

# 2016 General Elections

## New York Senate District 43

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):

#### Shaun Francis



**Party:** Dem, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Shaker High School, Mohawk Valley Community College, National Labor College, Harvard Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School.

**Experience and Qualifications:** 12 year professional baseball umpire; President, Association of Minor League Umpires; International Staff, Office and Professional Employees International Union

**Key Endorsements:** Congressman Paul Tonko; Senator Neil Breslin; NYS Nurses

Association; Campaign for a Pro-Choice NY; Planned Parenthood Advocates of NY PC; Citizen

Action of NY; UA Plumbers and Steamfitters; 32BJ SEIU; Local 200 United SEIU; Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee; Saratoga County Democratic Committee; Rensselaer County Democratic Committee; Columbia County Democratic Committee; Tenants PAC;

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.Shaun-Francis.com>

**Campaign Email:** shaun@shaun-francis.com

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 1019 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Party Endorsements:** Democratic Party; Working Families Party

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

#### Questions:

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

**A:** Before we can tackle any priority, we must first get the money that has a negative corrupting influence out of our politics. Therefore my first priority is to enact real campaign finance reform, and close the loopholes that allow politicians to circumvent our already weak campaign finance laws. In addition to real campaign finance reform we also must tackle the unfair way we conduct elections through gerrymandering districts, and we must tackle the ongoing ethical challenges in Albany. To do that we must enact term limits on party leadership and committee chairmanships. These are the positions where power corrupts the most. Once we tackle that major crisis, we can then focus on building a new economy and creating good paying jobs by investing in a green energy future in upstate New York. In addition we have to end the crushing property tax burden on working families by enacting a truly fair taxation system where Wall St and the ultra-wealthy finally pay their fair share.

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

**A:** We cannot simply maintain our state's infrastructure, we must re-build. Our state's infrastructure is literally crumbling beneath our feet. We must place a major emphasis in upcoming budgets to ensure strong investment in not only re-building the infrastructure of today, but investing in the infrastructure of tomorrow. Our water infrastructure needs to be brought into the modern century as does our state's power infrastructure. A major hurdle to putting in place a green energy future that will create jobs and grow our economy is upgrading to a smart power grid for the future. And there are still parts of the 43rd State Senate district without reliable, affordable access to quality high-speed internet. In today's global economy, access to high-speed internet is no longer a luxury. Education, banking, job training, and more are reliant on reliable internet access now more than ever. These infrastructure investments will also mean good high-paying jobs right here at home.

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

**A:** We must publicly finance our elections. The time is long past to end the unlimited, corrupting money that buys and pays for our elections. By publicly funding our elections, we will eliminate the influence money has and allow elected officials to get back to having real conversations and honest debate over the difficult issues we face today. In addition, our politics would be much better if we had vibrant third-parties competing in our elections with an actual chance to win. These parties (Green Party, Conservative Party, Libertarian Party etc) cannot compete in elections with the establishment Republican and Democratic parties and their ability to flood an election with campaign cash. With publicly funded elections, candidates from these parties would be able to run a campaign, without having to rely on corporate or party funding, and run on a level playing field with the two traditional parties. We must do all that we can to end the influence of money in politics.

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

**A:** Oppose strongly.

**Q:** Please explain.

**A:** While a Constitutional Convention would provide a forum for we, the citizens, to enact the real campaign finance reform and ethics reform that is so desperately needed, unfortunately, opening up our state constitution for amendment will open up an avenue for attacks on a woman's right to choose, LGBTQ rights, and so much more that our state constitution currently enshrines and protects. I will never stop fighting for real campaign finance and ethics reform, but we simply cannot risk letting our state constitution's protections for choice, and equal rights fall victim to attack via a convention from those who would wish to see these protections stripped away.

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

**A:** I support all avenues of election reform that makes it easier for citizens to vote. I support early voting, and I support motor-voter registration laws similar to those enacted already in other states. We must make ballots easier to read and understand, and clearer to the voter. I believe in an opt-out voter registration system, rather than an opt-in as we currently have.

## Joseph Levy



**Party:** Gre

**Biographical Info:**

**Education:** Valley Stream North High School, The Cooper Union School of Art, The New School for Social Research

**Experience and Qualifications:** I'm a business owner and former member of two unions who has also worked for city, state, and federal agencies. I've lived in the district for 45 years, as well as in New York City and its suburbs and have an understanding of the issues which affect all parts of the state.

