

2012



State and Local Primary Elections

Voter Guide

NY Capital Region

by the League of Women Voters

Primary Election on Thursday, September 13, 2012

**Polls open:
Noon - 9 p.m.**

**Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga,
Schenectady & Warren Counties**

About this Voter Guide

This Voter Guide is published through the combined efforts of the 5 Capital Region Leagues of Women Voters.

The guide is intended to help citizens cast an informed vote. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

An interactive online version of this guide is available on the League's Vote411.org website.

New Legislative Districts

Districts have changed! The incumbent who previously represented you may change after this year, even if the incumbent is reelected. Boundary lines and district numbers have changed. The U.S. Constitution requires that district lines be redrawn following each U.S. census.

You can find your new district lines at the [2012 New York Senate and Assembly Maps](#) of the NY State Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR).

Where to Vote

Contact your [County Board of Elections](#) to find your polling place.

Primary Elections

In New York State, the Democratic, Republican, Conservative, Working Families, Independence and Green Parties choose their candidates for the November general election through party primaries. New York is a closed primary state. You may vote in a party primary to select a party's candidate for the November general election only if you are registered with that party.

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New York State Senate

NY Senate District 43 – Primaries (Rep, Con)

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**.

Republican Party Primary:

- Kathleen A. Marchione
- Roy J. McDonald

Conservative Party Primary:

- Edward J. Gilbert
- Kathleen A. Marchione

Edward J. Gilbert



Party: CON

Biographical Info:

Parties: Conservative

Education: AAS Public Administration

Experience and Qualifications: I am a lifelong New York State resident, taxpayer, parent, father and volunteer.

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: My top three priorities: I will vote against any tax increases; work to make New York more business friendly by reducing unnecessary regulations and restrictions; not support any laws not essential to protection of life and safety and that restrict our freedoms, such as the proposed ban on soda.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: Economy: The state needs to streamline the length of time it takes for a business to be located in the state by fast-tracking applications, zoning review and litigation. This approach will allow businesses to be situated in the state faster, not be forced to utilize valuable resources fighting unnecessary delays and litigation and get to work creating new jobs and opportunity for New Yorkers.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: Fracking: I support fracking. I believe the governor will allow fracking on a limited basis with extensive regulations to protect health and safety of host communities. I agree with setting adequate regulations on the fracking industry and believe fracking will create jobs and new economic activity.

Kathleen A. Marchione



Party: REP, CON

Biographical Info:

Parties: Republican and Conservative

Campaign Web Site: www.marchione2012.com

Education: State and Federally Certified Court Reporter

Experience and Qualifications: I have served as Saratoga County Clerk for the past 14 years. In addition to that I have served as the Halfmoon Town Supervisor, Halfmoon Town Clerk, and President of the New York State Association of County Clerks. In my current capacity as County Clerk, I oversee \$72 million in transactions, a \$5 million budget and 65 employees across 4 offices.

Key Endorsements: Conservative Party of New York State, New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedom, Columbia County Independence Party (Supported), New York State Right to Life Committee, Town of Halfmoon Republican Committee, Town of Wilton Republican Committee, Town of Saratoga Republican Committee, City of Mechanicville Republican Committee, Town of Clifton Park Republican Committee, Town of Milton Republican Committee, Town of Malta Republican Committee & Town of Pittstown Republican Committee

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: Special interests and the status quo still rule the process in Albany. That's left us with the highest taxes and debt in the nation, and the second-worst business climate according to the Tax Foundation. To change that culture I will use my vote and my voice to speak out for reforms, to stop out-of-control spending and debt, fight to lower taxes for families, seniors and businesses, and work to improve the business climate so that the private sector can create more jobs.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: State government doesn't create private-sector jobs but it should help create the environment where businesses and entrepreneurs can start successful enterprises and create jobs. Businesses today have to deal with up to 49,000 pages of regulations and high taxes. I will propose a moratorium on any new regulation and

an audit on the existing regulations. And I will work to lower taxes because high taxes are job killer number one.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I look forward to reviewing the DEC's final report and regulations. There is great promise in hydrofracking when you consider the potential impact on our economic and energy needs, and the fact that natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel. But we need a balanced approach as we move forward and all public health concerns need to be addressed and safeguarded first and foremost. I agree with Gov. Cuomo that we can do both and we should.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I would be supportive of certain reforms, including reforms that call for greater disclosure and transparency of campaign finance information.

Roy J. McDonald



Party: REP, IND

Biographical Info:

Parties: Republican, Independence

Campaign Web Site: www.roymcdonaldforsenate.com

Education: SUNY Oneonta Bachelors & Masters, HVCC Associates, Lansinburgh Public School System

Experience and Qualifications: Served as a Forward Observer with the U.S. Army's First Cavalry Division in Vietnam. 23 Years as

the Town and County Supervisor of Wilton, Assemblyman for the 112th District from 2002-2007, state Senator for the 43rd District 2008 to present.

Key Endorsements: New York State Independence Party, Washington County GOP Committee, Rensselaer County GOP Executive Committee, Columbia and Rensselaer County Conservative Committees. Local GOP Committee Endorsements; Kinderhook, Northumberland, Moreau, Waterford, Hoosick, Brunswick, Troy, Canaan, Saratoga Springs, Stillwater.

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: Creating jobs, reducing taxes and making it easier to do business in New York. It's important that we continue to build on the successes of the Senate Republican Majority over the past two years. We've worked to bring income tax rates to their lowest levels in 58 years with \$3.3 billion in tax relief and a \$690 million tax cut for middle-class New Yorkers. That legislation also included a 50% manufacturing tax cut for Capital District job creators, to create jobs and make doing business easier.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: Create Jobs. The top legislative priority needs to be programs that spur economic growth across the state. The NY-WORKS initiative, which I supported, is one example that will help create 3,000 jobs in the Capital Region. There's also the \$150 million in economic development awards to rebuild the local economy as part of the Statewide Economic Development Council.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: The two key issues here are community safety and local jobs. Before moving forward on this issue we need concrete scientific evidence that demonstrates hydraulic fracturing is safe for communities. Depending on those results, we need to analyze the number of local jobs that could be created from hydro fracking.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: Yes. We need to make the campaign finance laws tougher with more accountability to the public. The campaign finance process needs to make it easier for regular citizens to run for office, it's time we return to citizen legislators as our forefathers envisioned. The laws need to be tougher and when a violation occurs there needs to be real punishments.

NY Senate District 44 – Primary (Dem)

New district: Includes **Albany County:** Towns of Colonie and Bethlehem, and the Cities of Albany, Cohoes, Green Island and Watervliet. **Rensselaer County:** City of Rensselaer, and the southern part of the City of Troy.

Democratic Party Primary:

- Neil D. Breslin
- Shawn M. Morse

Neil D. Breslin



Party: DEM, WF, IND

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

Campaign Web Site: www.neilbreslin.com

Education: Vincentian Institute of Albany, Fordham College with a BS in Political Science, University of Toledo Law School

Experience and Qualifications: Neil has been a community leader for many years. His involvement in civic and social areas in Albany includes 15 years as a board member of Arbor House, a residence facility for women in need. He also served as president of Arbor House for a period of seven years. Neil has been the attorney for St. Anne's Institute in Albany and has done work for Hospitality House, the International Center and Hope House, a drug treatment facility. Further, Neil was Vice President of the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless from 1994 to 1998. An active member of the New York State Bar Association, Neil has served as a lecturer on real estate law; editor of the newsletter of the New York State Bar Association General Practice of Law Section from 1980-1984; member of the Executive Committee of the General Practice of Law Section from 1980-1985 and from 1989-1998; chairperson of the General Practice of Law Section from 1993-1994; and member of the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association from 1992-1994. Additionally, he has been a member of the Character and Fitness Committee of the Appellate Division, Third

Department since 1987 and was chairman of the Grievance Committee for the Albany County Bar Association from 1985-1993. Neil serves as a member of the Executive Committee and is the former Chair of the State/Federal Relations Committee of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL). In recognition of his dedication and commitment, Senator Breslin has received awards from numerous organizations including Capital Area Council of Churches, the Legal Project, the Homeless Action Committee, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, Caregivers Respite Services of Catholic Charities, University at Albany's Presidential Honors Society, New York State Bar Association, American Civil Liberties Union, KidsPeace National Centers, Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy ("Distinguished Public Service Award") and Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club ("Profiles in Courage Award").

