are, to our residents, and to our businesses.

Q: *What further changes, if any, to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State do you propose? Please explain.*

A: I support the "Public Officers Accountability Act" (A.4617) which would prohibit the use of campaign funds for any personal use, including criminal attorney or legal fees, and which would require the forfeiture of unspent campaign contributions from elected officials convicted of a felony related to his or her official duties. Additionally, I support measures which prohibit "pay to play" i.e. prohibiting campaign contributions, referral fees, and other payments to public officials and candidates from lobbyists, contractors, public employees, and others who could benefit financially from requested legislation or other action by such public officials or candidates, and measures which limit the "bundling" of donations and require detailed reporting for local or state elections

Q: *Would you support a Constitutional Convention in 2017? Please explain.*

A: 4

Q: *Please explain.*

A: I support the people's right to choose whether a Constitutional Convention is needed. The People have not voted for a Constitutional Convention in 40 or 50 years. People feel cut off from and angry with their government and elected representatives, and I would not deny them the ability to choose. If a Constitutional Convention has the support of the People, then I will support any measures to ensure that it is a true Constitutional Convention. This would include ensuring that delegates to the Convention are truly representative and that the convention will meet the same standards of openness as other important governmental processes. I support A.4674, the "People's Convention Reform Act," which contains a more specific list of safeguards.

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

A: I have no objection to afford additional opportunities for voter registration. However, there are already a variety of places now, and extending opportunities should be evaluated using a cost/benefit approach. Better ballot design, to make it more simple, easier-to-read, and comprehensible, is always a good idea. Voting by mail: We already allow voting by absentee ballot. Expanding the ability to vote by mail, as well as allowing early voting, compromises the idea of all voters coming together on a designated day, Primary Day or Election Day, to exercise the right to vote. I am concerned about possible election fraud as a result of allowing expanded voting by mail and early voting, and I am also concerned about the impact these measures may have on the localities required to administer them (unfunded mandate).

NY Assembly District 113

Description:

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):



Christopher Boyark

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (518) 588-2001

Education: Stillwater High School BA business management American military university

Experience and Qualifications: BA business management American military university USAF veteran served in Kuwait combat operation Southern Watch. Small Business owner Longtime manager for Hannoush

Key Endorsements: Saratoga and Washington County Republican Party, Conservative Party and the NYS Reform Party. New York State Rifle and Pistol Association (NYSRPA)

Campaign Web Site: <http://boyarkfornysassembly.com/>

Campaign Email: chrisboyark4nysassembly@gmail.com

Campaign Mailing Address: 204 2nd Avenue, Mechanicville, NY 12118

Party Endorsements: Saratoga and Washington County Republican Party, Conservative Party and the NYS Reform Party.

Party Affiliation: Republican

Statement at Candidate Forum: <https://www.youtube.com/v/Gmw8iM49aRk>

Questions:

Q: *What would be your top 3 priorities?*

A: Fight for the full repeal of the NYS Safe Act Ensure more Infrastructure and Agriculture funding for Upstate Fight against additional unfunded mandates

Q: *What steps would you propose to maintain the state's transportation infrastructure?*

A: Support additional CHIPS funding be included in the State Budget and work with the DOT, County and local highway departments to see in what way we could cost effectively develop maintenance plans to take care of infrastructure and with a plan in place it would cost less in the long run. Would work to secure funding to begin much needed repairs to old infrastructure and help communities in upstate get their fair share of funding to pay for much needed infrastructure, and with these improvements it would also encourage economic development in some communities who are burdened with such high taxes.

Q: *What further changes, if any, to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State do you propose? Please explain.*

A: What legislation that should really should be considered is term limits and limits for those in leadership roles.

Q: *Would you support a Constitutional Convention in 2017? Please explain.*

A: 4

Q: *Please explain.*

A: - no response -

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

A: I would support early voting, voting by mail, better ballot design, voter registration modernization with photo identification to eliminate voter fraud and have a secure process.



Gerard Moser

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (518) 260-5038

Education: AS Business Administration BS Business Management

Experience and Qualifications: In the private sector, I managed multi-million dollar contracts, and worked within the public sector as an advisor to the New York State Department of Health to develop a plan of improvement for state run nursing and long term care facilities. I trained with Homeland Security for response in the event of terrorist attacks on the food supply

Campaign Web Site: <http://www.moserforassembly.com>

Campaign Email: gerard@moserforassembly.com

Campaign Mailing Address: 14 Hearthstone Dr Wilton, NY 12831

Party Endorsements: N/A

Party Affiliation: Republican

Statement at Candidate Forum: <https://www.youtube.com/v/Eh9HFclCgvM>

Questions:

Q: *What would be your top 3 priorities?*

A: Ethics reform: As community leaders, elected officials must act with integrity. Furthermore, the processes by which town and county committees nominate candidates should be transparent and clear to voters. Job creation: Incentivized, sustainable opportunities for job creation for all organizations regardless of size. I would like to create a program where we offer tax credits to employers as they increase employees. The employer would receive the credit for 3 years, losing a third every year after the first. They would also be required to maintain the staffing level for five years. Unfunded Mandates often force costs onto communities for initiatives that either might be unnecessary, or bring unintended, disproportionately negative consequences. For example, unfunded education mandates often force school districts to either cut services or raise taxes. In the second scenario, elderly and fixed-income residents carry the burden of increasing costs without increase in household income.

Q: *What steps would you propose to maintain the state's transportation infrastructure?*

A: All budget lines should be maintained in separate, regional accounts, which could be then accessed based on the needs of that region. The account balances would roll over from year to year, putting an end to the mentality of "use it or lose it," and create a surplus fund from which regions could draw in times of greater need. Then create a comprehensive maintenance and reconstruction plan, with embedded planning, saving and budgeting to mirror what happens in homes across the district every day. Using the general fund as a giant slush fund has allowed for the transfer of funds away from their intended use.

Q: *What further changes, if any, to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State do you propose? Please explain.*

A: Caps need to be set on election spending, similar to the cap set on donors. Limiting the amount of money spent can open opportunities for wider, local representation. One of the largest challenges for most people getting into politics is the money needed to run for office. For example for an Assembly position a cap of \$10,000.00 for a primary, and an additional \$30,000.00 for the general election would even the playing field. This practice would also limit giant PACs from disproportionate influence on a candidate: Candidates represent districts, not special interests.

Q: *Would you support a Constitutional Convention in 2017? Please explain.*

A: 5

Q: *Please explain.*

A: I do support a constitutional convention. I believe that all voters deserve the right to decide how our government is run, and must have accurate and clear information to make informed decisions about areas for change. I would like to see provisions added to address issues related to ethical conduct of elected officials. Reforms and restrictions regarding on accounting and budgeting of public monies would move towards ensuring funds are directed to intended use. We can use this to also change how much money can be spent on an election. New York State's economic and demographic diversity makes the state strong, but it can also create confusion with respect to legislation on a state level. For example, the delegate process should be reviewed to allow for equal number of delegates on a regional bases. Our forefathers intended for our government to be weighted equally across the entire state, not disproportionately controlled by one concentrated area.

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

A: Limits on Campaign Financing Require Voters to produce identification to reduce fraud Online absentee ballot request Felony charges for voter fraud