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.josephlevy.net/>

**Campaign Email:** senate@josephlevy.net

**Campaign Mailing Address:** Joseph Levy, PO Box 770, Saratoga Springs NY 12866

**Party Endorsements:** Green Party

**Party Affiliation:** Green Party

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. Create model environmental profiles to identify likely toxic contaminants in both rural and urban areas, as well as give tax rebates to citizens for water quality testing in suspect areas. 2. Legalize recreational marijuana and use the tax receipts to pay for free public higher education (vocational, technical, and academic). 3. Extend the \$15/hour minimum wage to all workers. Give tax rebates to farmers and small businesses whose profits suffer paid for by a 1/10th of 1 cent tax on stock transfers of 1,000 shares or more.

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

**A:** I propose to improve the structural engineering of major projects, especially bridges, so they don't have to be replaced every 60 years. How is it that the Tappan Zee Bridge, originally constructed at a cost of \$81 million (\$796 million in 2016 dollars), has to be replaced at a cost of almost \$4,000,000,000? We should borrow money while the interests rates are low and spend it on higher quality construction to begin with, so that infrastructure projects last more than a person's lifetime.

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

**A:** I'd like to see a level playing field for all elections either via public financing or, at the very least, a spending limit of \$1 per constituent per district, per election, regardless of funding source.

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

**A:** Oppose strongly.

**Q:** Please explain.

**A:** A constitutional convention is a recipe for mischief. It's naive to think that the major parties won't control it and use it as a tool to reinforce their vested interests.

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

**A:** 1. I advocate eliminating cross-endorsements. Candidates should be allowed to run on one party line only. 2. It's also time to do away with Opportunity to Ballot petitions which allow major parties to steal the ballot lines of minor parties. 3. In addition, all recognized parties should be allowed to be represented in local and state Boards of Elections, as well as hold positions as Poll Inspectors. 4. Voters should be allowed to change their party registration at least once a year, within three months of the next election.

## Kathleen Marchione



**Party:** Rep, CON, I, RFM

**Biographical Info:**

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

**Education:** Spencer Business Institute, state and federally certified Court Reporter

**Experience and Qualifications:** 30 years of dedicated public service and working to deliver real results that make a real difference for the families I am honored to serve. Served as Saratoga County Clerk, 1997-2012; served as Clerk to Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, 1994-1997; served as Halfmoon Town Supervisor, 1990-1994 and served as Halfmoon Town Clerk, 1980-1989.

**Key Endorsements:** New York State United Teachers (NYSUT); New York State American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (NYS AFL-CIO); Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA); Public Employees Federation (PEF); American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Alliance of Public Retiree Organizations of New York; Police Benevolent Association of New York State (PBA of NYS); New York State Fraternal Order of Police and the National Rifle Association (NRA, graded A+).

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.GoKathyGo.org>

**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, Reform

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. Grow our economy to create more good-paying jobs and more opportunities for all New Yorkers to succeed -- and to help keep our kids here. 2. Deliver real tax relief to help middle class families and small businesses keep more of their hard-earned money and reduce the crushing property tax burden on homeowners so New York becomes a more affordable place to live. 3. Improve the quality of life for families by continuing to put students first and address societal challenges such as heroin abuse and addiction, Lyme disease, preserving and protecting our environment and honoring and helping our military veterans.

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

**A:** Continue securing more state funding to ensure that upstate receives its fair share of state infrastructure funding for repaired roads, safer commutes and better bridges. This year, I successfully advocated for more infrastructure parity for upstate through a regionally balanced, multi-year financing plan totaling \$27.1 billion, with \$438 million for the State's Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) to help local governments move forward with important local highway, road, and bridge repair projects. In addition, as part of the 2016-17 State Budget, I voted for the Pave NY/Bridge NY program to receive \$800 million over the next four years for local roads and bridges. This includes \$400 million (\$100 million per year) for local projects distributed based on CHIPS formula and \$400 million for local bridge projects selected by localities. The result of securing all this infrastructure funding will mean safer commutes for motorists and more jobs for individuals.

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

**A:** I support enactment of common sense reforms such as the real-time disclosure of campaign donations by extending the 24-hour rule for the entire year. I continue supporting full and timely campaign disclosure to ensure accountability and proper enforcement of election laws. I will continue advocating for proper funding and support for the State Board of Elections and proper levels of state assistance for local County Boards of Elections.