Key Endorsements: Independence Party, Working Families Party, New York League of Conservation Voters, Empire State Pride Agenda NYS AFL-CIO, Planned Parenthood

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: My top three priorities are and would be increasing the minimum wage, a major re-haul of the outdated Campaign Finance laws and increased health care access and implementation for all.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: It is critical that business and government partner together to retain and attract jobs. The expansion at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering and the Global Foundries microchip fabrication plant are just two of the many examples of state and local leaders working together to bring thousands of new jobs to this region. Also, programs like the NY WORKS program and Recharge New York which I strongly advocated for, have also helped both small and large businesses alike.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I am on the record as opposing hydrofracking on the whole mainly due to the proposed dangers it could cause to the health and well being of the people of New York State. Yet, I do believe that the practice, in a limited form and capacity, may have some positive effects on the state economically. Please know that I am willing to work with you to help me gather the most pertinent and up to date information to make a proper, more final decision.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I have and will continue to push for a government that looks out for the needs of the people above the desires of major donors. The pay to play culture in the State Legislature is rampant and ensures that well-financed special interests and high paid lobbyists succeed in passing or killing legislation while the poor and disenfranchised cannot afford the tools to fight back. Campaign Finance Reform would go a very long way towards leveling the playing field.

Shawn M. Morse



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

Campaign Web Site: www.ShawnMorseForSenate.com

Education: Cohoes High School, Empire State College

Experience and Qualifications: As Chair of the Albany County Legislature, I have dealt with many of the same type of budgetary and policy issues faced by the state legislature. As a father of three who works two jobs, I understand the challenges facing the Capital Region's families.

Key Endorsements: AFSCME Council 82, New York State Professional Firefighters Association, Albany County Executive Dan McCoy.

Questions:

Q: Priorities: *What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: First, end unfunded mandates that drive up property taxes, choke local governments and undermine democracy by shielding state legislators from accountability. Second, Upstate New York can create jobs with investments in infrastructure and education. Companies that get tax breaks must create jobs or pay back the money. My third priority is restoring integrity and honor to state government, including tougher ethics laws that fully disclose outside income.

Q: Economy: *What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: First, as I mentioned above, we need to invest in infrastructure and hold companies accountable for any job-creation tax breaks. Raising the minimum wage will put more money in the pockets of working people who will spend that money in ways that improve the economy. Finally, we need to keep SUNY focused on research for technologies that will be future growth industries, so we can partner with growing private sector businesses to create jobs and solve our 21st century problems.

Q: Hydraulic Fracturing: *Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: The trillions of cubic feet of valuable natural gas under New York which could represent massive income for our state and jobs, but getting that gas could devastate our environment and permanently pollute our drinking water. These are very serious risks, and it is unacceptable that the hydrofracking companies refuse to reveal what chemicals they inject into the ground. Until we have full disclosure of what is involved and can absolutely prove that it is safe, we should not proceed.

Q: Campaign Finance: *Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: Both parties are guilty of perpetuating our broken system when it benefits them and not making changes when they could. And as someone running against a long-term incumbent, I know our campaign finance laws need fixing. Contribution limits are too high, rules are too loose and special interests have too much influence over who gets elected. I favor a system of public matching funds, with lower contribution limits, stricter restrictions on usage of funds and stronger enforcement.

NY Senate District 46 – Primary (Dem)

New district: Includes **Montgomery and Greene** Counties. **Schenectady County:** Towns of Duaneburg, Princetown and Rotterdam, and in the City of Schenectady: Election District 10 in the western part. **Albany County:** Towns of Knox, Guilderland, Berne, New Scotland, Rensselaerville, Westerlo and Coeymans. **Ulster County:** Towns of Saugerties, Woodstock, Hurley, Marbletown, Kingston, Ulster, Esopus, and Lloyd, and the City of Kingston.

Democratic Party Primary:

- Thomas E. Dolan
- Monica M. Arias Miranda
- Cecilia F. Tkaczyk

Green Party Primary:

- Write-in space

Thomas E. Dolan



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

Campaign Web Site: www.votetomdolan.com/

Education: BA English, SUNY Albany. MA Social Policy, Empire State College

Experience and Qualifications: Twenty years experience working with limited income individuals in the areas of energy conservation, housing, and employment. Currently, member of Coeymans Town Board.

Key Endorsements: Albany County Democratic Committee

Questions:

Q: Priorities: *What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: 1) Statewide ban on hydrofracking. 2) Jobs and economic development through state renewable energy initiatives. 3) Campaign finance reform.

Q: Economy: *What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: Direct state investment in infrastructure, such as roads, sewers, water systems, bridges, and parks. State investment and tax breaks in renewable energy projects and training in production and installation for green jobs. The state should raise the minimum wage, as this has proven to create jobs according to the NYS Comptroller. The state should pass unfunded mandate relief which will allow counties to keep property taxes low and not cut services. Ban hydrofracking which will destroy NY infrastructure.

Q: Hydraulic Fracturing: *Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: No, I am in favor of a statewide ban on hydrofracking and all its processes and byproducts. Nothing short of a statewide ban will protect NY's health, environment and infrastructure. There is no way to restrict the flow of contaminated water to any one section of the state. Communities and municipalities will be left with the unfunded mandate of hydrofracking damage.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I would propose a publicly financed campaign system. I would attempt to take big money out of state campaigns to stop the influence of money. I have not accepted money from anyone that I do not know personally. I have not solicited or accepted money from any lobbyist and I have not raised any money outside of my district, except from my mom.

Monica M. Arias Miranda



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Independent Democrat

Campaign Web Site: www.monica4ny.com Facebook:

www.facebook.com/M.Arias.Miranda Twitter: twitter.com/monica4ny

Education: 2006 Masters Degree in Public Administration with concentration in Public Finance and Management, Rockefeller College

of Public Affairs & Policy at SUNY Albany 2004 Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Sociology, State University of New York at Albany

Experience and Qualifications:

- Over 10 years experience with proven record of accomplishments in project management, grants administration, public speaking, and establishing collaborative relationships and partnerships.
- Strong background experience in Governmental Grants Administration.
- Proven record of accomplishments in media, community and government relations.
- Strong civic participation that includes membership in high profile community organizations.
- Proven record of establishing partnerships with community organizations, College/University student groups, elected officials at the Federal, State and local levels.
- NYS Assembly staffer for 5 years; Ways and Means Committee.
- Founder, President and CEO of The Hispanic Coalition NY, Inc.
- Strong advocacy background on issues: voter registration, workers' rights, wage increases, civil rights and liberties, participation of women in public office and state government, protecting our environment, animal protection laws, affordable education, health care and immigration reform.
- Married to Jaime Alvear, who is a Sgt. with the New York State Police.

CURRENT BOARDS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Schenectady NAACP
- New Leaders Council
- Schenectady Cornell Cooperative Extension
- New York Civil Liberties Union, Capital Region Chapter
- FBI Civil Rights Working Group
- Capital District Immigrant Collaborative
- Capital District Climate Action Group
- League of Humane Voters of New York State
- Schenectady Business & Professional Women's Club
- Girl Scouts of NENY
- ACLU
- NALEO

PREVIOUS BOARDS/MEMBERSHIPS:

- Schenectady County Working Group on Girls, 7th Grade Girls Circles
- LGBT Committee Schenectady County Human Rights Commission
- Schenectady County Human Rights Commissioner
- 2010 Census Hispanic Complete Count Committee
- Hispanic Veterans Recognition Ceremony
- Schenectady's Hispanic Heritage

Committee, Schenectady • Hispanic Outreach Services a Catholic Charities Agency • Albany County Young Democrats • Hands on Capitaland, United Way

Key Endorsements: League of Humane Voters of New York State

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: We as citizens can no longer afford candidates bought and sold by party leaders and special interests. I'm running because I believe we need to bring accountability and honesty back to Albany and give our community a voice. My three priorities are: •Demanding Accountability from Our Government and Elected Officials •Providing Accessible, Affordable and Quality Education •Protecting Our Environment by Banning fracking and growing our green efforts

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: The most important and immediate action state government can do is reduce wasteful spending, stop borrowing against our tax-revenues (bonding) and look for ways to be efficient. Discretionary PORK funding needs to be stopped and alternative ways to bring revenues into our districts are needed. Through increasing education/demand around green efforts, we can work to strengthen our economy while reducing unemployment. Accessible and affordable college education is also critical.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I have been opposed to hydraulic fracturing way before I decided to run for office and will continue to be opposed; it is not the right way to close our budget gap. We need legislation that calls for a state-wide ban on fracking. As a safety measure, should fracking be allowed: Legislation is needed requiring accountability from energy corporation, require contractors, subcontractors and all workers to be from within NYS, and we need disclosure of all chemicals used in the process.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I would propose a more user-friendly system including upgrading the BOE filing database and process of uploading information/data. Campaign funds should not be used as personal income and there should be better-defined limitations on how such can be used. Purchasing a car or investing in the stock market seems a bit of a stretch. I don't know if public financing is the best way to go but those who don't have powerful and wealthy friends are not able to fairly compete and bring choice to system.

Cecilia F. Tkaczyk



Party: DEM, WF

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat, Working Families Party

Campaign Web Site: www.CeciliaTkaczyk.com

Education: B.S., Agricultural Science, Rutgers University

Experience and Qualifications: Farmer, school board member for five years, legislative analyst for NYS Senate, advocate for affordable and supportive housing for nearly 20 years.

Key Endorsements: Schenectady County Democratic Committee, Greene County Democratic Committee, Ulster County Democratic Committee, No Bad Apples PAC, Empire State Pride Agenda, New York League of Conservation Voters

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: My top three priorities are: helping our local small businesses and farms thrive in a difficult economy; fighting for adequate funding for education in our rural and small city schools; and protecting our natural resources from hazardous toxins.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: We can do more to help local businesses and farms thrive by providing access to capital and lines of credit through local revolving loan funds. This allows businesses to expand and new enterprises to start. When businesses grow, they create jobs. I will also work to connect people with services and products of local businesses and will support legislation that keeps good paying jobs in New York State.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I believe that hydraulic fracturing cannot be done safely in New York State. A state-wide ban on hydraulic fracturing is needed to keep this process from polluting our land, water and air.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: New York's political system is highly influenced by big donations hidden by loopholes. This unfair system allows wealthy individuals to have more access and influence in the political process. Changes need to be made in our campaign finance laws that provide mechanisms for small contributors to balance the influence of large contributors in supporting political candidates. These include lower contribution limits, small-donor matching funds and greater transparency and enforcement.

New York State Assembly

NY Assembly District 107 – Primaries (Dem, WF)

New district: 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.

Democratic Party Primary:

- Cheryl Roberts
- Keith A. Hammond

Working Families Party Primary:

- Brenda J. Mahar
- Cheryl Roberts

Cheryl Roberts



Party: DEM, WF

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat and WFP

Campaign Web Site: www.cherylroberts2012.com

Education: BS Environmental Planning and Design - Cook College
Rutgers Univ 1985; JD Rutgers Law School - Camden 1988

Experience and Qualifications: Municipal and environmental attorney with 20 years of experience; local judge for 8 years; US Congressional Staff person for 5 years; Corporation Counsel for the City of Hudson for 8 years advising Mayor, Legislature and City boards on variety of municipal and environmental issues.

Key Endorsements: Columbia County Democratic Committee; Rensselaer County Democratic Committee; Working Family Party; NYLCV

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: I will focus on protection of the environment, including efforts to support alternative energy and local power authorities; improving the state and local economy by promoting initiatives to assist small businesses and farmers; and promoting and protecting women's and human rights, by supporting pay equity and increasing the minimum wage, ensuring access to reproductive health care rights, and supporting measures to ensure human rights for the LGBT community.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: We need to make NYS friendly to small businesses and support local farms. Both Small business and local farms are the backbone of the local economy in the 107th. Eliminating obstacles to small business by reducing administrative and tax burdens will help small business thrive in NYS and add jobs to the work force.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I do not support hydraulic fracturing and was part of the legal team that successfully drafted a local law which banned this activity within the Town of Middlefield. We also successfully defended the law against a legal challenge in court by the natural gas industry. At this time, I do not believe the practice can be done safely. At a minimum, legislation would have to pass lifting the exemptions currently enjoyed by this industry on its hazardous waste management.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I think there should be public funding of campaigns with limitations on amounts spent.

Keith A. Hammond



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Campaign Web Site: www.facebook.com/pages/Keith-Hammond/177382982379665

Questions: Candidate has not responded.

Brenda J. Mahar

Party: WF

Questions: Candidate has not responded.

NY Assembly District 108 – Primary (Dem)

New district: 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).

Democratic Party Primary:

- Carolyn McLaughlin
- John T. McDonald, III

John T. McDonald, III



Party: DEM, IND

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat, Independence

Campaign Web Site: www.mcdonaldforassembly.com

Education: High School - Keveny Memorial Academy, College - Albany College of Pharmacy

Experience and Qualifications: Mayor of the City of Cohoes 2000-Present, Pharmacist and Owner Marra's Pharmacy 1985- Present. Former President New York State Conference of Mayors, Member of

the New York State Workforce Investment Board, Chairman of Riverspark, Chairman of the Capital District Transportation Committee, President of the Cohoes Local Development Corporation, Chairman of the Cohoes Industrial Development Agency

Key Endorsements: New York League of Conservation Voters, Cohoes Democratic Committee, Green Island Democratic Committee, Watervliet Democratic Committee, Waterford Democratic Committee, Rensselaer County Democratic Committee, Rensselaer City Democratic Committee, Troy City Democratic Committee

Questions:

Q: Priorities: *What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: First is to address the continued stream of unfunded mandates that has unfairly burdened local governments and those that live and work for or in the communities. Secondly we have to look at a fairer distribution of education aid as urban districts are struggling to meet the mandates and taxpayers are unfairly picking up the burden. Thirdly we need to ignite jobs in our region and find ways to provide opportunities for those who wish to work to find stable middle class jobs.

Q: Economy: *What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: The state needs to invest in workforce training in the health care arena. The reality is that health care has and will continue to be the largest part of our economy and as our health care system continues to expand, there will be many

positions that need to be filled to support this growth. Workforce funds should be directed for those out of school for technical training and school curriculums should reflect this emerging trend not only in health care but in other trade related fields.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: If there is to be hydraulic fracturing we need to review all impacts to the environment and water supply both for short and long term impacts. To date this has not happened or been proven, therefore I am not convinced of its safety. We need to look not only at the impact of fracking on our economy but also it's detriments. If the DEC does at some time deem this to be safe the final decision should rest with the local government as home rule need's to be respected as do the wishes of the resident

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I believe the system we have today needs to change. Large corporations and outside interests are at any time able to sway the outcome of any election one sets their sights on. We need to establish some type of public finance reform that allows the average person to have access to elected office. A online and transparent public finance program with limits makes sense to me although there are many different proposals that need to be debated and decided upon.

Carolyn McLaughlin



Party: DEM, WF

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democratic, Working Families

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

Education: B.S. Chemistry, Keuka College National Urban Fellow and M.P.A., Baruch College

Experience and Qualifications: Prior to a 25 year career in public service, I spent 10 years as a research chemist in cosmetics development and nuclear weapons research. I was elected to the Albany Common Council in 1997, and proudly represented the Second Ward in the historic South End while also serving as Majority Leader. In January 2010, I began a four-year term as the first African-American President of the Albany Common Council.

Key Endorsements: I have been endorsed by the Working Families Party, the Albany County Democratic Party, Emily's List and Citizen Action.