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

**A:** Oppose strongly.

**Q:** *Please explain.*

**A:** A State Constitutional Convention would be a waste of taxpayer dollars that should instead be invested in repaired roads, better bridges, safer schools and essential public services that millions of New Yorkers rely upon. A State Constitutional Convention could threaten our fundamental Constitutional rights and result in the needless waste of millions of taxpayer dollars, while undermining the efforts and responsibilities of duly elected representatives.

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

**A:** I sponsored a new, bi-partisan state law prohibiting the use of pasters, stickers and labels on write-in ballots as they can become detached due to the heat generated by ballot scanners and end up disqualifying a vote and disenfranchising the voter. Every vote counts and every vote should be counted. The common sense fix I championed helps ensure that voting machines do what they're supposed to do: accurately count every vote and make certain that every voter's voice is heard so they can be full and active participants in our democratic process.

## New York Senate District 49

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):

#### Chad Putman



**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 225-0957

**Education:** Masters in Social Work - SUNY Albany / Bachelors in Human Development - Suny Binghamton / Associates in Human Services - Broome Community College

**Experience and Qualifications:** Deputy City Clerk, City of Schenectady (2013 - present) / Direct Practice Social Work and Human Service experience with seniors, veterans, children and families (2001 - 2013)

**Key Endorsements:** Democratic Party, Working Families Party and Women's Equality Party / Citizen Action, Planned Parenthood Advocates of NY

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.ChadPutman49.com>

**Campaign Email:** [chadputman49@gmail.com](mailto:chadputman49@gmail.com)

**Campaign Mailing Address:** Friends of Chad Putman - NYS Senate, P.O. Box 569, Schenectady, NY 12301

**Party Endorsements:** Democratic, Working Families Party and Women's Equality Party

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Statement at Candidate Forum:** <https://www.youtube.com/v/ZLK4-QqNPs8>

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. Economic development manufacturing, agriculture, entrepreneurship & buying local 2. Public education, job training & student loan debt 3. Tackling inequality & discrimination

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

**A:** Putman will fight for continued investment in our transportation infrastructure with a focus on bridges (vehicle and rail) while promoting the use of local materials and labor. We also need to maintain significant investments in mass public transportation including rail and bus lines. Putman also believe we need to support municipal investments to create bicycle friendly cities, increase pedestrian safety and exercise road diets.

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

**A:** Simply talking about closing the "LLC loophole" is willfully inadequate. Rather Putman is leading by example and as a candidate for the NYS Senate he made the decision at the start of his campaign not to accept donations from corporations or LLC's. Then in July after reviewing his GOP opponent's campaign finance filings he was so disturbed by what he saw he made the decision not to accept donations from political action committee's as well. His campaign is powered by the people and focused on making sure the loudest voices in Albany belong to the people and not the special interests.

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

**A:** Support somewhat.

**Q:** *Please explain.*

**A:** In the absence of defeating the powerful incumbency which largely makes up the New York State legislature the one remaining hope for the residents of New York, for significant reform, is a Constitutional Convention. With a progressive representation at the Constitutional Convention, measures such as publically funded elections, term limits and a truly independent redistricting commission could be put before the public for an up or down vote.

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

**A:** Putman supports early voting and automatic voter registration at the age of 18.

#### 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](mailto: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:** Oppose somewhat.

**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.

## **New York Assembly District 107**

Includes **Washington County:** Towns of Cambridge and White Creek. **Rensselaer County:** All except the Town of North Greenbush, the City of Rensselaer, and a portion of Troy (i.e., the southernmost part of the city, plus an extension on the western side of the city that runs northward up to an approximate midway point between the northern and southern municipal boundaries). **Columbia County:** Towns of Kinderhook, Chatham, New Lebanon, Canaan, Austerlitz and Hillsdale.

**Candidates (choose 1):**

**Wayne Foy**

**Party:** Gre

No response

**Steve McLaughlin**

**Party:** Rep, CON

No response

## New York Assembly District 108

Includes **Saratoga County**: Town of Waterford. **Albany County**: Cities of Cohoes, Green Island, Watervliet and the northeastern part of the City of Albany. **Rensselaer County**: the City of Rensselaer, the Town of North Greenbush, and a portion of Troy (i.e., the southernmost part of the city, plus an extension on the western side of the city that runs northward up to an approximate midway point between the northern and southern municipal boundaries).