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: My top three priorities would be: 1.) Creating jobs in the Capital Region that pay fair wages and put the people willing to work for the American Dream on the path to earning it. 2.) Working with teachers, administrators and parents to craft policy that addresses the underlying issues that cause problems in our urban schools. 3.) I would work with community leaders and the executive branch to pass laws that make our cities safer.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: To strengthen the economy we can raise the minimum wage and put money into the hands of consumers. We can ask the wealthiest to live up to the social contract and invest in the American Dream. We can fix our aging infrastructure with public works projects that create jobs. We can enforce the laws that were ignored by the people who helped cause the economic downturn. And, we can make sure our future workforce has the education they need to succeed a 21st Century workplace.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I am a vocal opponent of hydrofracking. In the Common Council I supported a permanent ban on fracking in Albany, and in the Assembly, I would continue protecting New Yorkers from shortsighted decisions with long-term consequences. If fracking can be shown as a safe practice that doesn't have negative long-term health or environmental effects, I would re-consider my opposition. But, we still don't even know what chemicals are pumped into the ground. We need more information.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I would support a system of publicly funded campaigns in this state. In this era, when some consider corporations people, money's influence in politics threatens to disenfranchise the real people who need strong advocates in government, but can't afford to donate to campaigns and PACs.

NY Assembly District 109 – Primaries (Dem, Con, Ind)

New district: Includes the **Albany County** Towns of Guilderland, New Scotland, and Bethlehem, and the southwestern part of the City of Albany.

Democratic Party Primary:

- Frank J. Commisso Jr.
- Jim Coyne
- Patricia A. Fahy
- Christopher T. Higgins
- William J. McCarthy, Jr.
- Margarita Perez

Conservative Party Primary

- Joe Sullivan
- Write in space

Independence Party Primary

- Theodore "Ted" Danz Jr.
- Patricia A. Fahy

Frank J. Commisso Jr.



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

Campaign Web Site: www.commissoforassembly.com

Education: Saint Lawrence University, B.A. Economics and Government

Experience and Qualifications: As an auditor with the New York State Office of the State Comptroller, I have audited many of the largest departments and programs in New York State. These include the Department of Health, the Department of Civil Service, the New York State Medicaid Program, and the New York State Health Insurance Plan. As an elected Albany Common Council Member (Ward 15) I sit on the Finance, Taxation & Assessment Committee and have played an active role in the budget process of the city. Additionally, I am currently a member of the City of Albany Commission on Public-Private Budgetary Cooperation. I am running for the 109th Assembly District because I believe we must have state legislators with the integrity and conviction to do what is right for the entire district, and not just for narrow, parochial interests. Most importantly, my record as an elected Albany Common Council Member demonstrates an ability to represent the district with integrity and conviction, as I have pushed for a number of thoughtful reforms in the City of Albany. I sponsored and passed legislation to correct longstanding inequities in a city where over half of the property value is exempt from taxation. I have fought tirelessly to create savings for taxpayers and make our city finances sustainable by reducing city healthcare expenditures while maintaining benefit levels for our active employees and retirees. Finally, earlier this year, the Mayor and I reached agreement on a plan to reduce debt associated with the operation of the landfill. These positions all work to make our financial future more secure. They have not gained me popularity amongst other elected officials in city government, including some of my colleagues on the Common Council, or the city public safety unions. But they are the right things to do. Just like the City of Albany, our state faces many challenges, the most pressing of which is to create a measure of fiscal sustainability for our local governments and school districts. This can be done, but requires individuals with integrity and conviction. I believe I can offer this as the Member of the Assembly for the 109th District.

Key Endorsements: Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings -- Laborers, Local 190 -- Ironworkers, Local 12

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: 1. Education financing reform - I will support efforts to renew implementation of the CFE education aid settlement. 2. Tax Reform - progressive income tax restructuring, property tax relief through enactment of a circuit breaker & STAR reform, closure of corporate tax loopholes 3. Mandate relief for local governments and school districts - to further property tax relief, I will support a phased-in state assumption of our most costly in the nation local share of Medicaid costs

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: Upon election, I will support Governor Cuomo's NY Works Program, an encompassing program for economic development and job growth. Essential to improving the economy is controlling major costs, including local property taxes, health insurance costs and other employer insurances. The personal income tax must be made more progressive. The state's highways, bridges and infrastructure are all in desperate need of attention. I will support aid for small businesses and youth training programs.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: Foremost, the health and safety of New Yorkers must be protected. It is not yet clear that we know how to permit safe drilling without degrading our water sources or limiting dangerous air emissions. I voted for a ban on drilling and Guilderland unanimously voted for such a ban as well. Commissioner Martens of DEC has promised a "dispassionate study" of all scientific issues related to drilling. I will cautiously await the results of this study as there should be no rush to judgement.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: New York needs a thorough revision of its campaign finance laws. Upon election I will support campaign finance reform legislation A9885-D. The bill is modeled on the NYC campaign finance law, which has worked well to remedy the corrosive effects of special interest monies on the outcome of elections. The bill creates an independent board to enforce violations of the law. Most importantly, the current outrageous high contribution limits are substantially lowered to induce optional participation.

Jim Coyne



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democratic

Education: Christian Brothers Academy Siena College BA Sociology
Russell Sage College MS Education

Experience and Qualifications: Albany County Clerk 2 years

Albany's 1st County Executive 16 years

Key Endorsements: Hall of Fame Basketball coach Phil Jackson

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: 1.The right to a 3 year moratorium on increased property taxes for home improvements. Property taxpayers should not be penalized for improving their home and neighborhood. 2.The right to a county & state sales tax exemption on clothing. NYS residents constantly travel to Massachusetts & Vermont to shop for clothing tax free. If we had the same program, people would stay home and shop in NYS. This would generate more revenue, create more jobs, and boost our economy. 3.Property tax reform.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: NYS is one of the highest taxing states in the country. NYS needs to become more business friendly. Recruiting would stimulate the economy. Property & school taxes are driving people out of the state. More needs to be done to help the property taxpayer. Home values in Albany have dropped 30/40% in the past 8 years, however, homeowners are still paying taxes on the higher rate. In other words, they are paying 30/40% higher property taxes than they should. I will propose law to correct this injustice.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: Safety and health issues with regard to hydraulic fracturing in NYS is my utmost concern. Unless science and health experts can conclude that it is 100% safe to our NYS residents, I would not be comfortable in supporting it. However, if the experts determine that it is 100% safe, then I would support it especially because of the economic impact.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: The problem with campaign financing is that it draws the special interests with deep pockets. This results quite often having the candidate become beholden to the very people and corporations that financed their campaign. I stated from the start that my campaign could be run effectively with a limitation of less than \$10K for the primary. I have kept my word and that will be the case. My opponents apparently disagree with this philosophy. I propose that a limit of 1\$ per pop. of dist. ex. 200,000 = \$20K.

Theodore "Ted" Danz Jr.



Party: REP, IND

Biographical Info:

Parties: Republican, running in a primary for the Independence Party endorsement and conducting a write-in campaign for the Conservative line.

Campaign Web Site: www.danzforassembly.com

Education: Graduate of South Colonie High School

Experience and Qualifications: Ted is an independent businessman, having built a business from the ground up. Today Family Danz employs more than 60 people and is one of the largest such firms in upstate New York. Ted knows how to create private sector jobs, because unlike his opponents in this race he has actually done it.

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: My number one priority is finding ways to encourage private sector job growth in our communities. We need to adopt policies that encourage people to invest in their business through tax and regulatory certainty and predictability. Another important issue that we simply have to tackle in order to provide some relief to our

municipalities is real definable mandate relief. Finally, we need to give the people of the state more direct input by passing initiative and referendum legislation.

Q: Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?

A: I think the formula for success is already out there, and all we need to do is have to courage to adopt it. States that are making progress in terms of creating jobs have several things in common. They have lower personal, property, sales and other tax structures, they have fair but not overbearing regulations and government is an asset and not an impediment to business development. We need to maintain our fiscal discipline and cut spending in future state budgets, reduce taxes on individuals and

Q: Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?

A: I believe strongly in home rule, and believe that hydraulic fracturing should only go forward in communities that support it and welcome it. The latest dSGEIS went a long way toward establishing the proper safe guards such as establishing setbacks for aquifers and requiring disclosure of fracturing fluids and materials. The process of regulating the industry should not be dictated by politics, it should be dictated by accurate science. In terms of costs, we need to take a look at well permit fee

Q: Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.

A: We need full disclosure, and that means not just of individual, corporate and union donations, but also so-called educational not for profit group, including "The Committee to Save New York". While I agree with many of the goals of this organization, it does not mean they should be allowed to hide the source of their donations. If I have to disclose so should they, and so should every other person or entity engaged in politics.

Patricia A. Fahy



Party: DEM, IND

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat, Working Families Party, Independence Party

Campaign Web Site: www.patriciafahy.com

Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, MPA Northern Illinois University, Bachelors, Political Science

Experience and Qualifications: NYS Department of Labor, Associate Commissioner, Intergovernmental Affairs and Federal Policy; Board of Education, Albany City School District (President for one year); NYS Assembly Program Development Group; Chicago Workforce Board, Executive Director; US Department of Labor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Associate Director of Employment and Training; US House of Representatives, Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities, Senior Legislative Analyst.

Key Endorsements: NY League of Conservation Voters; Working Families Party; Albany City Council - 9 members; Local Electeds from each of the towns in the 109th District

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: Reform the school aid formula to ensure every child has access to a quality education by shifting away from property taxes that are pricing people out of their homes and out of the state. Lower and middle income families are being left behind as our economy slowly recovers, so raising the minimum wage will help make sure all New Yorkers have the opportunity to thrive. Job creation through innovation and small business growth. Build on our investment in SUNY and innovators in clean tech.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: We must focus on small business growth and helping entrepreneurs bring their products to market, especially in sustainable energy and green jobs. We must focus on the future with investment in quality education. My work over the last two decades has been to develop and fund programs to train and educate workers while increasing economic development and public investments in small business, infrastructure and communities. Invest in employers paying living wages or in New York based facilities.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I support legislation to suspend the issuance of any new gas or oil drilling permits utilizing hydrofracking through June 1 2013. This would allow the State Legislature time to review and respond to substantive issues identified in public comments to the State Department of Environmental Conservation, the forthcoming release of DEC's final EIS determination, and additional issues that are not addressed under the current environmental review process such as comprehensive health impact assessment.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: As a grassroots candidate, I support legislation put forward by the Assembly reforming the system by allowing candidates for state office to receive matching contributions. This bill requires candidates to have a broad array of contributors by requiring a certain number of small-dollar donors which ensure that large-dollar donors do not have undue influence. I am pleased that my campaign is a grassroots effort. As of the most recent filing, a vast majority my contributions were for less than \$110.

Christopher T. Higgins



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

Campaign Web Site: www.higginsforassembly.com

Education: BA, SUNY Albany JD, Albany Law School of Union University

Experience and Qualifications: Christopher T. Higgins is serving his second term in the Albany County Legislature as the representative of the 5th Legislative District. Chris is the Chair of the

Law Committee, which has jurisdiction over the county's legal departments as well as contracts and local laws. Chris has been the prime sponsor of legislation in Albany County to require the posting of calorie content next to items in chain restaurants, require big box stores to provide recycling for plastic bags, and prohibit hydrofracking on public property in Albany County. Chris also created Albany County's first gun buy-back program in connection with a local church, taking 450 weapons off the street to date. Chris will use his first hand knowledge and experience at the local level in combination with his experience as an attorney in the State Senate to help deliver for the Capital Region.

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: 1. Increasing the minimum wage – a long overdue step. I will also support indexing the minimum wage to the rate of inflation so that we can stop politicizing and revisiting this issue every few years. 2. Protecting our environment – including a Statewide ban on hydrofracking. We should be investing in alternative green energy including wind and solar. 3. Strengthening our economy – we need to work with our local colleges and universities to make sure they are economic engines for our region.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: First, we must increase the minimum wage. Then we need a tax structure that supports the middle class including the millionaire's tax and the EITC. We need tax credit incentives for businesses that open in our region. Locally, we must build on our exciting nanotechnology infrastructure by providing incentives to integrate the R&D with manufacturing. Statewide we must make IDA's transparent and accountable. We also need a broad green jobs initiative.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I have opposed hydrofracking locally and authored a ban on fracking on public property in Albany County. I will continue to oppose hydrofracking at the State level as well. We cannot afford to risk our most precious resource - our water. We should be investing in alternative green energy such as wind and solar.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I have always supported public financing of elections. In considering my candidacy for the Assembly, I was forced to look at the hard question of raising money and whether or not I could get my message out to voters. I believe that if we have public financing, more people will be able to pursue elected office which gives voters more choices and will ultimately strengthen our democracy. We need to eliminate the corrosive effects of special interest money in politics.

William J. McCarthy, Jr.



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democratic

Campaign Web Site: www.mccarthy4assembly.com

Education: I was born and raised in Albany and attended School 19 and the Albany Academy. Upon graduating from the academy, I went to RPI and received a Bachelor's of Science degree. I went on to Albany Law School and received my JD in 2006. JD, Albany Law School, 2006

Experience and Qualifications: During my years working as an attorney in both the public and private sectors, I have fought to protect taxpayers against frivolous and meritless lawsuits. I have also worked to ensure that businesses were provided reasonable energy costs, keeping a significant number of jobs in the Capital Region and New York. I am currently on unpaid leave as an Assistant Attorney General to New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. As an Assistant Attorney General, I represent the State of New York, its agencies, and its officers in both state and federal courts defending claims of violations of constitutional rights, Article 78 proceedings, and other litigated matters arising out of state operations and legislation. Prior to serving in the AG's office, I worked as an Associate at the Albany-based Couch White, LLP in their nationally-recognized energy group. As an Associate at Couch White, LLP, I represented clients before state and federal agencies, including the New York State Public Service Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I also advised and assisted clients in project siting, rate cases, litigation and regulatory compliance. Following law school, I served as a Court Attorney for a New York City Civil Court Judge. As a Court Attorney, I served in a confidential capacity to a Judge of the New York City Civil Court and, in doing so, assisted her in all legal matters raised in cases heard in trial courts.

Key Endorsements: Empire State Pride Agenda, Police Benevolent Association of the NYS Troopers, NYS Professional Firefighters Association, Albany Permanent Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 2007, Albany Police Officers Union, Council 82, NYS Law Enforcement Officers Union, Town of Bethlehem Police Supervisors, Local 786, and Albany County Correction Officers Union, Local 775

Questions:

Q: Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?

A: The ethos of my campaign is to bring new jobs, new ideas and new energy to the 109th Assembly District. My top three priorities are: 1. Creating new jobs 2. Ensuring our children get a quality education and our upstate public school districts get their fair share of education funding 3. Reigning in property taxes and making sure they are used efficiently and effectively.

Q: Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?

A: We need to take a multi-tier approach. First, we must guarantee workers a living wage so that they can be productive employees. Second, we must cut through the red tape that hinders new businesses from coming to NYS and creating new jobs. Third, we must reward entrepreneurship and ingenuity and support the advancement of new technology. We have seen what Tech Valley has done for the

Capital Region. Fourth, we have to make sure our public schools have the funding needed to teach new technology.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I think we need to balance the environment with economic development and our energy needs. This is not an easy issue. We need to create new jobs while also protecting our environment. If fracking is allowed, there must be strict regulation and oversight. We need legislation that will make protecting the environment the priority as we seek new energy sources.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I support public campaign finance. We need to take big money out of political campaigns and put candidates on a more even playing field.

Margarita Perez



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

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

Education: A.A.S Paralegal B.S. Laws and Society

Experience and Qualifications: For the last four years, I have worked for the New York State Legislature; first in the Assembly and then in the Senate. I currently serve as Senator Jose Peralta's Chief of Staff in the Albany office. In these four years, I have come to know the legislature and the legislative process inside and out. I have gained wide-ranging experience as a liaison and constituent services, legislative introduction, process and procedure, local and statewide politics and policy, and general management and problem solving. Before I started in public service, I worked in the private sector for more than twenty years, so I understand how businesses work from personal experience. My career in both the public and private sector has given me the experience necessary to serve as this district's Assembly Representative.