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### John McDonald



**Party:** Dem, I

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 365-2569

**Education:** BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Experience and Qualifications:** Pharmacist/President Marra's Pharmacy 1985-Present Mayor City of Cohoes 2000-2012

**Key Endorsements:** AFL CIO/NYSUT/NY

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

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

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 7208 Albany NY 12224

**Party Endorsements:** Democratic and Independence

**Party Affiliation:** Democate

#### Questions:

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

**A:** Support for local governments in the form of increased aid and reduction of unfunded mandates Greater support and tools for opioid/heroin crisis Community schools to support education system and community related issues including housing

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

**A:** Support additional funding to move along backlog of roads and bridges left behind. Look to establish other funding sources as the current one is not sufficient.

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

**A:** Greater disclosure. All candidates should post their financial disclosure on their campaign and public official websites. Additionally for those that have outside income, any contract greater than \$5,000 should be disclosed.

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

**A:** No opinion.

**Q:** *Please explain.*

**A:** I am undecided. If there was a way to ensure greater ethics reform I am open to the discussion however I also worry, as do both side of the aisle, of a convention that can be taken over by large outside interests.

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

**A:** I am a fan of early voting and voting by mail. Our turnout is dismal. Additionally we should be automatically enrolling individuals at the earliest legal age possible.

## New York Assembly District 112

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

### Candidates (choose 1):

## Michael Godlewski



**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

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

**Education:** High School Mohonasen Senior High Undergraduate: Skidmore College Law School: New England School of Law

**Experience and Qualifications:** I currently serve as the chief prosecutor of child abuse in Schenectady County. I started in the Schenectady County Attorney's Office as a junior attorney and have advanced to my current position. Prior to becoming a child abuse

prosecutor I served as the Deputy Town Attorney in the Town of Rotterdam and prior to that I worked in private practice. In addition, I have previously served as an adjunct professor at Mildred Elley, teaching in the paralegal program

**Key Endorsements:** Democratic Party Women's Equality Party

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://godlewski2016.com>

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

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO BOX 3307 Schenectady, NY 12303

**Party Endorsements:** Democratic Women's Equality Party

**Party Affiliation:** Democratic

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My 5 point family focussed plan will position our families for success. My three biggest priorities are Taxes, Job Creation and Education. I will fight to cut County Property Taxes by as much as 50% by eliminating the unfunded mandate associated with Medicaid Funding. The State sets the Medicaid expenses, but mandates the Counties to shoulder the costs: This must stop. I will fight to bring good paying jobs to our area. We' have seen success when the public sector and private sector works together to foster job creation. In the areas bordering our Assembly District we've seen this work. Malta and the City of Schenectady have benefited greatly—and I will fight to bring the lessons learned there to our community. I will fight to ensure each and every school district within our Assembly District gets its fair share of State Aid. In addition I will fight to make SUNY tuition free for any student agreeing to perform substantial community service and stay in New York state.

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

**A:** As a preliminary matter, engineers must examine each state road and bridge within the state. Each road and bridge then must be scheduled for repair or replacement, depending upon relative condition. We must allocate the necessary resources to ensure that the transportation infrastructure is kept in the best possible condition. We have many roads and bridges that are approaching the end of their useful life and we must act now to protect against potential tragedies. This will also create a great employment opportunity for New Yorkers—both in the construction field, but also engineers and other ancillary fields.

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

**A:** We must work to close the LLC loophole and we must work to limit the amount entities can contribute to campaigns, within the boundaries of Federal Law. In addition to reducing the amount entities can contribute to campaigns we must explore reducing the costs associated with campaigns so that the best ideas prevail, rather than the best funded campaigns. Too often, good people, with good ideas, have difficulty running for office because they do not have the financial backing of the entities that make substantial contributions to incumbents. I support an amendment to the US Constitution to override the decision in Citizens United.

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

**A:** Oppose somewhat.

**Q:** *Please explain.*

**A:** While a Constitutional Convention appears beneficial on its face, I do not believe it is the best way to handle the problems facing the State. The public has elected legislators to legislate--these individuals should do the job New Yorkers have sent them to Albany to do. A Constitutional Convention would be just as political, if not more so, than the legislature and would not provide the sterile environment to update the constitution that proponents hope it would. Instead, a constitutional convention would create the possibility that long standing protections, particularly those protecting workers' rights, would be susceptible to repeal. Therefore, I cannot support a convention but will fight for the legislature to do its job.