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: My top three priorities are education, public safety, and helping small businesses and the unemployed. On the education front, I would fight for increased local funding to make sure our children are given the best possible opportunity to succeed. To me, education is the foundation on which most other things in society are based on. On issues of public safety I would build a working relationship with law enforcement in the community to target and address the most pressing problems. I would also work to come up with innovative ways to retrain workers and help struggling small businesses remain afloat and hire new workers.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: I believe that small businesses are, and must continue to be, the backbone of any strong community. Therefore, to tackle both the economy and the unemployment problem, I would introduce a plan to provide tax incentives to small

businesses that hire individuals who have been unemployed six months or longer. In order to help fund this program, I would work to deny tax breaks and other forms of corporate welfare to companies that ship jobs overseas. As far as programs on the less costly side, I would fight for better, more targeted retraining programs for unemployed workers and help create partnerships between government entities and private companies looking to hire new workers and educational institutions to create specific training to hiring initiatives.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I am strongly opposed to hydrofracking. I believe that it would be irresponsible to move forward without intensive studies demonstrating that public health and environmental concerns can be met. Without this information, it is almost impossible to make a smart, informed decision about hydrofracking. Additionally, there are some bills that seek to legislate to help us better understand the effects of hydrofracking and the byproducts. For instance, A. 7013 sponsored by Assemblyman Sweeney, which would require fracking waste to be treated and regulated the same way as other hazardous waste.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: Yes. I think a campaign finance system that is fully funded by the public is smart policy. It would allow incumbents to spend more time governing and working for their constituent and less time raising money. It would also allow some new individuals from outside the economic and political elite a chance to have their voices heard. Too much money from too few sources can lead to the silencing of regular individuals most in need of the government's help.

Joe Sullivan



Party: CON

Biographical Info:

Parties: CONSERVATIVE ROW C

Campaign Web Site: <http://lonerangeralbany.blogspot.com/>

Education: HS GED earned in Navy at sea. BS Geography U Wisconsin, Madison (Korean GI Bill) MA Geography U Minnesota, Minneapolis (Natl Fellowship)

Experience and Qualifications: 37 plus years participation in politics at local, state and federal levels. Served in Gov Hugh Carey admin, worked with Assemblyman Dick Connors and was Chief of Staff to State Senator Howard Nolan. I know the workings of the state legislature and how to get things done. 26 years as President, Buckingham Pond/Crestwood Neighborhood Association, Albany. Involved in land use zoning matters, open space protection and neighborhood watch-security.

Key Endorsements: The only endorsement I seek is that of the voters of the 109th Assembly District. I will represent them, not special interests, to the best of my ability.

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: 1.Liberty. Uphold the U S and NYS Constitutions. Inform the electorate.Protect their Constitutionally guaranteed " life,liberty and pursuit of happiness?. 2.Security -is the priority, Without it our economy and way of life are done. Jihadists brought their war of terror to our land. They are sworn to destroy us. The home front is the front line. Be alert.Anticipate/deter their attacks. 3.Emergency/Disaster preparedness. Anticipate. Be prepared to survive whatever comes our way.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: Reduce regulations. Tap state natural gas and the 765kv Quebec-NYC hydro power line to provide low cost,clean energy.Rebuild/expand traditional manufacturing/ agricultural bases, heat homes, power our transportation. Rebuild/expand convential railroad system to move freight and passengers. Build light rail in urban areas.Connect urban,suburban,rural places. No high speed rail boondoggle. End Hudson dredging.Use money/labor to rebuild aging urban housing/infrastructure.Use Hudson River highway.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: Yes, I support tapping New York's vast natural gas resources: making sure to safeguard groundwater, wells and reservoirs. Set up an accident fund .Tapping NY gas resources will stimulate an economic development,transportation and job boom akin to that produced by the building of the Erie Canal. Earmark use of gas for NYS, New England and Canada. No exports to China. Conserve this resource for the long haul survival of NYS and America. Support clean coal use/technology for the same reason.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: Larger campaign reforms are needed. Shorter campaigns. Less restrictive ballot access. Voters are the key. They have to pay attention and cast informed votes. Candidates and the media have to wean themselves off dependency on campaign cash. Candidates don't take the money. Media provide more time/space for candidates to present themselves,and their positions to the voters, The media should reject mindless, deceptive,lying ads. Media must be non partisan. Photo voter ID. Only citizens vote.

NY Assembly District 110 – Primaries (Dem, WF, Ind)

New district: Includes **Albany County:** Town of Colonie. **Schenectady County:** Town of Niskayuna and the eastern part of the City of Schenectady.

Democratic Party Primary:

- Kevin O. Frazier
- Joe Landry
- Timothy D. Nichols
- Phillip G. Steck

Working Families Party Primary

- Phillip G. Steck
- Write-in space

Independence Party Primary

- Kevin O. Frazier
- Joe Landry
- Phillip G. Steck
- Jennifer A. Whalen

Kevin O. Frazier**Party:** DEM, IND**Biographical Info:****Parties:** Democrat, Independence**Campaign Web Site:** www.FrazierForAssembly.com**Education:** Union College; BA Degree

Experience and Qualifications: While serving as top aide to Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, I had the opportunity to work with business and labor leaders, environmental advocates, good government groups as well as Members of the Assembly and Senate to address the most critical issues facing our State. I have already developed the relationships needed to pass legislation and make a real difference.

Key Endorsements: NYS Troopers PBA, Uniformed Firefighters Association, Uniformed EMS Officers Union, Uniformed Fire Alarm Dispatchers Benevolent Association, Uniformed EMT's, Paramedics & Fire Inspectors, Letter Carriers' Association, Local 29, Assemblyman Bob Reilly, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Colonie Town Supervisor Paula Mahan

Questions:

Q: Priorities: *What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: 1. Attracting new businesses and new jobs to our region. I am particularly focused on supporting and growing the nano and high-tech industries in the Capital Region. 2. Protecting the environment, in part by increasing the State's use of solar and other renewable energy sources. 3. Reforming state government and increasing efficiency. I have vowed to be a full-time legislator and will be completely transparent, placing my schedule, memos and budget requests online.

Q: Economy: *What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: We need a sustained period of economic growth to create new jobs. We can achieve that by developing public/private partnerships to support high-tech economic development. By coupling such support with appropriate retraining for unemployed workers, we can lower the unemployment rate.

Q: Hydraulic Fracturing: *Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I am pleased that the State's DEC is more stringent in its regulations than is the Federal EPA, and I look forward to reading the agency's report on Hydrofracking. If there is even the slightest indication that hydrofracking would pollute our land, air or water, I would strongly support additional regulations.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: Yes, we need comprehensive campaign finance reform and I am pleased Governor Cuomo has put this at the top of his legislative agenda. I would strongly support a system of public matching funds that will decrease the need for and influence of big money in our political system.

Joe Landry



Party: DEM, IND

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

Campaign Web Site: www.landryforassembly.com

Education: B.S. -- Civil Engineering, University of South Carolina; J.D. -- Albany Law School

Experience and Qualifications: Niskayuna Town Supervisor -- elected three times since 2008. Counsel to the Schenectady County Legislature -- since 2004. Former Counsel to the Assembly Transportation Committee. Former Counsel and Chief-of-Staff to the Assembly Majority Leader.

Key Endorsements: Schenectady County Democratic Committee

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: If elected to the New York State Assembly, my top three priorities would be to (i) work to ensure additional job growth and creation in the region; (ii) ensure that public education for our children receives proper State funding; and (iii) restore economic opportunities for our middle class families

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: If elected, I would work to preserve and enhance the corporate research and development centers, and the manufacturing facilities located in the region. Concurrently, it is critical to create opportunities to enhance and expand related small-businesses. The capital region is doing very well in fostering a business climate conducive as a technology "hub" for the northeast, which is encouraging the development of various economic sectors, such as nanotechnology and renewable energy.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I do not favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York State, especially in environmentally sensitive areas. I believe that the public needs to be assured that this proposed activity will not threaten the health of residents, have negative environmental impacts, or cause damage to the State's natural resources. I would encourage a State-wide moratorium on the introduction of high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: It is my opinion that the 2010 ruling by the United States Supreme Court in the Citizens United case has led to unprecedented levels of outside money pouring into federal campaigns. These monies are being raised by wealthy individuals and being

spent by "super-PACs" for or against certain candidates. I believe that this issue needs to be addressed by Congress before it reaches state and local election campaigns. Additionally, the State Legislature should consider enacting public financing.

Timothy D. Nichols



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

Campaign Web Site: www.nicholsforassembly.com

Education: Master of Public Administration/Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Public Policy, 1995; Bachelor of Arts, English/Journalism/SUNY New Paltz, 1986; Shaker High School, 1982

Experience and Qualifications: Former Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Bob Reilly (1/05-6/12) Director of Government Affairs, American Lung Association of New York State (5/97-12/04); Albany County Legislator (1992-1995 and 2004-Present); Legislative Director, Assemblymember Rhoda Jacobs, 1/89-4/94 & 1/96-6/97; Policy Analyst, NY Health Plan Association, 4/94-1/96.

Key Endorsements: New York League of Conservation Voters; Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU); Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 7; Hotel/Motel Workers.

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: Supporting Governor Andrew Cuomo's economic development agenda to create jobs and spur business development especially for small businesses; Fight to secure real mandate relief to help local governments and school districts meet the requirement to keep property tax increase at 2% or less; Increase aid to school districts to ensure that our schools have all of the necessary resources to teach our children.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: We must invest in education and support our schools. We also must eliminate unnecessary and duplicative regulations on small businesses and truly make it possible to do business in New York. I believe we must enact a fair tax system that requires millionaires and billionaires to pay more so that our schools for example have the resources they need to educate our children. I also strongly support the Governor's Regional Economic Development Councils and believe this approach will add jobs to NYS.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I do not support hydrofacking because I believe we cannot risk destroying our environment and polluting our water. I believe our focus should be on developing alternative energy like wind and solar which will create green jobs for our state.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: This is a top priority to me and I fully support a "Clean Money/Clean Elections" system of campaign finance reform. I would allow local governments to opt-in to the State's campaign finance system.

Phillip G. Steck



Party: DEM, WF, IND

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat (pending primary); Working Families Party; Independence Party (pending primary)

Campaign Web Site: www.steckforassembly.com

Education: B.A, Harvard College, magna cum laude in Government J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School

Experience and Qualifications: Elected to 4 terms in the Albany County Legislature; Former Chair, Colonie Democratic Committee, 2002-2008

Key Endorsements: Colonie Democratic Committee; NYS Citizens Action; NYS Working Families Party; Teamsters Local 294; Colonie Town Board members Paul Rosano, Dan Hornick, and David Rowley; Albany County Legislators Joe O'Brien and Rich Jacobson;

Questions:

Q: *Priorities: What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: • Protecting public and private pensions and the availability of necessary services for Senior Citizens. • Replacing a Medicaid system that is plagued by fraud and high administrative costs with a more efficient system that provides better care at less cost. • Making sure that educational funding goes to the classroom and benefits our students, rather than being squandered on additional layers of unnecessary government bureaucracy.

Q: *Economy: What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: Economic development requires capital. The State Government should take over and reform Medicaid which is currently funded 50% by the Counties. That would free up local resources for economic development projects. Such projects would require overarching State legislation to guarantee that the funds would be used as capital in support of economic development rather than being squandered on pet political projects.

Q: *Hydraulic Fracturing: Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: I am opposed to hydrofracking. It is not a necessary source of energy when clean, green alternatives can be just as easily pursued and actually would be a far better source of jobs.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: I favor a system of public financing of elections. The influence of PACS and corporations and outside groups in our elections has created skepticism with voters about who their elected officials are truly representing.

Jennifer A. Whalen



Party: REP, CON, IND

Biographical Info:

Parties: Republican, Conservative, authorized to run on the Independence line.

Campaign Web Site: www.whalenforassembly.com

Education: Bachelor's Degree from Georgetown University Juris Doctor from Albany Law School at Union University

Experience and Qualifications: I have been in both the private and public sectors. I received a law degree from Albany Law School and, having started in private practice, transitioned to public service in the NYS Attorney General's office as an Assistant State Attorney General. There I helped tackle many of the issues facing our State today, including mismanaged State authorities, and prosecuted fraudulent Medicaid claims. I then served as an Assistant Counsel for the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, where I prosecuted cases in the thoroughbred and harness racing industries. After years of public service, I then transitioned back to the private sector by opening a local real estate brokerage company, The Whalen Group. I also have volunteered for a variety of charities, including To-Life (Breast Cancer Awareness), the Red Cross of Northeastern New York, the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Saratoga Performing Arts Center Action Council, Saint Gregory's School, and the Greater Loudonville Association.

Key Endorsements: Albany and Schenectady Counties' Republican and Conservative Parties.

Questions:

Q: Priorities: *What will be your top three priorities if elected?*

A: A new and improved economy for the Capital Region requires new voices and new ideas. As your Assemblywoman, I would prioritize job creation, lower taxes, and a reduction in the sky-high cost of Medicaid. Albany's old network of insiders and career politicians continues to see job creators and ordinary taxpayers as the piggy bank for their re-election schemes. This has led to higher unemployment and fewer job opportunities. I pledge to close the gap between Albany's promises and its performance.

Q: Economy: *What should the state government do to strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment?*

A: In order to fix the problem of pervasive private-sector unemployment, we must reverse the state's public-sector spending binge. Economic studies have shown that public spending works at cross purposes with private-sector growth and job creation. This is because spending on public projects diverts private capital investment that would have otherwise been used more efficiently. High taxes inhibit economic expansion and kill jobs. Albany needs a new focus on the actions that actually create jobs.

Q: Hydraulic Fracturing: *Do you favor introducing high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in New York? What legislation is needed to ensure safety, manage costs and protect New Yorkers?*

A: Hydraulic fracturing must be consistent with New York's conservationist vision, outlined in our state constitution: "The policy of the state shall be to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty." It is premature to call for specific

regulations related to hydraulic fracturing and shale-gas extraction, but I am confident that the DEC has the tools it needs to implement a rational policy of safe energy exploration for clean-burning natural gas, one that protects our resources.

Q: *Campaign Finance: Would you propose any changes to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State? Please explain your answer.*

A: Overhauling New York's election financing to create a completely taxpayer-funded system is not the answer. My campaign has been fueled by small donors, average citizens who want to make a difference in their community and their state. Let's empower these grass-roots supporters instead of curtailing their rights. We can support fairness without restricting free speech rights of individuals and groups to support their preferred candidates with greater transparency for all levels of contributions.

Albany County

Albany County District Attorney – Primary (Dem)

Democratic Party Primary:

- Lee Kindlon
- David Soares

Lee Kindlon



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democratic Party

Campaign Web Site: www.leekindlon.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FriendsofLeeKindlon

Twitter: www.twitter.com/LeeKindlon4DA

Education: Williams College; University of Connecticut School of Law

Experience and Qualifications: In addition to serving as a prosecutor in the Marine Corps, since 2006, in both state and federal court, Lee has taken nearly forty jury trials to verdict. In addition, Lee has also gained extensive knowledge and experience through his representation of disadvantaged clients; first as an Assistant Public Defender and then as an Assistant Alternate Public Defender (Conflict Defender). Lee is a member of the American Bar Association; New York State Bar Association; Albany County Bar Association; American Civil Liberties Union; and serves on the Board of Directors of the New York State Drug Treatment Courts.

Key Endorsements: Council 82 (New York State Law Enforcement Officers Union); New York State Court Officers Association; Laborers' Local 190

Questions:

Q: *What criteria should be applied in the decision to go to trial?*

A: Under my leadership, the District Attorney's office will be prepared to take every case to trial – and win.

Q: *How might you explain the disproportionate number of people of color who are incarcerated? What can be done about it?*

A: Even as the number of minorities incarcerated has dropped statewide, it has increased in Albany County by more than 60% from 2000 to 2011. Likewise, for that same time period, the number of individuals incarcerated for drug crimes fell by 62%; but in Albany County, the number of those incarcerated for drug crimes increased by 42%. To combat the problem, I will put in place alternatives to incarceration, expand youth courts countywide, reform juvenile justice and finally enact drug reforms.

Q: *Should the incarceration of non-violent offenders be reduced? How?*

A: Yes, especially for children. New York and North Carolina are the only two states that treat 16 and 17 year old kids like adults for criminal justice purposes. And far too many of those kids are going from the school bus directly to the jail cell. In many cases, prison time is the wrong approach, and as DA, I'll shift the office's priorities and focus more resources on prevention, intervention and diversion.

Q: *Please name 3 goals for your tenure as DA?*

A: 1) Reduce the crime rate; 2) reform juvenile justice; and 3) restore fiscal accountability and leadership.