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

**A:** I support early voting, voting by mail, better ballot design and modernizing the voter registration process. More people will vote the easier voting is and the community is better when more people vote. I support any reasonable method to make the voting process easier and more accessible.

## 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](mailto: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](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:** Support somewhat.

**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).

### **New York Assembly District 113**

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](mailto: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/7AuGr27bbGk>

#### **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:** Support somewhat.

**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.

#### **Carrie Woerner**



**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 495-4860

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

**Experience and Qualifications:** 30 years working in the high tech industry managing businesses and product development. 6 years experience in local government. Extensive volunteer experience.

**Key Endorsements:** I am pleased to have been endorsed by a broad spectrum of organizations that reflect the the 113th Assembly District: The Business Council of NY, AFL-CIO, NYSUT, CSEA, PEF, Building Trades, League of Conservation Voters, NRA, Family Planning Advocates.

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

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

**Campaign Mailing Address:** PO Box 888 Round Lake NY 12151

**Party Endorsements:** Democratic Party, Independence Party

**Party Affiliation:** Democratic

**Statement at Candidate Forum:** <https://www.youtube.com/v/LJEe29GeXkE>

**Questions:**

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

**A:** - Ensuring fair and equitable funding for all schools, specifically the rural schools, so that the quality of education a child receives is never a function of the zip code s/he live in. - Passing a package of ethics reforms, including limits on outside income, term limits, and changes to campaign finance to limit the influence of outside monies. - A focus on the infrastructure businesses need to set-up and grow in Saratoga and Washington counties -- including water, sewer, broadband, energy, transportation.

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

**A:** 1. Increase CHiPS funding to counties and municipalities 2. Increase capital funding for upstate roads and bridges; DOT district 1, which includes Saratoga and Washington Counties, has more miles of roads and bridges than any other portion of upstate and the funding does not reflect that difference. 3. Fund capital for short-line railroads to strengthen and expand our rail freight capacity which will take trucks off the roads and help economic development in Washington County. 4. Re-instate navigational dredging on the Champlain Canal to enable more commercial barge freight transport

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

**A:** As the Supreme Court has repeatedly struck down limits on campaign contributions, I would propose that we place limits on the amount of money a candidate can spend, and that their respective parties can spend on their behalf. I have also voted for and will continue to fight for closing the LLC loophole.

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

**A:** Oppose somewhat.

**Q:** *Please explain.*

**A:** While I appreciate the value of periodically reviewing the state Constitution and identifying changes that would ensure that this guiding document reflects a modern society, I am concerned that the process of selecting delegates to a Constitutional Convention would not result in a group of delegates that would approach the task free of special interests and able to give thoughtful consideration and wise counsel as to modifications to the Constitution.

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

**A:** I wholeheartedly support voting by mail, better ballot design and modernization of the voter registration process. I believe early voting would be a positive change that would enable more people to vote, however the cost of implementing early voting could be significant and I would want each county to be able to decide whether it will implement early voting, or alternatively the state would need to pick up the cost of opening polling places on additional days.

### **New York Assembly District 114**

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):**

#### **Robin Barkenhagen**



**Party:** Gre

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 364-4418

**Education:** HS Graduate 1983 Clayton A Bouton HS Voorheesville, NY

**Experience and Qualifications:** I do not have any experience, because I am not a career politician. My best qualification is that Greens don not take corporate contributions, so I will only be beholden to the people.

**Key Endorsements:** Assemblyman Phil Steck (D-Colonie)

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://votebarkenhagen.org>

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

**Campaign Mailing Address:** 23 Park St. Glens Falls, NY 12801

**Party Endorsements:** Green

**Party Affiliation:** Green

**Statement at Candidate Forum:** <https://www.youtube.com/v/Y-ai8iCwN-s>

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform. Safe Drinking Water. Infrastructure Improvements.

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

**A:** I am in favor of legalizing recreational marijuana, which would create more tax revenue, thus allowing the State to spend what it needs to upgrade our crumbling infrastructure. We could create good paying union jobs in the process.

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

**A:** I would like to see publicly funded elections, based on the Clean Election Laws in Maine. I would also like to see equal access to the media for all ballot qualified candidates. We also need to extend the time period before election that incumbents use to send out tax payer funded mailings. It is currently 30 days before the election, I believe it should extend at least until the end of the petition signing deadline (which was July 14th this year).

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

**A:** Support strongly.

**Q:** *Please explain.*

**A:** I would like to see the citizens of New York be able to petition for a referendum.

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

**A:** I support any measures that would make it easier for people to cast their ballot, but I think we need to be careful about technology and the possibility of hackers effecting the outcome of an election. I'm for early voting and verified voting by mail. I'm not sure what you mean by "better ballot design", but it should be as simple as possible. Voter registration modernization is a good idea, and should be overseen by non-partisan personnel.

### **Daniel Stec**

**Party:** Rep, CON, I, RFM

No response

## **Supreme Court Judges**

### **Supreme Court Justice, 4th Judicial District**

The 4th Judicial District of the New York State Supreme Court includes the counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington. There are 4 open positions, so you may vote for four candidates. Candidates were not asked for information. Ratings and other information were gleaned from publicly available information.

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

#### **Timothy Lawliss**

**Party:** Rep

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** <http://bit.ly/2dLFJOx>

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** <http://bit.ly/2eeCkUI>

#### **Mark Powers**

**Party:** Dem, CON

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** <http://bit.ly/2dLFJOx>

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** <http://bit.ly/2eJp7Us>

## **Clifton Park - County Supervisor**

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

#### **Margaret Catellier**



**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://n/a>

**Education:** Nurse 2 years accounting

**Experience and Qualifications:** : Health field, Construction/Building field, Office Manager, Accounting, Customer Service worldwide.

**Parties:** Dem, Working Families

**Questions:**

**Q:** *what is your motivation for running for this office? What special skills, knowledge, expertise or training do you have*

**A:** Clifton Park has been my home for most of my adult life where I had my family and raised my sons. I have been deeply involved in many aspects of life in town. I helped create and lead Citizens Action for Reasonable Expansion (CARE) to control the growth. I was among the few citizens who created the Friends of Clifton Park Open Space (FCPOS). I was also the President of the Shen Football Booster Club. I got involved in numerous neighborhood issues working with town government for a resolution. Through my involvements and participation I have observed

all the changes throughout the town and across Saratoga County. In several important cases my involvement made a positive difference. I have been working my entire adult life starting with a family business, becoming and working as a nurse, and today in an office environment dealing with customers all over the world. These various professions called on many skills that I have including managing people and budgets.

**Q:** *What are the most pressing issues facing your town today? How would you propose to address them during your term of office?*

**A:** Growth and infrastructure are very important in Clifton Park: Growth in the Exit 9 area the economic hub of the town has been chaotic. If this area continues to develop without careful planning it would detrimentally damage the potential of a creating a town center in that area. I would also work with the town to preserve the Shenedehowa School Board owned property to make it a public facility instead of another development. Town infrastructure is either aging or stressed because of development. We see this creeping deterioration in increased needed repairs to aging sewer systems that the town inherited from developers who abandoned them once they become unprofitable and costly. It is also visible in the many side roads all over the towns that are routinely patched instead of redone. It is very obvious in parks that are not well maintained or are very congested. As County Supervisor I would create a tie between the county and town professionals to better understand the size of the problem and propose and implement practical solutions.

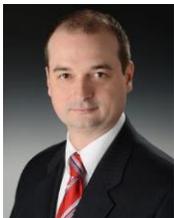
**Q:** *What are the most critical issues facing Saratoga County today and in the near future? Please explain your answer*

**A:** Saratoga County is facing some of the same economic problems and pressures facing New York and the rest of the country. Development pressure due to Global Foundries in Saratoga County. While Global Foundries provides hundreds of jobs it also adds to the pressures on the infrastructure of the county as well as the increased need for housing, schools, roads, emergency response, police, community resources and water resources for these new residents. There is growth in development is spreading across the county. We can already see that Clifton Park Town Board is talking about similar structures to those in Malta. This is not a healthy sign. Lack of planning in Saratoga County to bring back college graduates or keep current ones. This brain and youth drain from Saratoga County is very consequential to the economic well being of the county. This is also a problem for young people who generally travel to work in the county but cannot reside in Saratoga County due to lack of affordable housing and rental units in many of our towns for young people. For instance a large number of the Apartment units built in Malta on Route 9 and Clifton Park on Wall Street are well below capacity mostly due to high cost.

**Q:** *What are your ideas about the responsibilities of Saratoga County for health and wellness services for its citizens?*

**A:** Saratoga County is lacking in providing affordable senior housing accommodations to the aging population While the county enjoys some senior care and living facilities they tend for the most part to cater to the economically well off. This makes it very difficult for our seniors to continue to live within our community. I would work on creating economic incentives for the count and town governments to pursue affordable housing for seniors as well as young people. The county needs to also provide more affordable health care facilities for citizens at large. This can be done by tapping the resources of the state by working with the local State representatives.

## Jonathan Schopf



**Party:** Rep, CON, I

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Phone:** (518) 280-7580

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

**Education:** B.S. Criminal Justice - Edinboro University J. D. - Albany Law School

**Experience and Qualifications:** I am actively involved in the community here in Clifton Park and the greater Capital District. You will often see me with my family at library programs, children's shows at the Commons or eating in one of our local restaurants. I serve on the board and as general counsel for a variety of local animal rescue organizations. I sit on the board of the

Clifton Park Industrial Development Agency, and work with the Town's Youth Court program.

**Key Endorsements:** Phil Barrett, Clifton Park Town Supervisor Clifton Park Town Board Assemblyman Jim Tedisco Sheriff Michael Zurlo

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative, Independence, Reform

**Questions:**

**Q:** *what is your motivation for running for this office? What special skills, knowledge, expertise or training do you have*

**A:** I am not a politician, I am a father, a small business owner and a taxpayer. Like many citizens of this country I am increasingly frustrated at the direction the country is going in and fear for my children's future. Ours is a participatory government, in order to make change one must participate. I am getting involved in government to make a difference in whatever manner I can. I believe that my experience in municipal governance, property tax and public safety through my law practice, education and experience make me uniquely qualified to bring fresh ideas and perspective to the County. Today, I want to continue to serve as your voice in Saratoga County. Clifton Park is quickly emerging as the preeminent destination for homeowners, business and tourism in the Capital District. Its combination of amenities and service is unmatched in New York State, all of this without a burdensome town tax. It is important that we continue the success that our local leaders have achieved.

**Q:** *What are the most pressing issues facing your town today? How would you propose to address them during your term of office?*

**A:** Clifton Park has been blessed with a robust economy and leaders who have taken advantage of that economic growth to provide a solid community with great services at virtually no cost to the taxpayer. Our town tax is non-existent, our highway tax since 2000 has decreased almost 350% and infrastructure improvements are continuing to be made. I challenge you to find another government that has decreased taxes to that level over 16 years. The Empire Center and State Comptroller's analysis of our fiscal position and fiscal stress is in the top of our peer group and in the case of the Comptroller, Clifton Park has no designation of any fiscal stress. Continuing this trend is a priority. Although while Clifton Park's position is strong even with an increased population, Saratoga County is expanding as a whole is expanding its population and in order to effectively provide the same level of services to our citizens, difficult decisions are going to be made at the County level this year.

**Q:** *What are the most critical issues facing Saratoga County today and in the near future? Please explain your answer*

**A:** The tax cap is a huge complex issue that confronts the Board of Supervisors this fall. Essentially, I do not support unilaterally lifting the cap, however if the budget could be balanced at or under a true 2%, I would consider that proposal (the actual cap this year is .68%). In order to effectively balance the budget, I believe that we need to cut spending in the 2017 budget, offset any overage out of the County reserve fund and establish a firm forward thinking tax plan that provides for a slight incremental tax increase to account for the continuing population growth while working under the property tax cap restrictions for 2018 and moving forward all while making wise spending decisions in order to take the maximum advantage of any carryover that is available to lessen the tax burden. This would give predictability and stability to the tax rolls and I believe would be well accepted by our citizens and still keep Saratoga County in a competitive tax position statewide.

**Q:** *What are your ideas about the responsibilities of Saratoga County for health and wellness services for its citizens?*

**A:** I sit on the Social Program Committee at the County Board of Supervisors. A large concern for the County and our Town is the presence of heroin and overdoses from heroin use, especially in teens and young adults. Fortunately we have not had a fatal overdose in our Town, however the same cannot be said Countywide. We need to continue to educate our youth about the dangers of heroin and continue to provide law enforcement the tools to combat this issue. The availability of the NARCAN overdose antidote is a tremendous tool and while our County Sheriffs are all trained and carry the NARCAN, we need to continue to make this available in the communities and to continue to train more citizens in its use and to ensure its widespread availability. In addition, we need to ensure that our young people who are addicts or are facing addiction problems have the availability of services and support to get them on the right track.