Q: *What strengths and attributes do you bring to the job?*

A: The Democratic Primary Election for District Attorney is not about ideology, it's about competence and leadership. My opponent and I are both progressives, but I am the only candidate in this race with the hands-on courtroom experience – as a prosecutor and defense attorney – needed to improve the criminal justice system. As DA, I'll work within the court system to lower crime, make our neighborhoods safer and improve the quality of life in Albany County.

David Soares



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democratic, WFP & Independence

Campaign Web Site: www.davidsoares.com

Education: B.S Cornell University J.D Albany Law School

Experience and Qualifications: David Soares was first elected Albany County District Attorney in a landslide victory in 2004, and re-elected for a second term in 2008. David remains active in his community as a mentor in Legal Lives, a civic education class for children sponsored by the District Attorney's Office, and as a board member of the Boys and Girls Club. David is the proud father of three young children. As an Assistant District Attorney in Albany County, David was Albany's first community prosecutor. He established a Community Accountability Board, which successfully involved community members in turning youth away from crime and drugs. Since becoming Albany County District Attorney, David has used this innovative approach to make our county safer and our justice system more equitable for everyone. His Public

Integrity Unit has achieved groundbreaking convictions of elected officials such as former Comptroller Alan Hevesi and former State Health Commissioner Antonia Novello. His Financial Crimes Unit has aggressively fought to combat fraud and to uphold the integrity of entitlement programs while obtaining millions of dollars in restitution. He has directed the ill-gotten gains confiscated from criminals to police departments and neighborhood associations for the purchase of needed equipment through the Making Crime Pay Program. Since his election in 2004, David has received broad support for his equal justice for all approach from the community and from law enforcement. His office has demonstrated that justice works best when evenly applied. His record of prosecuting both violent offenders and economic criminals is a hallmark of his tenure. District Attorney David Soares continues to building hope by supporting and participating in many community youth initiatives and projects. With a philosophy of stopping crime before it starts, David has promoted innovative ways of preventing harm and keeping young people out of trouble. David has strived to connect at-risk youth to education and jobs by creating or collaborating with a number of community organizations and leaders. David's record of protecting the rights of the people of Albany while bringing justice to crime victims and their families proves he is the best person for Albany County District Attorney.

Key Endorsements: PEF, SEIU, NYSNA, RFK Club, Citizen Action of NY, Albany County Democratic Committee, Working Families Party, Independence Party, AFLCIO & CDALF), Tom DiNapoli, Paul Tonko, Teamsters 294, Libby Post, Jack McEneny, Bob Reilly, James Gaughan (Altamont Mayor), Ellen McNulty (Mayor of Green Island), Bricklayers, Operating Engineers, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Painters DC 9, Ironworkers, CWA, Boilermakers # 5, NYSUT, UAW, Mason Tenders, Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters.

Questions:

Q: *What criteria should be applied in the decision to go to trial?*

A: Our goal is to further justice. Prior to trial, a case will be conferenced between parties. Plea bargain offers may be extended considering the following criteria: Evidence, impact of trial on a victim/witness, impact on community, and judicial economy. These criteria are illustrative, not exhaustive. Example, the decision not to prosecute peaceful protesters was based upon judicial economy and a fundamental belief that citizens have the right to engage in civil disobedience

Q: *How might you explain the disproportionate number of people of color who are incarcerated? What can be done about it?*

A: Reforming drug laws is only one part of the solution. Replacing illicit economies that has engulfed our Black and Latino communities must be prioritized. We must address the issue of young people who participate in the illicit economy as a displaced labor force. Those who participate in the illicit economy are doing so, not because of a desire for social deviance, but because they desire the goods and services my own children desire. The challenge is working with leaders to create a new economy

Q: *Should the incarceration of non-violent offenders be reduced? How?*

A: Reduction of incarceration for non-violent offenders can be achieved by increasing resources for community supervision, such as Probation; expand the number of programs designed to expose individuals to everything from job training to anger management. The establishment of restorative justice practices in schools

and other institutions will impose fewer burdens on the criminal justice system, less people going to jail, and more communities coming together to resolve conflict.

Q: *Please name 3 goals for your tenure as DA?*

A: Build on the achievements we began in 2004. With ADAs on call, we will continue to assist law enforcement to build cases that result in our most dangerous felons being removed from community. Continue to develop the technological competence to pursue pedophiles, terrorists, drug dealers, and financial scammers in cyberspace. Enhance programs to provide individuals and families with the security they need in their homes. Continue to be one of the toughest offices on those who would drink and drive.

Q: *What strengths and attributes do you bring to the job?*

A: The ability to build trust with communities that have long distrusted law enforcement, resulting in more cooperation and reporting of crime. My business-like approach draws local, state, and federal agencies to assist in delivering justice to some of the most violent and dangerous offenders. My strength and resolve are evidenced by the results of successful prosecution of the most important cases. Biggest strength - I will never cave into pressure and always do what is right for my constituents.

Rensselaer County

Rensselaer County Judge – Primary (Dem)

Democratic Party Primary:

- Carmelo Laquidara
- Chris Maier
- Brian Premo

Carmelo Laquidara



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democrat

Education: Albany Law School, SUNY Plattsburgh

Questions:

Q: *Do you have prior experience as a judge? At what level?*

A: I am currently a Judge for Rensselaer City Court; a position I have held since 2007. I have presided over thousands of criminal cases.

The position I am seeking, Rensselaer County Court, handles the most serious of criminal matters for the County. I always approach each case with an open mind while continuing to follow the letter of the law. I have been rated as "qualified" for

the position of Rensselaer County Court Judge by the Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission.

Q: *What is your experience as a trial lawyer?*

A: I conducted numerous jury trials during my 15 years as an attorney both as an Assistant District Attorney in Rensselaer County for 7 years and as a private practicing attorney. I rose to the level of Bureau Chief of the Domestic Violence/Stalking Unit at the District Attorney's Office where I tried the most serious of criminal cases. The majority of my trial experience has been in Rensselaer County Court which provides me with invaluable insight, knowledge and understanding for this position.

Q: *Do you have administrative experience within the court system?*

A: As a City Court Judge, I am involved in the administrative duties of the Court as I oversee all court business. In addition, as the Bureau Chief of the DV/Stalking Unit in Rensselaer County I had an integral part in establishing the first ever Domestic Violence Court as a special component of Troy City Court as well as the Supreme Court Integrated Domestic Violence Court. These specialized courts are designed to be more efficient while also having the added benefit of saving tax dollars.

Chris Maier



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democratic

Campaign Web Site: Informational page on Facebook

Education: Siena College, B.A. (cum laude); Albany Law

School, J.D.

Questions:

Q: *Do you have prior experience as a judge? At what level?*

A: I have been the full time criminal-part judge in the Troy City Court since 2005. It is the busiest court in Rensselaer County with over 3,300 filings in 2011 which range from local violations to exercising preliminary jurisdiction over felonies. I have handled thousands of cases, decided hundreds of motions, issued thousands of arrest warrants and scores of search warrants, conducted hundreds of hearings and have presided over dozens of jury trials.

Q: *What is your experience as a trial lawyer?*

A: As a former Assistant District Attorney I prosecuted cases at trial on the violation, misdemeanor and felony levels. As an attorney in private practice I represented criminal defendants in trial on the violation and felony levels. I also have trial and adversarial hearing experience in Family Court, Surrogate's Court and Supreme Court.

Q: *Do you have administrative experience within the court system?*

A: As the full-time Judge in the Troy City Court I do oversee the operations of the Criminal Court part and the Troy Regional Treatment Court over which I preside. The Regional Treatment Court sometimes referred to the "Drug Court," accepts cases from other local courts across Rensselaer County.

Brian Premo



Party: DEM

Biographical Info:

Parties: Democratic

Campaign Web Site: N/A

Education: Siena College, Albany Law School

Key Endorsements: N/A

Questions:

Q: *Do you have prior experience as a judge? At what level?*

A: No prior judicial experience.

Q: *What is your experience as a trial lawyer?*

A: I have been a trial attorney for over 27 years, I have been handled dozens of criminal and civil trials in various state and federal courts.

Q: *Do you have administrative experience within the court system?*

A: I have not had any administrative experience within the court system but have in the management and supervision of medium to large law firms in the past.

Responses received after August 21, 2012 may be viewed online at Vote411.org

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization working to promote informed and responsible participation of citizens in government. The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate.