

2012



# Voter Guide

NY Capital Region  
**League of Women Voters**

**Election on Tuesday, November 6, 2012**

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

## **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](http://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.

## **Voting Machines**

Learn about the new voting machines in your county at [Vote-NY.com](http://Vote-NY.com).

## **More Information**

For more information about voting, see the [League of Women Voters of New York State](#) or the [New York State Board of Elections](#).

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## U.S. Senate

### US Senate

**Description:** New York State's junior Senator.

#### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Colia Clark



**Party:** GRN

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Green Party

**Campaign Web Site:** coliaclark.org

**Education:** BA History, MA Africana and Women Studies with further study towards a Doctor of Arts in Humanistic Studies, certificates of training in conflict resolution and mediation for schools and community, and community and management

training.

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have long years of experience organizing in urban and rural areas, working with community and civic organizations: with women, youth, children, unions, homeless, educators, handicapped and developmentally disabled youth and adults, seniors, environment, international organizations; manager of social justice center with 30-plus organizations working on varied issues; served as vice president of NGO to United Nations on issue of Apartheid; served on numerous boards, worked as editor of newspaper

**Key Endorsements:** Green Party

**Questions:**

**Q: Priorities:** What would be your top three priorities if elected? (Maximum of 500 characters)

**A:** (1) Fight for constitutional right to universal education - day care through 4 years of college in public institutions, including immigrants. Cancel student loan debt, fund increases for after-school programs & Project Head Start. (2) Right of women & girls to own and control their bodies, right to abortion & morning-after pill, passage of Equal Rights Amendment. (3) Funds for Farm, Families, Small Businesses & Public School Working Partnership to assure that each American has multiple literacies.

**Q:** *Economy: What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and reduce unemployment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** I will locate President Franklin Roosevelt's 1944 Economic Bill of Rights from beneath the pile of Congressional rubble. FDR's ECBR called for rights to health care, living wage, universal education. Push for creation of mass employment in mass transit, ecofriendly fuels, nuclear/fossil fuel waste clean-up programs, new model homes, agriculture production including agriculture curriculum for all in public education, water clean-up & development, reforestation. Motto: We Feed, Clothe and House.

**Q:** *Energy Policy: What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** I will work with Congress, State and local agencies, organizations, communities, schools, educators, businesses to implement a 5-year plan to increase solar, water, wind and other ecofriendly energy sources. This 5-year plan will include continued research and development of ecofriendly fuels, and methods for rapidly implementing these cheap, affordable, environmentally friendly energy sources. This 5-year plan is accompanied by a cleanup campaign for waterways, affected lands and reforestation.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections? (Maximum of 250 characters)*

**A:** I support the Disclose Act 100%. I will wage a campaign to repeal Citizens United. Voters must know who finances campaigns, influences public policy and creates an atmosphere of distrust of Congress. Unbossed and unowned is the rule.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** I will work vigorously for a constitutional right to universal health care for every American including immigrants and their families in the US. The best possible national security of any nation is a healthy, well-educated, housed and economically secure population. A Single Payer Health Plan is the best option for US national security. It must be a constitutional right. A great Single Payer Health Plan will include complete eye and dental care, and the right to abortion and morning-after pills.

## Chris Edes



**Party:** LBT

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Libertarian

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.vote-for-chris.net](http://www.vote-for-chris.net)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Priorities: What would be your top three priorities if elected? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** The budget must be balanced without raising taxes. This will require cuts to both military spending and entitlements. There is simply no other way. Federal laws that intrude on the civil liberties of Americans must be repealed, and federal agencies must be held accountable for violating the privacy of American citizens. To ensure wars are fought with clear objectives and won with honor, I will introduce legislation requiring a Declaration of War before any troops can be committed to combat

**Q:** *Economy: What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and reduce unemployment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** Every attempt by the government to intervene has only hindered our economic recovery. The strategy of stimulating growth through additional spending has failed everywhere it has been tried. In addition, rewarding failure by bailing out banks and corporations only encourages more failure. We cannot incur any more debt as our nation is on the verge of bankruptcy. Tax increases will only further harm our economy. The only acceptable budget is a balanced budget that does not raise taxes.

**Q:** *Energy Policy: What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** We must end all forms of energy subsidies as they distort the market and discourage innovation. We should enforce existing environmental laws, but until we experience an economic recovery there must be a moratorium on additional regulations. I would introduce legislation prohibiting states from using eminent domain to acquire land for use in hydraulic fracturing. Also, the federal excise tax on gasoline and diesel fuel should be eliminated.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections? (Maximum of 250 characters)*

**A:** I agree with the ACLU that the Disclose Act is discriminatory. By exempting larger organizations that tend to be mainstream from disclosure requirements, the bill inequitably suppresses the speech of smaller and more controversial organizations.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** The answer to our nation's health care needs is more freedom to innovate, not more regulation. Federal regulations impose a straitjacket which prohibit solutions from being tested in the marketplace, while doing nothing to lower

costs. In addition, there are serious privacy concerns resulting from the intrusion of the government into the doctor-patient relationship. Getting government out of the way will allow innovation to control costs so that all Americans can afford health care.

## Kirsten E. Gillibrand



**Party:** DEM, WF, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic (DEM) Independence (IND) Working Families (WFP)

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.kirstengillibrand.com](http://www.kirstengillibrand.com)

**Education:** A magna cum laude graduate of Dartmouth College in 1988, Gillibrand went on to receive her law degree from the UCLA School of Law in 1991.

**Experience and Qualifications:** After working as an attorney in New York City for more than a decade, Senator Gillibrand served as Special Counsel to United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Andrew Cuomo during the Clinton Administration. She then worked as an attorney in Upstate New York before becoming a member of Congress in 2006. She has been a New York Senator since January of 2009.

**Key Endorsements:** Kirsten is honored to be a candidate once again in November 2012. Because of her strong New York values and her proven record of accomplishment, she has been endorsed by a wide range of elected officials and civic organizations, including EMILY's List, NARAL, Planned Parenthood, NYSUT, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and twenty New York Democrats in Congress.

**Questions:**

**Q: Priorities:** *What would be your top three priorities if elected? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** No matter where I travel in NY it is clear that job creation is a number one priority. From small businesses, to manufacturing to high tech and bio tech, New York State will be a leader in the recovering economy. We also need to keep New York safe. Working with America's allies to prevent terrorism worldwide is critical to our nation's security. I will continue to fight for measures here at home that will keep New York families safe.

**Q: Economy:** *What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and reduce unemployment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** New York State is poised to be a leader in American manufacturing. My "Made In America" grant program would award competitive grants to manufacturing companies and provide them with resources needed to adapt to today's manufacturing model. I support the SEAM Act, which would help cut costs on domestic clean energy technology manufacturing. And we need to support small businesses by providing them with tax incentives and access to capital that will help them create the new jobs we so badly need.

**Q: Energy Policy:** *What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** The best way to stem the tide of global climate change is to end America's dependence on carbon-based energy and invest in clean, homegrown energy sources. Those investments will not only address global climate change, but spur economic growth, create green collar jobs and move America forward on a path to energy independence. We need investments in renewable energy production and energy efficient technology.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections? (Maximum of 250 characters)*

**A:** I fully support the DISCLOSE Act and am an original cosponsor of the bill. We must get wealthy, corporate special interest influence out of our elections. Politicians must be accountable to their constituents, not corporate campaign contributors.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** Every American should have access to affordable, quality health care. The historic bill we passed achieved important goals, including insuring those with pre-existing conditions, making prescription drugs more affordable for seniors, providing small business tax credits, and moving to a preventative care system. Ultimately, this bill will deliver care to 30 million more Americans, bring down costs for everyone, and will reduce our deficit by more than \$1 trillion over 20 years.

## Wendy Long



**Party:** REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Registered Republican, Candidate in June 26th Republican Primary, nominee of the NYS Conservative Party.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.wendylongfornewyork.com/](http://www.wendylongfornewyork.com/)

**Education:** Dartmouth College, attended Northwestern University School of Law and Harvard Law School, J.D. from Northwester

**Experience and Qualifications:** Press Secretary to U.S. Senator Gordon Humphrey (R-NH) and Senator William Armstrong (R-CO), Law Clerk to Judge Ralph Winters of U.S. Court of Appeals and to Justice Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court of the United States, litigation partner at Kirkland & Ellis, Counsel and Spokesperson for the Judicial Confirmation Network (now the Judicial Crisis Network).

**Key Endorsements:** Ambassador John Bolton, Sean Hannity, Grover Norquist. Steve Forbes, Laura Ingraham, Citizens United, Susan B. Anthony List, Staten Island Boro President Jim Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks, Oneida County Executive Tony Picente, NY State Senators: John DeFrancisco, Hugh Farley, William Larkin, Mike Nozzolio, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb and Assemblymembers: Bob Oaks, Gary Finch, Will Barclay, Annie Rabbitt, Jane Corwin, Marc Butler, Don Miller Nancy Calhoun, Ray Walter, Nicole Malliotakis.

**Questions:**

**Q: Priorities:** *What would be your top three priorities if elected? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** Stopping wasteful government spending so we can rein in the deficit and shrink the national debt. Cut taxes so that small business owners have the capital needed to expand and create new jobs. Repeal Obamacare, defend the 2nd Amendment and be a U.S. Senator who believes in and defends the U.S. Constitution.

**Q: Economy:** *What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and reduce unemployment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** Lower taxes so that small business owners and individuals have the capital needed to reinvest in America. Cut burdensome government regulations so that businesses and individuals may grow and prosper.

**Q: Energy Policy:** *What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** Allow the extraction of Natural Gas from Marcellus Shale, build the Keystone Pipeline, allow the exploration and extraction of gas and oil from Federal lands and from off-shore sites. Not only is this good energy policy but, also good national security and economic policy too.

**Q: Money in Politics:** *Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections? (Maximum of 250 characters)*

**A:** NO.

**Q: Health Care:** *What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** Repeal Obamacare, work to lower insurance barriers between states, cut waste and theft so we can lower the cost of delivering healthcare. The solutions to high healthcare costs lies in the private sector, not in big government.

## John Mangelli



**Party:** CSP

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** I'm an independent candidate. Unfortunately, election law requires the candidate to name a party. I couldn't use independent although that's what I am, because it's similar to independence party. So I chose the name Common Sense party. I am not affiliated with any particular party but had no choice but to make up a name. I believe we need to return common sense to politics so the name is appropriate. However, in essence I am an independent candidate.

**Campaign Web Site:** [johnmangelliforsenate.com](http://johnmangelliforsenate.com)

**Education:** Law Degree: Thomas Cooley Law School. Graduated 1995.  
University of Maryland: College Park: 1987 BA Commack HS North

**Experience and Qualifications:** Practicing law in NY since 1996. Licensed in NY and Fla See website for additional courts and affiliations.

**Questions:**

**Q: Priorities:** *What would be your top three priorities if elected? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** providing constituents with ability to vote on issues that I would be addressed with. So that my vote would be a direct and verifiable vote on behalf of my constituents. Prosecute fraud. Education-tackling the costs of mandates and or regulations, providing jobs for more(maybe less paying jobs but for more people). Protecting the environment.

**Q: Economy:** *What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and reduce unemployment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** I would support less Federal government intervention within New York. I don't think the answer to this should involve the taking of public resources and allowing a certain few to harvest same. The economy should not outweigh the preservation of the environment.

**Q: Energy Policy:** *What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** I am against fracking. I believe in conservation. Use less, recycle. Don't sacrifice the environment for profit and greed. I don't think we have a choice but to drill for oil and continue to use coal. As horrible as that is we have much more experience with oil and coal then we do with fracking. I would like to see coastal communities use hydro power. Wind and solar need to be made affordable. Fracking is not safe in my opinion.

**Q: Money in Politics:** *Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections? (Maximum of 250 characters)*

**A:** I do. Is it not already common knowledge? Do we need to see the numbers to confirm the corruption? Will it make any difference? The public needs to decide if they are being represented or ruled.

**Q: Health Care:** *What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs? (Maximum of 500 characters)*

**A:** I believe you should not be forced to buy insurance.

## U.S. House of Representatives

### US Congress District 19

**New District:** Includes Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties, plus part of Broome, part of Dutchess, part of Montgomery and part of Rensselaer Counties.

## Candidates (choose 1):

### Christopher P. Gibson



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

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

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.chrisgibsonforcongress.com/](http://www.chrisgibsonforcongress.com/)

**Education:** Siena College Bachelors and Cornell University MPA and Ph.D.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Served for 24 Years in the United States Army, rising to the rank of Colonel. Chris deployed seven times; including four combat tours to Iraq, and separate deployments to Kosovo, the Southwestern US for a counter-drug operation, and most recently (just prior to his retirement) to Haiti where he commanded the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team during the opening month of that humanitarian relief operation. Other key assignments included tours teaching American Politics at the United States Military Academy at West Point, serving as a Congressional Fellow with US Representative Jerry Lewis (R-CA), the Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and completing a Hoover National Security Affairs Fellowship at Stanford University. Among his military decorations are 2 Legions of Merit, 4 Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star, the Master Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab. For their actions in Mosul in support of the first national election in the new Iraq, his Battalion Task Force earned the Valorous Unit Award. For their actions in Tal Afar during the 2nd and 3rd national elections in Iraq his Battalion and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment were recognized for excellence by President George W. Bush and earned a 2nd Valorous Unit Award.

**Key Endorsements:** United States Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Businesses, National Right to Life Association, United Transportation Union, Move America Forward Freedom PAC, National Rifle Association, National Farmers Union, National Vietnam & Gulf War Veterans Coalition, Veterans' Vision, New York State United Teachers, New York State Building and Construction Trades Council, ConservAmerica

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My top three priorities are growing our economy to create jobs, restoring fiscal responsibilities, and protecting our freedoms. I believe that through bipartisan solutions, we can lower energy costs, reform healthcare to decrease costs and increase access, and create an atmosphere conducive to economic growth and job creation. By working together to reach a bipartisan consensus and making some tough choices, I believe that our best days as a nation are ahead of us.

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

**A:** Farmers and small business owners tell me their greatest impediments to growth are regulations, taxes and the costs of healthcare and energy. These

lead to high startup and operating costs, which are what often force companies to send jobs overseas. In addition to addressing these impediments, we must invest in infrastructure—roads, bridges, and access to broadband Internet- and continue to educate our young people so that we have the best and brightest.

**Q:** *Energy Policy: What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment?*

**A:** I favor an approach that leverages multiple methods of domestic energy. This is vital for strengthening the economy, reducing costs for small businesses and families, lessening our dependence on foreign oil and promoting good environmental practices. I have worked to promote conservation and renewable energy at a local level. I have supported many renewable energy grant applications for businesses and farms and voted to increased funding for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Account.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections?*

**A:** I believe that the best way to achieve effective campaign finance reform is by increasing transparency so that the voters themselves can be aware of the money going into elections. This includes the disclosure of campaign donations and the equitable treatment of all parties.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs?*

**A:** While well-intentioned, the Affordable Care Act does not lower costs or expand access to quality health care. The ACA includes more than \$1 trillion in new taxes and fees, \$700 billion in cuts to Medicare, harms small businesses, and increases government involvement in healthcare. We need to work together to enact reform that actually lowers costs and increases access to quality care. I am already a cosponsor of a number of replacement solutions that achieve these goals.

## Julian Schreibman



**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic, Working Families Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.JulianForNY.com](http://www.JulianForNY.com)

**Education:** I am a graduate of Kingston High School. I received a B.A. in history and my law degree from Yale University.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Like so many of us, I grew up in a middle-class family. My mom's small business supported our family, but we struggled to pay the bills. I spent my childhood playing in the forests and swimming in the creeks of the Catskill Mountains, and attended the local public schools. I became the first in my family to go to college thanks to help from a Pell grant, student loans, and working year-round. At the CIA, I helped bring terrorists to

justice and received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for my work on U.S. vs. Osama Bin Laden, in which four members of al Qaeda were convicted for bombing U.S. embassies. Then, as a federal prosecutor, I worked to dismantle drug trafficking rings and to punish white-collar criminals used to getting away with a slap on the wrist. In 2005, I moved home to Ulster County and served as Senior Assistant District Attorney, where I helped to protect our communities.

**Key Endorsements:** Planned Parenthood Federal Action Fund, NY League of Conservation Voters, NYS AFL-CIO, Human Rights Campaign, Defenders of Wildlife, NARAL, 1199 SEIU & SEIU 200 United, AFSCME, American Federation of Musicians, Local 802 American Nurses Association, Bricklayers Local 2 & Local 5, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, CSEA, Council of School Supervisors & Administrators, CWA District 1, IAFF 461, IATSE, IBEW 363, IUOE 137, National Postal Mail Handlers Local 300, NY Board of Transportation Workers United, NY State Board of BLET RWDSU, NYS Assoc. of the National Assoc. of Letter Carriers, NYS Council of Machinists, Sheet Metal Workers, Local 38, Teamsters Local 445, UAW, UFCW 1500, and UFCW District Local 1

### **Questions:**

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

**A:** If elected, my top priorities will be to stop the Tea Party agenda, and to put the focus back on creating middle-class jobs and growing our economy. This means support for our small businesses, farmers and public schools. Small businesses are the economic engine of our local economy, and what they need right now isn't extremism but our help. I will work to give the middle class a tax cut and ensure the super-wealthy pay their fair share by ending the Bush tax breaks for millionaires

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

**A:** As the backbone of our national economy, small businesses need tax relief in order to create jobs. We should also invest in rural broadband to create jobs and allow rural businesses to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Unfortunately, Congressman Gibson has done little to support small businesses. Instead, he's voted to reward companies that outsource jobs, and fought against a bipartisan proposal to deal with unfair Chinese trade practices that have cost over 161,000 New York jobs

**Q:** *Energy Policy: What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment?*

**A:** The key to energy independence is diversity. Continuing to give oil companies billions in subsidies, as Congressman Gibson has voted to do, is not a long-term solution. And when it comes to hydro-fracking, the evidence all points to serious environmental and economic concerns, without a tangible economic benefit. In upstate New York, we have better options, including bio-fuels, solar, wind and hydroelectric energy. I will work to grow our renewable energy sector.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections?*

**A:** Yes. The fact that we now have millions of anonymous dollars being funneled into Super PACs that are having a significant impact on this election cycle, is deeply concerning. It is not good for the health of our democracy. If elected, I will fight to put the power of our democracy back into the hands of the people.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs?*

**A:** There is no doubt health costs are out of control, but rather than leave thousands in this region at risk of losing their health insurance, we should look for ways to control costs. To start, we can implement common sense solutions to strengthen Medicare, such as allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies, ending needless subsidies to health insurance companies, and continuing to explore ways to coordinate care and emphasize the quality of healthcare outcomes

## US Congress District 20

**New district:** Includes Albany and Schenectady Counties, plus part of Montgomery, part of Rensselaer, and part of Saratoga Counties.

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Robert J. Dieterich



**Party:** REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican and Conservative Party endorsed.

**Campaign Web Site:** [dieterichforcongress.com/](http://dieterichforcongress.com/)

**Education:** AAS, SUNY Delhi (1988) BS, SUNY Plattsburgh (1991) Commission, Academy of Military Science (2004).

**Experience and Qualifications:** Bob is a 19-year employee of a respected, local, community bank where he currently serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. In 2011, he was named the Capital District Business Review "CFO of the Year" in the under-\$20 million category. He also serves as the Treasurer of the Glenville Bank Holding Company, President of FNB Financial Services, Treasurer of the Mohglen Corporation and as Chairman of the CFO Council of the Independent Bankers Association of New York. In 2008, Bob completed a decade of service to his state and nation as a member of the 109th Airlift Wing, New York Air National Guard. During his time in the Guard, Bob rose from enlisted Airman to the officer's rank of Captain, earning an array of military awards including the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (1 oak leaf cluster), the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal (2 oak leaf clusters), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (rifle) and the NYS Defense of Liberty Medal. In the aftermath of the World Trade Center Attacks on 11 SEP 2001, Bob served as part of the New York National Guard's response and

subsequent operations, and later supported the humanitarian aid mission in response to Hurricane Katrina.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My top priority if elected to Congress will be to lower our crushing national debt which is already hampering our ability to address critical issues like national security, health care for our seniors and repairing our aging infrastructure. We must also reform our tax code which is overly complex and too easily manipulated by those who can afford teams of compliance officers and accountants. And finally, we must promote policies which will spur entrepreneurialism and small business startups.

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

**A:** To truly strengthen our national economy and permanently reduce unemployment, the federal government must do several things. First, we must balance our federal budget to put our nation on solid footing. Next we must reform and simplify our tax code. Once the code is simplified and stable, consumers and businesses will find it more attractive to operate on American soil and we will see a turnaround in permanent, well-paying jobs. We need to elect qualified leaders to tackle these issues.

**Q:** *Energy Policy: What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment?*

**A:** Our federal energy policy needs to be driven by technological advances and national security imperatives. For this reason, I support investment in the research which could produce scientific breakthroughs in domestic energy production and storage as well as environmentally responsible drilling. I support source diversity among all of our resources to reduce, and eventually eliminate, our need for foreign oil. I would also oppose direct government investment in any private company.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections?*

**A:** I support the goals of the DISCLOSE Act but do not believe it goes far enough. Any campaign finance reform must treat all groups fairly and equitably, which this bill clearly does not do. I prefer to see the role of money in elections almost entirely eliminated. Debates and public forums, where both sides can be heard, could become the primary way for the electorate to become informed. Once elected, I commit myself to ensuring full transparency in campaign finance with no exceptions.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs?*

**A:** The ACA of 2010 has failed to reduce the cost of health care or increase competition but will result in over \$1 trillion in new taxes in the first decade alone! This means that our small businesses will be hurt both by higher taxes and a bigger bill for health insurance coverage. In Congress, I will advocate for a series of simple reforms to allow for the sale of insurance across state lines,

address the needs of those with pre-existing conditions, end the costly practice of defensive medicine.

## Paul D. Tonko



**Party:** DEM, WF, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.paultonko.com/](http://www.paultonko.com/)

**Education:** Paul graduated from Clarkson University with a degree in mechanical and industrial engineering.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Congressman Paul Tonko is a second term member of the United States House of Representatives. He currently represents New York's 21st Congressional District, including the cities of Albany, Schenectady, Troy and his hometown of Amsterdam. Paul has been a champion for the middle class, job creation, economic opportunity, providing senior citizens the opportunity to retire with dignity and the mental health community throughout his career. For the 112th Congress, Paul was named the Ranking Member of the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee on the Science, Space and Technology Committee, where he has special investigative authority on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee. He is also a member of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee. Paul is also a member of the Natural Resources Committee, where he serves on the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee. He continues to fight to bring clean energy jobs to the Capital Region to ensure it maintains its status as one of the fastest growing clean technology hubs in the country. Paul believes in the power of America's middle and working class families and is fighting to ensure the American Dream stays within reach for all who work hard and play by the rules. As a former Member of the Budget Committee, Paul offered the lead amendment to the Ryan Budget to protect Medicare and was instrumental in fighting to protect the program from ending. Building on his work in the New York State Assembly, where he fought for one of the nation's strongest mental health parity laws, known as Timothy's Law, Paul continues to promote mental health parity at the federal level and serves as a Co-Chair of the Mental Health Caucus. Prior to joining Congress, Paul was the President and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Before that, he served in the New York State Assembly for 25 years, 15 of which he was the Chair of the Assembly Energy Committee. At the age of 26, Paul was the youngest person in the history of Montgomery County to be elected to the County's Board of Supervisors, which he chaired until 1981. Paul graduated from Clarkson University with a degree in mechanical and industrial engineering. He is a lifelong resident of the city of Amsterdam, New York.

**Key Endorsements:** Democratic, Working Families, Independence Parties

**Questions:**

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

**A:** If re-elected, my top three priorities will be helping local small businesses expand and create jobs, strengthening and growing the middle class and

improving the livability of our local communities through waterfront development policies. Our area is home to some of the fastest growing high tech real estate in the country, and fostering that development while fighting for the policies of the middle class will ensure a brighter future for all our area residents.

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

**A:** Government doesn't create jobs, the private sector does. But businesses can only expand when they have customers for their products. That is why I believe our policies must empower the middle class – the stronger their purchasing power the quicker our businesses can grow. We must also invest in education, infrastructure and innovation. The Capital Region is one of the fastest growing high technology hubs in the country – we must continue to build on that success.

**Q:** *Energy Policy: What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment?*

**A:** Our country lacks a national energy policy. In order to compete in a global race for clean energy and innovation, America must invest in renewable resources and tap into our brightest and smartest minds. We should not simply continue to give Big Oil mindless handouts. Energy policy should be guided by physics, not politics. Energy efficiency should be our fuel of choice - because the cheapest power plant is one we never have to build. And we must protect the air we breathe and water we drink.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections?*

**A:** I am an original co-sponsor of the DISCLOSE Act. I have been outspoken in our need to not only force big political spenders to come out from behind the shadows, but also to reform our entire campaign finance system. Corporations should not have the ability to contribute unlimited funds to any candidate they choose. Elections should be about who can bring solutions forward to help solve the country's problems, not an auction to the highest bidder.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs?*

**A:** The ACA ensures preventative services are covered with no out-of-pocket costs, children under 26 can stay on their parents plan, people with preexisting conditions are no longer denied coverage and seniors won't have to dig so far into their pockets for prescription drug coverage. But we must continue to do more; including protecting the Medicare guarantee from turning into a voucher program, enhancing mental health services and eventually ensuring health care is a right rather than a privilege.

# US Congress District 21

**New district:** Includes Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington Counties, plus part of Herkimer and part of Saratoga Counties.

## Candidates (choose 1):

### Matthew A. Doheny



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Registered Republican. Will appear on the Republican, Conservative & Independence parties lines in the upcoming election.

**Campaign Web Site:** [doheny4congress.com](http://doheny4congress.com)

**Education:** Allegheny College, bachelor of arts in political science, 1992. Cornell University, juris doctorate, 1995.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Matt has never held elected office. He's had a successful career in the private sector, turning around troubled companies and protecting American jobs

**Key Endorsements:** NYS Conservative Party; NYS Independence Party; State Sens. Farley, Griffo, Little, McDonald, Ritchie and Skelos; Assembly Members Kolb, Barclay, Blankenbush, Butler, Duprey, Jordan, McLaughlin, Tedisco.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** America faces 2 challenges: debt & growth. Congress must balance the nation's budget, just as families do. We should cut unnecessary programs & corporate subsidies. I will help spur our economy by encouraging the growth that leads to jobs. We need to improve roads, bridges, cell & broadband service. Let's also invest in our future & support education & training programs. We need to fix our tax code to make it simpler & replace Obamacare with common-sense solutions that actually lower costs.

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

**A:** Lawmakers can help the economy & reduce unemployment by giving certainty to employers. If companies can anticipate their taxes & regulatory requirements, they feel comfortable making capital improvements and hiring people. Our government can also lower the cost of doing business by lowering the cost of energy, offering more avenues for exports and expanding broadband and cell service. Our schools should also teach students marketable skills.

**Q: Energy Policy:** *What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment?*

**A:** Let's unlock our nation's vast reserves, such as natural gas, which is safe and economical so that we can lead our country forward for the next generation. An "all of the above" proposal is an excuse to give corporate subsidies to energy sources, such as solar & wind, that don't work. That's how

massive taxpayer losses, such as Solyndra, happen. Oil, natural gas, hydropower and nuclear are economically viable. We need to tap into our own resources and continue to use what works.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections?*

**A:** No. The bill would create exemptions for certain groups, while restricting free speech for others. It would have a terrible impact on our political process & would impinge on privacy rights, which could lead to intimidation & harassment of donors.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs?*

**A:** We must repeal & replace ObamaCare with common-sense solutions, such as allowing purchasing of plans across state lines, tort reform, increasing caps on health savings accounts, allowing people to take their plans from one job to the next, improving doctor recruitment in rural areas, offering more flexibility to hospitals making capital improvements & reducing barriers to telemedicine. This gives patients control over their own care, while decreasing costs & improving incentives in health care.

## Donald L. Hassig



**Party:** GRN

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Green Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [donhassigforcongress.wordpress.com/](http://donhassigforcongress.wordpress.com/)

**Education:** BA with majors in Biology and Chemistry

**Experience and Qualifications:** Served as director of Cancer Action NY since founding this grassroots environmental health organization in January 2000. Much of my work with Cancer Action NY involves advocacy for action by national, state and local governmental entities to protect the environment and the public health.

**Key Endorsements:** Ali Zaidi, PhD, Professor of Humanities, SUNY Canton College

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. Establish a prohibition against corporate spending in all federal election campaigns 2. Create a new governmental institution charged with bringing out the Truth about matters of national significance (The first matter that the National Truth Commission would be addressing is the failure of the federal government's public health entities to warn the public of the avoidable persistent organic pollutants (POPs) exposure health hazard.) 3. Ban all offensive wars.

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

**A:** Government should: (1) establish a tax on Wall Street sales,(2) ban offensive wars and set about downsizing the military to an all defensive force and (3) establish a 50K standard deduction with progressive tax rates above this figure. The monies obtained by taking the first two actions would fund free public education through graduate school and free health care for all.

Government must create an Environmental Health Education Service employing 3 million to minimize exposure to pollutants.

**Q:** *Energy Policy: What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment?*

**A:** Ban shale oil and shale gas extraction; Ban tar sands extraction and any importation of tar sands sourced materials; Establish incentives for energy conservation action; Establish grants for residential solar power and wind power projects; Ban oil and gas exploration in the arctic; Eliminate all connections between government and energy corps Provide financial incentives for research and development focusing on alternatives to fossil fuels Increase the fleet mpg requirement to 50 mpg.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections?*

**A:** Yes, I support the Disclosure Act. If elected I would support legislation that prohibits corporate contributions to campaigns for elected office at the state and federal levels of government. This legislation would provide for public financing.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs?*

**A:** Federal health care must come to include: (1) free health care for all; (2) an Environmental Health Education Service with a staff of 3 million to educate Americans on the subject of pollutant toxicant exposure minimization; (3) a new public health institution charged with insuring that political considerations play no part in public health decision making and that corporations are denied any role in public health; and (4) promotion of alternative therapies for cancer treatment.

## William L. Owens



**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic and Working Families Parties

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.billowensforcongress.com](http://www.billowensforcongress.com)

**Education:** Manhattan College (B.B.A.), Fordham University

School of Law (J.D.)

**Experience and Qualifications:** After serving as a Captain at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Bill chose to put down roots in the community and raise his family in the North Country. Prior to serving in Congress, Bill was Managing Partner at the law firm Stafford, Owens, Piller, Murnane & Trombley, where he practiced business and tax law for more than 30 years. In that role, he helped bring over 2,000 jobs to the region through redevelopment of Plattsburgh Air Force Base

and working with other community leaders to recruit businesses from Canada to New York. · Chairman of the Board-Economic Development & Technical Assistance Center Plattsburgh State University College · Chairman of Plattsburgh State University of New York Business and Advancement Advisory Council · Plattsburgh State College Foundation · Appellate Division, Third Department Supreme Court of the State of New York Committee on Professional Standards · Clinton County Chamber of Commerce Adhoc Committee on the City of Plattsburgh Business Climate · President - The Adirondack Ballet Company, Ltd. · The Camelot Home · Formerly Vice Chairman and Board of Trustees - Plattsburgh Public Library · Vice President - Clinton County ARC · Plattsburgh Rotary Club · Clinton County Blue Ribbon Panel - Studying Economic Development · Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital Medical Center Foundation, Inc.

**Key Endorsements:** Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, Glens Falls Mayor Jack Diamond, Supervisor Tom Scozzafava, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Democratic Party, Working Families Party

**Questions:**

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

**A:** I'm focused on job creation and economic development, maintaining a strong national defense, and reducing the debt and deficit. I support expiration of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and ending tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. In addition to reforming our tax code, I'm fighting to crack down on China's currency manipulation, which costs American jobs, and working to strengthen our trade relationship with Canada to increase economic activity in the region.

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

**A:** The federal government can create the conditions for economic recovery by investing in infrastructure, reforming the tax code and reducing the debt. In our region, we can maximize commerce with Canada, promote our agricultural economy, and retrain workers for the over 3,000 unfilled jobs in the region. Supporting colleges and universities is critical to keeping young people in our communities, attracting outside investment, and retraining workers for the global and local economy.

**Q:** *Energy Policy: What steps would you propose to secure America's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment?*

**A:** I support an all-of-the-above energy strategy that supports responsible oil and gas development and renewable energy sources. New York is blessed with many energy resources, from hydropower to biomass to nuclear energy and natural gas. I support the right of local governments to make their own energy production decisions. Communities know best their own needs and desires.

**Q:** *Money in Politics: Do you support the Disclose Act, which would require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures, so that voters can determine the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections?*

**A:** Money has too much power in politics and our campaign finance laws are in need of reform. Although I was disappointed in the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United, I did not support the DISCLOSE Act. I am concerned it

encroaches on individual free speech and could inhibit constructive political advocacy and public participation in the political process. I believe a better solution is to establish a voluntary public financing system for congressional candidates.

**Q:** *Health Care: What changes, if any, should be made to federal health care policies or programs?*

**A:** I voted for the health reform because it will reduce cost and improve care while extending coverage to millions of uninsured. As with all major legislation, improvements will be made as the law is implemented, some of which I have already supported. Work remains to be done to reduce the cost of delivering care while improving the quality of care received. We can achieve this goal by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, reducing hospital readmissions, and focusing on preventive care.

## New York State Senate

### NY Senate District 43

**New district:** Includes **Saratoga County:** Towns of Moreau, Greenfield, Wilton, Northumberland, Saratoga, Stillwater, Halfmoon, Waterford, most of the City of Saratoga Springs except the western part, and the City of Mechanicville.

**Washington County:** Towns of Easton and Cambridge. All of **Rensselaer County** except the City of Rensselaer and the southern part of the City of Troy. All of **Columbia County**.

#### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Robin Andrews



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.robinandrews.org](http://www.robinandrews.org)

**Education:** Business degree (BS) in Marketing and Management, New York University

**Experience and Qualifications:** For the past 20 years I have owned my own business as a Budget and Planning Consultant for publications such as the Wall Street Journal, ESPN and the Saturday Evening Post. Additionally, I am the Supervisor for the Town of Claverack, and sit on the Columbia County Board of Supervisors. I am a former Village Trustee in Philmont, Chair of the Main Street

Committee, President of the Local Development Corp and Treasurer of the Lively Arts and Avanse.

**Key Endorsements:** Columbia County Democratic Committee, Rensselaer County Democratic Committee, Saratoga County Democratic Committee and Washington County Democratic Committee

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1) Strengthening our economy through job creation, reducing taxes, job training and removing barriers to employment. 2) Strengthening our education system by supporting giving all children a sound, basic education while finding ways to reduce financial and bureaucratic burdens. 3) Strengthening our belief in government by using government resources wisely and ensuring that politicians are held to the same scrutiny that everyone else is.

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

**A:** There are so many opportunities for government to help strengthen the economy. We need to reduce costs by cutting through bureaucratic red tape; support the infrastructure needed for development; cultivate a trained and ready workforce; and remove barriers to employment.

**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 grave concerns about hydraulic fracturing. My brother is a driller and shared that once you make the gas seams, over which you have no control, you cannot take them back. At a minimum, legislation is needed to ensure that this is held to the same regulations as other hazardous materials, that property owners know the risks and that it is safe for our communities. And we will need to give adequate funding to the regulatory agencies to ensure the safety of our residents.

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

**A:** Campaign Finance needs major reform – we need to strengthen our enforcement of existing regulations as well as create more transparency and accountability on how money is being used in campaigns. We also need to ensure we close the existing loopholes that continue to allow the power of money to influence policy. I believe that for true campaign finance fairness, we need to move toward public funded campaigns to level the playing field and allow more people to participate.

## Kathleen A. Marchione



**Party:** REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican and Conservative

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.marchione2012.com](http://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.*

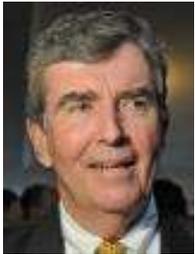
**A:** I would be supportive of certain reforms, including reforms that call for greater disclosure and transparency of campaign finance information.

## NY Senate District 44

**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.

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Neil D. Breslin



**Party:** DEM, WF, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.neilbreslin.com](http://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:** Gov. Andrew Cuomo, NYS AFL-CIO, Public Employees Federation (PEF), NY League of Conservation Voters, Independence Party

Working Families Party, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), Citizen Action, Empire State Pride Agenda, Planned Parenthood NYS Nurses Association, Capital District Area Labor Federation Troy Area Labor Council, Brach 358 Letter Carriers, United Transportation Union

**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.

## Peter A. LaVenia Jr.



**Party:** GRN

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Green Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.votelavenia.org](http://www.votelavenia.org)

**Education:** Ph.D., Political Science, SUNY Albany, 2011; M.A., Political Science, SUNY Albany, 2003; B.A., Political Science, University of Delaware, 2001

**Experience and Qualifications:** Co-Chair, Green Party of NY State, 2006-2012; Chair, Albany County Green Party, 2003-2006

**Key Endorsements:** Green Party of NY State**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. A Permanent Full Employment Program: I support a Green New Deal, a WPA-style public jobs program to eliminate unemployment in communities around the state, based on community needs and priorities, with workers paid a living wage of \$15/hr and the right to card check unionize. 2. Combating the Climate Crisis: We must move to 100% renewable, public power generation in the next two decades on the way to a carbon-neutral economy. 3. Attacking Corporate Power: Full public campaign financing

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

**A:** We need to move to an economy focused on people's needs, not profit. A first step would be a Green New Deal targeting full employment across NY. WPA-style public employment offices would become permanent, offering living-wage jobs to NYers to build a renewable, green economy with targets set and controlled by local communities. NY should also collect the stock transfer tax and restore income, corporate, and capital gains taxes to pre-1980 progressive rates, which would raise \$20 billion yearly.

**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 is dangerous and should be permanently banned across NY State. Natural gas is a fossil fuel and contributes to the climate crisis. There is no way to safely regulate hydraulic fracturing, as agencies like the DEC are underfunded and understaffed. We should instead invest heavily in solar and wind power, which would create green jobs across NY State and move us to a carbon-neutral NY. A carbon tax should be levied on polluters to help pay for the post-fossil fuel era.

**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 a system of full public campaign financing across NY State at every level of government. We should take Maine's system as a model, which requires candidates to raise a small amount of \$5 donations from their district to be provided with a lump sum to run their campaigns if they reject private funding. Candidates should receive blocks of free advertising on television, radio, and newspapers. This would begin to combat corporate and special interest control of government.

## NY Senate District 45

**New district:** Includes **Franklin, Clinton, Essex and Warren** Counties.

**Washington County:** All except the Towns of Easton and Cambridge. **St.**

**Lawrence County:** Towns of Lawrence, Parishville, Hopkinton, Clare, Colton and Piercefield.

## Candidates (choose 1):

### Elizabeth O'C. Little



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Independence, Conservative

**Questions:** Candidate has not responded.

## NY Senate District 46

**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, Marletown, Kingston, Ulster, Esopus, and Lloyd, and the City of Kingston.

## Candidates (choose 1):

### George A. Amedore Jr.



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative, Independence

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.georgeamedore.com](http://www.georgeamedore.com)

**Experience and Qualifications:** As Vice President of Amedore Homes, George oversees projects and operations, ensuring quality and fiscal prudence, while developing a vision for future success.

He has brought that experience and insight from the private sector to his role in state government.

**Key Endorsements:** National Federation of Independent Businesses, Business Council of New York State, Unshackle Upstate, New York State Troopers PBA, New Yorker's for Growth

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1) Job creation 2) Making funding for upstate schools, particularly rural schools, more equitable 3) Tackling unfunded mandates, which lead to ever-increasing property taxes

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

**A:** Lowering the cost of doing business in New York would enable the creation of jobs and produce economic stability. State mandates, fees, out-of-control insurance costs, high energy costs, and high property, business and incomes taxes are just some of the job-killing factors faced by New York's businesses. In addition, fast tracking development, licensing and registration would reduce the lag in starting a new business, shortening the time it takes to get up and running and for hiring to begin.

**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:** DEC has a proven record as stringent environmental regulator and advocate. We have trusted them to oversee the stewardship of our clean air and water, which is a matter of importance for all of us. As a responsible lawmaker, I will wait for their full scientific review rather than make a decision based on conjecture.

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

**A:** In terms of reforms, there must be a greater ability for the Board of Elections or another entity to enforce violations to the election law, especially when it comes to reporting and disclosing sources of donations and expenditures. Whether it be donor limitations or increased transparency, it is vital that every candidate participate on a level playing field and do so with the highest integrity.

## Cecilia F. Tkaczyk



**Party:** DEM, WF, GRN

### **Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat, Working Families Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.CeciliaTkaczyk.com](http://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.

## NY Senate District 49

**New district:** Includes **Fulton and Hamilton** Counties. **Saratoga County:** Towns of Day, Hadley, Edinbough, Corinth, Providence, Galway, Milton, Charlton, Malta, Ballston and Clifton Park and western part of Saratoga Springs.

**Schenectady County:** Towns of Glenville, Niskayuna and eastern part of City of Schenectady. **Herkimer County:** Towns of Webb, Ohio, Fairfield, Russia, Salisbury, and Manheim.

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Hugh T. Farley



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative, Independence

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

**Experience and Qualifications:** State Senator representing four counties; former Town councilman; former college professor and

high school teacher; Army veteran

**Questions:**

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

**A:** We need to focus on reviving the economy, encouraging job creation, and reducing excessive taxes, fees and regulations. The overall burden of taxes, fees and other costs of doing business in New York is unsustainable and counterproductive, placing our state at a disadvantage. I've been encouraged by the important progress we've made in New York the past couple of years, working in a bipartisan manner to cut spending, lower taxes and reject new fees. I look forward to building on that progress.

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

**A:** We must take steps to encourage job creation. Business owners tell me they need relief from the high cost of doing business. We need to reduce the crushing burden of government taxes, fees and related costs (in that vein, I'm very opposed to the proposal to dramatically increase Thruway tolls). We need to continue to rein in spending in a way that treats upstate fairly and enables businesses to remain and grow in New York. I also support initiatives such as a tax credit for each job created.

**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:** While there are potential benefits to accessing these energy resources -- including reducing our reliance on coal and foreign oil -- any such program must carefully evaluate and take steps to address the potential environmental impacts of such activities. I think the DEC has been taking the right approach by undertaking an extensive review of this practice, including evaluating the experiences in other states, before making a decision and establishing comprehensive new standards.

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

**A:** I am open to reforms in this area, including improvements to disclosure, transparency and enforcement. There have also been concerns about increased activity by outside groups and the lack of information or accountability about their activities. As for public funding, there may be a role for it in statewide races, but I am also keenly aware that many citizens do not favor using their tax dollars for political campaigns.

## Madelyn C. Thorne



**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat, Working Families

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.madelynforstatesenate.com](http://www.madelynforstatesenate.com)

**Education:** High School, Some College

**Experience and Qualifications:** Job experience in technical sales required budget review, preparation of cost justifications, ROIs, bringing a business perspective to state government and programs. My experience in community organizations and as a working class woman has developed my understanding of the challenges we all face.

**Key Endorsements:** NARAL, Eleanor's Legacy, Congressman Paul Tonko

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Control local real property taxes by eliminating unfunded mandates, establishing equitable state aid and reducing Medicaid costs to the Counties. Job creation and workforce development. Preserving the civil rights of all New Yorkers by protecting Marriage Equality.

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

**A:** State governments must cease sending unfunded mandates down to our counties and cities and dedicate monies to job training for the skill sets that high-tech industries require and reinvest in our BOCES programs so students who are not college-bound can develop trade skills.

**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:** While I am open to reviewing reports and studies about hydro-fracturing, at this point I am not in favor this type of energy exploration. The risks are great, the environmental impact both above and below the ground is significant and we have alternative, clean energy options which should be advanced.

**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-financed campaigns without the ability to opt-out and the closure of loopholes that allow the unlimited spending by PACs on behalf of candidates and issues.

## New York State Assembly

### NY Assembly District 102

**New district:** Includes **Greene and Schoharie** Counties. **Otsego County:** Towns of Cherry Valley, Roseboom, Decatur and Worcester. **Delaware County:** Towns of Harpersfield, Kortright, Stamford, Roxbury and Middletown. **Ulster County:** Town of Saugerties. **Albany County:** Towns of Rensselaerville, Westerlo and Coeymans. **Columbia County:** Towns of Stuyvesant and Stockport.

**Candidates (choose 1):**

## Peter D. Lopez



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:** Candidate has not responded.

## James A. Miller



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:** Candidate has not responded.

## NY Assembly District 107

**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.

### Candidates (choose 1):

## Steven F. McLaughlin



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Endorsed Republican, Conservative and Independence candidate.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.Steve4NY.com](http://www.Steve4NY.com)

**Education:** Florida Institute of Technology (commercial and instrument airplane ratings), Arizona State University (MS, Finance), University of Phoenix (MBA).

**Experience and Qualifications:** Steve began his aviation career here in Albany, landing his first flying job with Mall Airways. He started a small lawn care business in order to make extra money to pay his student loans. His next job was with another commuter airline, Brockway Air, which became Metro Air Northeast. That airline shut down during the first Gulf War. Steve then flew as a corporate pilot for Key Bank. From there, Steve went to the major airlines and flew the Airbus and Boeing 737 for America West and USAirways. After 9/11, the airline industry was in chaos and Steve was laid off along with the bottom 36% of the seniority list of USAirways. Steve has compiled over 12,000 hours of flight time (approximately 1½ years) with a perfect safety record. Landing on his feet, Steve entered the mortgage banking industry with Citizens Bank and through hard work and dedication within one year was in the Presidents club and ranked in the top ten percent of all loan officers. Steve enjoyed guiding his clients through the biggest purchase of their lives and helping them pursue their dream of home ownership. In addition to his duties of representing the people and small businesses in the Assembly district, Steve works in the private sector for Monolith Solar.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Creating private sector jobs, making New York more business-friendly for business owners and entrepreneurs, and support policies and legislation that will cut taxes for all New Yorkers are my top three priorities. We are the highest taxed state in the nation and most unfriendly state to do business in. Albany needs more legislators with strong backgrounds in the private sector who have the experience in helping businesses grow. We cannot support a public sector without a healthy private sector.

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

**A:** Lower taxes on New York manufacturers to improve their competitiveness which will in turn help them create thousands of new jobs across the state, cut taxes for our small business job-creators, provide energy tax cuts for businesses across New York State, streamline the process and cut regulations for entrepreneurs to open their business. Our state agencies should be working tirelessly to help New York's business owners succeed and thrive, not throwing up roadblocks.

**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 state should proceed to allow hydrofracking when we are comfortable, that it can be done scientifically and environmentally safely. I believe in America. I believe in American energy and American ingenuity and I find it un-American and defeatist to say we "can't" do something. There are currently 14,000 gas wells in New York State, most of which have been hydrofracked. The difference is they are not horizontally fracked but they are indeed hydrofracked.

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

**A:** While I do not support a system of publicly funded campaigns in New York State, it is clear that the campaign finance system must be reformed. The current campaign environment, with weak regulations and many loopholes, allow the wealthiest individuals and special interest groups to unfairly influence the political process. A candidate should be considered based on their policies and abilities, rather than the amount of money they are able raise.

## Cheryl Roberts



**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat and Working Families Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.cherylroberts2012.com](http://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 Families Party; U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York, New York League of Conservation Voters

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My top three priorities are: increasing the minimum wage while helping businesses and farms thrive, lessening the tax burden on the middle class, and ensuring women get equal pay for equal work.

**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 Assembly District. Eliminating obstacles to small business by reducing administrative and tax burdens will help small business thrive in the region and add jobs to the workforce.

**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 that banned this activity within the Town of Middlefield. We also successfully defended the law against a legal challenge in court by the gas industry. At this time, I do not believe the practice can be done

safely. At a minimum, legislation should be adopted 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.

## NY Assembly District 108

**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).

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### James Campbell



**Party:** LIB

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Libertarian

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.facebook.com/jcassembly](http://www.facebook.com/jcassembly)

**Education:** ITT Tech, HVCC, Excelsior College --  
Accounting, Network & Business Administration

**Experience and Qualifications:** I am a taxpayer of NY state, and looking for work. No one else is more in tune to the dysfunction of this state than one of the high % of unemployed professionals

**Key Endorsements:** Capital Area Chapter of the UCC

**Questions:**

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

**A:** I would repeal or stop the 45% increase in Thruway Authority toll hikes on commercial trucks. That will trickle down to ordinary taxpayers where cost of goods such as food, clothing and gas will increase. I will support income coming INTO the state rather than the 45 billion that has left, by support hydrofracking and MMA. We have closed our doors for business for way too long. Be opposed to ANY increase in Legislative pay and will be a vocal supporter of doing away with political pensions

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

**A:** Stop regulating every single aspect of business. We have the WORST small business atmosphere in the United States. Lower small business tax and make government less intrusive to entrepreneurship. Like I stated before, I would also advocate fracking and bringing MMA into NY State, bringing in billions of revenue. But foremost, government should keep "hands off" the economy, the free market will regulate itself decreasing the period between ebbs and flows.

**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, and we need to stop dragging our feet as other states have tons of studies already stating fracking is safe and we have the largest source of natural gas in the WORLD, right here in New York. What troubles me, are the media reports from TX that have stated a rise in breast cancer, and it was debunked as untrue. We need to stop catering to powerful environmental lobbyists and put New Yorkers to work! Young adults are on a exodus of epic proportions

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

**A:** There is no reason we, the taxpayers should be paying millions in order to get junk mail from politicians. Laws like McCain-Feingold only help to keep corrupt officials in power. Contributions should be given freely by people and groups that share the view of the candidate. Laws that restrict voluntary financing of campaigns should be repealed

## John T. McDonald, III



**Party:** DEM, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat, Independence

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.mcdonaldforassembly.com](http://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:** WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic, Working Families

**Campaign Web Site:** [carolynmclaughlin.com/](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

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

In addition to the candidates below, there will be a write-in space on the Libertarian Party line.

## Candidates (choose 1):

### Theodore J. 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](http://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 the 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, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democrat, Working Families Party, Independence Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.patriciafahy.com](http://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.

## Joseph P. Sullivan



**Party:** CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** CONSERVATIVE ROW C

**Campaign Web Site:** [lonerangeralbany.blogspot.com/](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 conventional 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

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

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Phillip G. Steck



**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

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

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.steckforassembly.com](http://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](http://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.

## NY Assembly District 111

**New district:** Includes **Albany County:** Towns of Knox and Berne.  
**Schenectady County:** Towns of Duanesburg, Princetown and Rotterdam, and the western part of the City of Schenectady. All of **Montgomery County.**

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Thomas L. Quackenbush



**Party:** REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.electquackenbush.com](http://www.electquackenbush.com)

**Education:** Highschool (Canajoharie Central), AAS (Herkimer County Community College).

**Experience and Qualifications:** Assessor for Town of Minden  
Mayor Village of Ft Plain Supervisor, Town of Minden and  
Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. Chairman 2006 and 2011

#### Questions:

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

**A:** Real Property Tax Relief and Reform. Economy and Jobs Mandate Relief

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

**A:** Continue Governor Cuomo's regional economic development strategies. Reduce Spending in State Government and state regulations that hamper small and large business growth. Reduce the property tax burden which would make NY a more inviting place to do business

**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 would be favor if we can make sure it is safe for our residents and understand the total socio-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:** I do not support public funding! I would propose stricter limitations on special interests.

## Angelo L. Santabarbara



**Party:** DEM, WF, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic; Independence; Working Families

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.angelo2012.com](http://www.angelo2012.com)

**Education:** Angelo graduated from Schalmont High School in Rotterdam, NY. Angelo earned a Bachelor of Science degree from

SUNY Albany. Angelo served in the US Army Reserves between 1990 and 1998.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Angelo has served as a Schenectady County Legislator since 2007. He is a small business owner, having created a cheese making company which donates all profits going to local children's charities. He serves on the Board of directors for the Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region. As a county legislator has never voted to raise taxes. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in four states. He is a LEED® Accredited Professional [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] and served as President of the Capital District Chapter New York State Society of Professional Engineers. He is also a licensed Real Estate Professional in New York State.

**Key Endorsements:** Democratic Party; Independence Party; Working Families Party; AFL-CIO; CSEA; PEF; NYSUT; AFSCME; 1199 SEIU; SEIU Local 200; New York Association of Letter Carriers; New York League of Conservation Voters

**Questions:**

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

**A:** Economic development and job creation: we must create a business-friendly environment so businesses can afford to reinvest in their companies, expand and create new jobs. Lowering taxes: we need to stop the practice of unfunded state mandates. I have seen firsthand how they impact our local governments, forcing them to eliminate or reduce services or pass the costs on to property taxpayers. Increase the minimum wage.

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

**A:** NY needs to foster a business-friendly environment and eliminate burdensome regulations and fees that hurt businesses. That's why I'm opposed to a 45% increase on truck tolls, having submitted both a letter and testimony to the Thruway Authority urging them to withdraw their proposal. I have also asked the state to pick up the interest payment on Unemployment Insurance, which will save businesses \$100 million, allowing them to use that money to pay their bills, reinvest and expand.

**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:** Residents know what's best for their communities, so I support giving localities home-rule when it comes to deciding whether or not they want to permit hydrofracking. With that said, I do believe the risks outweigh the benefits, so before hydrofracking moves forward in New York State, we must make sure there are adequate safety measures in place to protect our families

and the natural resources we rely on. Until these safety measures are adopted I cannot support hydrofracking.

**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 campaign finance system need to be fundamentally overhauled. It simply costs far too much money to run for office. We need to come up with a way to keep the influence of big money out of campaigns and put it back into the hands of the people, where it belongs.

## NY Assembly District 112

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

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Michele E. Draves



**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic, Working Families Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.dravesforassembly.com](http://www.dravesforassembly.com)

**Education:** 2010 - Leadership Institute (AFL-CIO), National Labor College/ Silver Spring, MD, 1996-1999 SCCC - Paralegal Studies/ Schenectady, NY, 1987-1991 Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School/ Burnt Hills, NY

**Experience and Qualifications:** With a background in Public Relations and Marketing as well as Non-Profit Management, I am a member of the Middle Class. I understand the struggles of trying to make ends meet in today's economy; I understand the struggles of families where one or both parents are out of work; I understand the struggles facing blue collar workers; I understand YOU! I am YOU!

**Key Endorsements:** Congressman Paul Tonko, Assemblyman Bob Reilly, NYS Public Employees Federation, NARAL Pro-Choice, Planned Parenthood

**Questions:**

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

**A:** I will fight to end special tax breaks and special privileges for those with wealth and influence. I fully support an increase in New York's minimum wage past \$8.50 per hour to a living wage and indexing to inflation. We currently have several constituents earning less than a living wage and I find that appalling. I fully support the Reproductive Health Act, which guarantees a core value, a woman's ability to make her own personal, private health care decisions.

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

**A:** We as legislators must make responsible choices, such as ending the special privileges extended to the wealthiest New Yorkers, there by closing the budget gap. Besides being able to balance the state budget, we must also raise the minimum wage to a livable wage. Once our constituents are earning at a level that they have disposable income, they will in turn stimulate our local economy. This will not only assist with job creation it will create a better way of life for our constituents.

**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:** Enough study has not been done to ensure that hydrofracking is safe. We can not risk New York's precious water supply without being sure of hydrofracking's environmental impact. Until, further research is completed, we need to put a moratorium on 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:** I believe we need to severely curtail the maximum contribution limits. As the Empire State, we should set an example by being the first to limit campaign contributions to ensure that the candidate with the largest "war chest" does not have an unfair advantage.

## James N. Tedisco



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative, Independence

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.jimtedisco.com](http://www.jimtedisco.com)

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Psychology -- Union College

Master's Degree in Special Education -- College of Saint Rose

Bishop Gibbons High School

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

**Key Endorsements:** National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Unshackle Upstate, NYS Nurses Association, NYS United Teachers (NYSUT), NYS Federation of Police, named to NYS Farm Bureau's Circle of Friends

**Questions:**

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

**A:** In the past two years, we've worked across party lines with the Governor, to pass two on-time budgets that eliminated deficits, and created an improved sense of spending priorities by reducing spending so we can keep New York working. My plan to keep NY working and help spur private sector jobs would:

1. Freeze and cut property taxes.
2. Mandate relief to lower property taxes.
- 3.

Help small businesses create jobs by reducing burdensome and unnecessary state regulations.

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

**A:** The state needs to reduce unfunded state mandates that cause local property taxes to increase. State government must have spending priorities so NY can continue to move away from the altered reality that there is always a revenue problem when in fact NY has a taxing and spending problem that prevents small businesses from growing and creating jobs. NYS also must be more of an ombudsman for small businesses which create most of the jobs and help remove obstacles for private sector job growth.

**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:** Currently, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is working on a report studying the potential environmental impact of hydrofracking in New York. If the experts at the DEC conclude that it can be done safely with no negative impact on the environment and on drinking water then I would support limited hydrofracking in communities that want to develop that industry. The President has gone on record in support of developing America's natural gas reserves to power our nation.

**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 campaign finance reform. I've authored legislation (A.1503) to end the practice of bundling-sidestepping individual contribution limits by having an intermediary gather donations and then delivering them to a candidate to get credit for soliciting the funds. I support full disclosure and transparency of political contributions and relationships.

## **NY Assembly District 113**

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

**Candidates (choose 1):**

## Tony Jordan



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Independence, Conservative

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.tonyjordan.com](http://www.tonyjordan.com)

**Education:** Jordan earned his Bachelor's Degree in business and finance from the University of Notre Dame in 1986. He later graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1995.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Assemblyman Jordan is a two-term Assemblyman, and was recently made floor leader of the Republican conference. He leads the debates in the Assembly on important matters like lowering taxes and improving the economy.

**Key Endorsements:** Assemblyman Jordan is endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business/New York, Unshackle Upstate, and New York State Rifle and Pistol Association. Jordan was also recognized with the top ratings from the Business Council of NY and was included in the New York Farm Bureau's Circle of Friends.

**Questions:**

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

**A:** -Growing and strengthening our economy by reducing red tape, taxes and creating a business friendly environment allowing job creators to start hiring again. -Making New York affordable for families and small businesses by eliminating unfunded mandates on local government and schools to lower property taxes for good. - As a father of 4, I am committed to providing our kids the best education possible. This will be done by fixing the school aid formula ensuring a quality education for all kids.

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

**A:** Our economic resurgence will be built with, not in spite of, small business owners. New York's policies need to recognize their important role in our recovery. Job creators tell me that over regulation, high cost of doing business and excessive taxes limit their ability to reinvest in their business and ultimately their ability to hire. While I said yes to investing \$62.7 million in our local economy, the surest way to long-lasting economic recovery is to improve New York's business climate.

**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 Department of Environmental Conservation is expected to release its report on hydro-fracking soon. If science deems it safe, then the DEC must develop the most rigorous rules to protect our drinking water and environment. If the DEC does indeed vouch for the safety of natural gas drilling in the Marcellus shale, the communities which would be affected, like the Southern Tier and Syracuse, should then decide if it is right for them and DEC ensure its rules are followed.

**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 important to enforce and continually review campaign finance reform laws; this ensures that the voice of taxpayers are heard and not drowned out by special interests. Limiting special-interest dollars and requiring stricter reporting is one way to achieve this important objective. We must also continue to strive to find a workable solution to provide publicly funded campaign financing.

## Carrie Woerner



**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic, Working Families Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.carrie2012.com](http://www.carrie2012.com)

**Education:** Carnegie Mellon University - Bachelors, Santa Clara University - MBA

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have nearly 30 years of private sector experience in the high tech industry, including both large corporate and small business experience. I run the software division of a small publishing company today, where I am proud to be creating local jobs for local people. I am serving my third term as a Village Trustee in the Village of Round Lake with a track record of fighting to reduce spending and holding the line on taxes. I am active volunteer, as a member of the Malta Planning Board, a member of the Saratoga Arts Board of Directors and the Wilton Food Pantry.

**Key Endorsements:** Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Eleanor's Legacy, NYS League of Conservation Voters, Women's Campaign Fund, NARAL, AFL-CIO, Capital District Area Labor Federation, Saratoga County Central Labor Council, Glens Falls Central Labor Council, New York State United Teachers, Public Employees Federation, Civil Service Employees Union, Plumbing and Pipefitting, National Association of Letter Carriers, Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters, International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers, Service Employees International Union, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, Transport Workers of America

**Questions:**

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

**A:** 1. Modify the school aid formula to reflect the needs and conditions of rural upstate schools. 2. Protect the right of all women to access the full range healthcare services. 3. Create a better business climate by streamlining regulations, reducing fees and taxes, and addressing the following Top 3 Unfunded Mandates: a. Fix the calculation of the Unemployment Insurance Base Period b. Fully fund municipal 911 call centers c. Fund the mandatory purchase and scoring of Regents exams.

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

**A:** First, make it simpler to start up and grow a small business by streamlining regulation and review processes in State agencies for small businesses bringing

on their first employees. Establish a One-Stop-Shopping approach, where there is a single point of contact to assist new businesses in completing the correct forms, scheduling agency reviews, calculating fees etc. Second, continue to invest economic development dollars to bring advanced manufacturing to Upstate.

**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 at this time. Until the evidence is clear that this controversial procedure does not pose a health and safety risk to the families, communities, environment and economies in proposed areas, the moratorium should remain in place. If and only if the process is deemed safe, then all permitting and subsequent negotiations should ultimately be a matter for locally elected municipal governments to decide based on uniform NYS guidelines established by the DEC.

**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 to do all that we can to make political campaigns, fair, transparent, and accountable. The cost of campaigns has grown considerably, limiting the pool of candidates to those who can raise or fund expensive campaigns. We need to implement a system that encourages more people to run for office. I would support a system that provides an option for publicly funded campaigns to those seeking elected office, provided this could be done without impact to taxpayers.

## NY Assembly District 114

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

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Daniel G. Stec



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican (REP) Conservative (CON) Independence (IND)

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.stec4assembly.com](http://www.stec4assembly.com)

**Education:** B.S. Chemical Engineering, Clarkson University  
M.B.A. University of Rhode Island

**Experience and Qualifications:** Queensbury Town Supervisor 2004-present • Warren County Board of Supervisors 2004-present - Chairman 2011-present - Finance Chairman 2008-2010 • Intercounty Legislative Committee of the

Adirondacks 2004-present - Chairman 2005 • Queensbury Town Councilman 2000-2003 • Member, Capital Region Economic Development Council

**Key Endorsements:** Unshackle Upstate, a coalition of business groups- GEORGE PATAKI, FORMER NYS GOVERNOR- CONGRESSMAN CHRIS GIBSON- SENATOR BETTY LITTLE- ASSEMBLYWOMAN TERESA SAYWARD- ASSEMBLYMAN TONY JORDAN- 30 DISTRICT TOWN SUPERVISORS AND MAYORS

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My three top priorities will be to: a. work to improve the business climate to encourage job growth and opportunities b. control costs in state government, including costs mandated onto schools and local governments c. provide the highest quality of constituent service to find solutions to everyday issues in the district

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

**A:** To strengthen the state economy and reduce unemployment the state should and I will work towards – a. improving the business climate through examining and modifying excessive and burdensome regulations that hinder and discourage business growth b. reducing the cost of state government by eliminating wasteful spending and mandates that drive up costs c. improving infrastructure vital to economic growth and access to high speed internet and cellular communications systems.

**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 big on local government being involved and this means a home rule type of management with any hydrofracking. We need to increase our domestic production in so many areas and this is one of them. Knowing where to drill, what is below the surface, and what is used to frack are the main keys to safe hydrofracking. We cannot let misinformation lead the way. Where environmental impact studies show it to be safe, then we should take the steps needed towards economic development and growth.

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

**A:** Campaign finance reform is overdue but with the diverse and extreme opinions of those effecting any change, it is hard to nail down all needed changes. What we need is a review and elimination of loopholes to begin the process. Due to the nature of the beast change will not happen with a complete overhaul but has a better chance with precise incisions into the most abusive rules.

## Dennis J. Tarantino



**Party:** DEM, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic Working Families

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.dentarantino.com/](http://www.dentarantino.com/)

**Education:** BA, Siena College JD, Albany Law School

**Experience and Qualifications:** 37 years general practice of law representing individuals and small business. 25 years owner Maple Abstract & Realty Corporation.

**Key Endorsements:** Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 200 United Transportation Union Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local Union #2

**Questions:**

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

**A:** My top three priorities are: 1. Attracting businesses and good paying jobs by eliminating unnecessary regulations and increasing the minimum wage. 2. Lowering property taxes by, for example, eliminating unfunded mandates. 3. Improving our Education Aid Formula so North Country schools get their fair share of funding.

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

**A:** We must ensure that New York is truly "open for business" by encouraging businesses to remain and grow in New York State and not outsource their labor. We must run our State Government like a business and keep expenditures down, find ways to lower taxes and make Albany more "user-friendly" by cutting red tape. When businesses stay and grow, the economy prospers and unemployment is reduced.

**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:** As someone who has lived through an environmental disaster (Caputo Dump Site in Moreau), I know how important it is that we complete our "due diligence" when it comes to issues like hydrofracking. If the process currently under review by the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health is ultimately approved, a process must be put in place to insure local input as well as processes and procedures for immediate recovery in the event of health and/or safety violations.

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

**A:** Candidates for public office should not be given an unfair advantage because they can "self-fund" their campaigns. There should be a process in place that provides a fair and equitable system that permits and encourages all qualified candidates to run for public office. I would support an option for public campaign financing provided it is done in a way that does not place additional financial burden on the taxpayers.

## NYS Supreme Court

### Supreme Court Justice - 4th Judicial District

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

#### Candidates (choose 4):

#### Thomas Buchanan



**Party:** REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.linkedin.com/pub/tom-buchanan/a/a/44](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/tom-buchanan/a/a/44)

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** Not released yet

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

#### Felix J. Catena



**Party:** REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.judgecatena.com](http://www.judgecatena.com)

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** Highly qualified

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

## Christine Clark



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.judgeclark.com/](http://www.judgeclark.com/)

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** Qualified

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

## John T. Ellis



**Party:** REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [ellis4nysupremecourt.com/](http://ellis4nysupremecourt.com/)

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** Qualified

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

## Mark Powers



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.judgemarkpowers.com](http://www.judgemarkpowers.com)

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** Qualified

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

## John Silvestri



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.silvestri2012.com](http://www.silvestri2012.com)

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** Qualified

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

## Joseph M. Sise



**Party:** REP, CON

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Re-Elect-Judge-Joseph-Sise-Supreme-Court/249272838518327#!/pages/Re-Elect-Judge-Joseph-Sise-Supreme-Court/249272838518327](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Re-Elect-Judge-Joseph-Sise-Supreme-Court/249272838518327#!/pages/Re-Elect-Judge-Joseph-Sise-Supreme-Court/249272838518327)

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** Not released yet

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

## Jeffrey D. Wait



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.judgewait2012.com/](http://www.judgewait2012.com/)

**Judicial Rating (IJEQC):** Qualified

**NY Judicial Candidate Voter Guide:** [www.nycourts.gov/vote/](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote/)

# Albany County

## Albany County District Attorney

Candidates (choose 1):

### David Soares



**Party:** DEM, WF, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic, WFP & Independence

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.davidsoares.com](http://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 Legislature District 1

Candidates (choose 2):

## Henry Bauer



**Party:** REP

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Conservative, Independence, Working Families

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.rensselaercountylegislators.com](http://www.rensselaercountylegislators.com)

**Education:** Siena College, BA Western New England Law School, JD

**Experience and Qualifications:** Trial Attorney, City

Councilman/County Legislator, Educator, Judge, Municipal Attorney, Adjunct Professor, Assistant Public Defender, Counsel to the Department of the Aging.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Critical Issues: What are the three most critical issues facing Rensselaer County?*

**A:** 1. Supporting county budgets that protect services and maintain the county's fiscal stability. 2. Revitalizing the local economy by attracting new jobs and businesses, and operating the county government fairly and efficiently. 3. Encouraging the sharing of services to reduce cost, and supporting fiscal restructuring in order to save the tax payer money.

**Q:** *Tax Cap: In light of the 2% tax cap, how can Rensselaer County continue to adequately satisfy required state mandates?*

**A:** By respecting the tax cap and by doing more with less. The mandates are a problem for both the County and the State. The real issue is "can we afford this" not "who should be paying for it". The tax payer pays for the mandate, in any event, and that is the real problem! Any attempt to find away around the tax cap is wrong and it defeats the spirit and purpose of the tax cap.

**Q:** *Municipal Cooperation: How can Rensselaer County help to foster more inter-municipal cooperation on such things as: shared services, affordable housing, and open space preservation?*

**A:** Shared services saves money and can improve the quality of the service provided. In the areas of public safety, fire protection, and public works, Rensselaer County has always worked with the City of Troy and the various local municipalities in order to provide efficient public services to the tax payer. Rensselaer County works in conjunction with the Troy Housing Authority in order to deal with the issue of affordable housing. Shared services improves efficiencies and saves the tax payers money

## Cindy Doran



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Registered Conservative--Endorsed by the Democratic Party

**Campaign Web Site:** [cindydoran2012@gmail.com](mailto:cindydoran2012@gmail.com)

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Degree: Business Education with Mathematics Minor from the College of Saint Rose, Master of Science Degree: Advanced Classroom Teaching in Business Education from the University at Albany

**Experience and Qualifications:** Mother, Teacher, Taxpayer, Concerned and Involved Citizen, Board Member, Linden Hills Homeowners' Association; Active Member, La Salle Parents Club; Former Council Member, Our Lady of Victory Parish

**Key Endorsements:** Rensselaer County Democratic Committee

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Critical Issues: What are the three most critical issues facing Rensselaer County?*

**A:** Critical issues that face Rensselaer County include the need to reduce taxes on the middle class to help stimulate economic development, support and promote small businesses who are overwhelmed by State regulations, and to advocate for children and families who often suffer the most when lawmakers try to balance the budget.

**Q:** *Tax Cap: In light of the 2% tax cap, how can Rensselaer County continue to adequately satisfy required state mandates?*

**A:** As challenging as it may be, Rensselaer County must continue to seek creative ways to manage the costs of mandates, while at the same time explore new revenue sources, particularly in economic development. Efforts to lobby for mandate relief must also be a priority.

**Q:** *Municipal Cooperation: How can Rensselaer County help to foster more inter-municipal cooperation on such things as: shared services, affordable housing, and open space preservation?*

**A:** Municipal cooperation is essential to the economic and social future of all municipalities. Shared services need to be expanded and looked at in a more in-depth manner, so townships work together to avoid redundancy. For example, town highway departments may be able to save money by sharing equipment that is not found in every town. This also applies to resourcing with local municipalities to share the burdens of improving, developing, and maintaining affordable housing and recreational space.

## Gary Pavlic



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic

**Campaign Web Site:** GaryPavlic.com

**Education:** BS in Human Development, Empire State College  
Some graduate courses in Political Science and Public Policy

**Experience and Qualifications:** 35 years in Public Service; in my last job for the NYS Dept of Health, I managed 67 contracts worth \$80M and helped to get thousands of individuals off welfare and back to work as health care workers; Community activist for decades in the area; Past President, Treasurer and Board Member of Linden Hills Neighborhood Association; Raised over \$25,000 for Ronald McDonald House Charities Families First Fund while President of the Capital Region 56ers, a collector's club; currently working on a Veteran's Oral History Project, setting up a website for

Capital Region Vets' oral histories, in conjunction with the Albany VA Hospital and the NYS Military History Museum in Saratoga Springs NY; a 25 year resident of Troy.

**Key Endorsements:** US Congressman Paul Tonko, NYS Sen. Neil Breslin, Hon. Joe Manupella, Mayor Lou Rosamilia of Troy, Deputy Mayor of Troy, Peter Ryan, John McDonald, Mayor of Cohoes and candidate for NYS Assembly; Lynn Kopka, President, Troy City Council, At Large Council Members Nina Nichols and Rodney Wiltshire, Council Members, Kevin McGrath, Bob Doherty, Ken Zalewski, and Gary Galuski; County Legislators Kathleen Cassidy, Peter Grimm, Mark Fleming, and Ed Manny.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Critical Issues: What are the three most critical issues facing Rensselaer County?*

**A:** Taxes are too much of a burden for the Citizens of the County and the Citizens of Troy. We must do what we can to lower taxes: 1. Get people back to work and paying taxes by providing job training services and whatever else is needed to get working families back on their feet 2. consolidate statewide Medicaid administrative services with NY State saving the county thousands of dollars, and 3. Ensure Troy's fair share of county services for the taxes Troy citizens pay to the county.

**Q:** *Tax Cap: In light of the 2% tax cap, how can Rensselaer County continue to adequately satisfy required state mandates?*

**A:** Consolidation of statewide Medicaid administrative services would save thousands for the county and allow us to provide better services while saving tax payers money. Getting people trained for new careers helps them to get on their feet, get off county social services, and lets them join the tax paying citizens of the county. Lobbying for no additional unfunded mandates is also necessary. We must demand no new mandates without state or federal funding.

**Q:** *Municipal Cooperation: How can Rensselaer County help to foster more inter-municipal cooperation on such things as: shared services, affordable housing, and open space preservation?*

**A:** The Legislature can reinforce cooperative committees established to explore shared services and consolidating services where the results would be mutually beneficial. Creating incentives would also assist municipalities in cooperative efforts. Affordable housing is an excellent example of mutually beneficial results since it stabilizes neighborhoods and communities, provides affordable housing for citizens, and provides additional tax revenue for government entities. This is a win-win deal.

## Harry Tutunjian



**Party:** REP

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:** Candidate has not responded.

# Rensselaer County Judge

## Candidates (choose 1):

### Chris Maier



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic

**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.

### Debra Young



**Party:** REP, CON, WF, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Conservative, Independence, Republican, Working Families

**Campaign Web Site:** [debrayoungforcountycourt.com/](http://debrayoungforcountycourt.com/)

**Education:** Albany Law School - Juris Doctorate, with honors;  
Loyola University - Bachelor of Science, with honors

**Key Endorsements:** New York State Rifle and Pistol Association

#### Questions:

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

**A:** I have served the public on the Schodack Town Board and as the Attorney to the Town of Hoosick. In those capacities, I have dealt with individuals coming

before those boards with problems which need to be resolved. I strive to address those people and their problems fairly and respectfully to ensure that they have an opportunity to be heard and receive a resolution to their problem. While not judicial experiences per se, I believe they render me uniquely qualified for this judicial position.

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

**A:** I have over 15 years as a trial lawyer and have tried a number of jury and non-jury matters, from very simple small claims matters in local town courts, complex medical malpractice actions in state court and complex civil rights actions in federal court. I practice at every level of court in the State of New York and my practice is state-wide. Before entering private practice, I worked at the appellate court reviewing cases for those judges. I also have handled a number of appeals.

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

**A:** My administrative experience arises from my seven (7) year term on the Schodack Town Board and my position as a partner in my law firm. In those capacities, I have supervised a number of employees and have been responsible for budgeting appropriately and adhering to a budget which includes overseeing the Schodack Justice Court and the justices and staff of that court.

## Rensselaer County Family Court Judge

Candidates (choose 1):

### Catherine Cholakis



**Party:** REP

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Republican, Independence, Conservative, Working Families

**Campaign Web Site:** [judgecholakis.com/](http://judgecholakis.com/)

**Education:** Ithaca College, Albany Law School

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Education/Experience: What education and/or court experience do you have that is relevant to the position of family court judge?*

**A:** Since 2002, I have served as Rensselaer County Family Court Judge and as an Acting Supreme Court Justice since 2003. Prior to that, I was elected to three terms as East Greenbush Town Justice. Before taking the Family Court Bench, I represented children and families in every aspect of family litigation. Additionally, I prosecuted juvenile offenses in Rensselaer County, and child abuse and neglect proceedings in Kings County Family Court.

**Q:** *Balance: How would you ensure, in making judicial decisions, that you maintain a balance between legal requirements and the best interests of families?*

**A:** Every day that I serve as a Family Court Judge and an Acting Supreme Court Justice, I work to uphold the best interests of children and families. This is not at odds with the law, as the overarching consideration in any custody case or child protective proceeding must be the best interests of the children involved. Having heard thousands of cases as a Family Court Judge, only one decision has been returned to me on appeal.

## Amy O' Connor



**Party:** DEM

**Biographical Info:**

**Parties:** Democratic (D)

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.amyforfamilycourt.com](http://www.amyforfamilycourt.com)

**Education:** Graduate of St. Lawrence University (B.A., 1993) and Albany Law School of Union University (J.D., cum laude, 1997)

**Key Endorsements:** Rensselaer County Democratic Committee, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, RFK Democrats of the Capital Region, Eleanor's Legacy

### Questions:

**Q:** *Education/Experience: What education and/or court experience do you have that is relevant to the position of family court judge?*

**A:** I'm a wife, stepparent, and the mother of two young boys, as well as an attorney with over twelve years of trial and appellate experience in the New York State courts. I've represented clients in harassment and discrimination cases, adoption and immigration proceedings, and personal injury actions. I understand the courtroom from the litigant's perspective. I also have administrative experience and currently supervise a large statewide caseload as in-house counsel.

**Q:** *Balance: How would you ensure, in making judicial decisions, that you maintain a balance between legal requirements and the best interests of families?*

**A:** Family Court judges have discretion in many areas, although there are usually required procedures and statutory factors for consideration. The law must always be followed, although due care and discretion must be given relative to the specific facts. My goal would always be to conduct compassionate, thorough factfinding within the parameters of existing law and procedure, recognizing that it is also in the best interests of children and families to achieve finality of their cases.

## Saratoga County

### Saratoga Springs City Charter

- YES **Ballot Proposition:** *Shall the amendments to the Charter of the City of Saratoga Springs proposed by Local Law No. 1 of 2012, which amendments would replace the City's current Commissioner form of government with a Manager-Council form of government, be approved?*
- NO

#### Background: Abstract of Local Law No. 1 of 2012

##### TO PROVIDE A NEW CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS

The new charter of the City of Saratoga Springs proposed by Local Law No. 1 of 2012 would replace the City's current commission form of government with a manager-council form of government.

Under the present commission form, voters elect a city council consisting of a mayor, and four commissioners: one each for finance, public safety, accounts, and public works. All terms of office are two years. The mayor and commissioners act as both a legislative body and have individual administrative responsibilities over specific departments. Deputy positions are funded for the mayor and each commissioner.

Under the proposed council-manager form, a mayor and four city councilors are elected for four-year terms and have legislative responsibilities but not administrative oversight over any departments. The city council would, by majority vote, appoint a city manager to be the chief administrative officer of the city. The city manager would serve at the pleasure of the city council and would oversee departmental operations.

The proposed charter eliminates the five deputy positions and establishes four new management positions in addition to the city manager: director of administration and finance, director of public works, city clerk, purchasing agent, and city assessor, each of which would act as department heads. The director of administration and finance may also act as the purchasing agent. The police and fire departments would operate as separate departments. The local law is substantially similar to a charter proposed in a petition of citizens in 2010.

If approved by the voters, the new charter would take effect on January 1, 2014 after the November 2013 elections in which a newly structured city council would be elected.

## Yes

**Group supporting proposition:** Saratoga Citizen

**Website:** [www.saratogacitizen.com/](http://www.saratogacitizen.com/)

**From website:** Saratoga Citizen, Inc. is a grassroots community group supporting an alternate form of government in Saratoga Springs, New York. We advocate replacing the current commission form of government with a council-manager form.

## No

**Group opposing proposition:** SUCCESS

**Website:** [saratogasuccess.com/](http://saratogasuccess.com/)

**From website:** SUCCESS stands for Saratogians United to Continue the Charter Essential to Sustain our Success, but we really are working for much more. We want to keep the people in charge of our government, and not put all the power in the hands of one office.

## Ballston Town Justice

No information was sought from candidates for this office. We are just providing the candidate names.

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Brandi Burns

**Party:** REP

## Corinth: Proposition One

**Ballot Proposition:** Shall there be approved in the Town of Corinth Local Law 1 of 2012, entitled "A Local Law increasing Term of Office of Highway Superintendent from Two Years to Four Years"?

**Yes**

**No**

## Corinth: Proposition Two

**Ballot Proposition:** Shall there be approved in the Town of Corinth Local Law 2 of 2012, entitled "A Local Law increasing Term of Office of Town Clerk from Two Years to Four Years"?

**Yes**

**No**

## Malta Town Justice

No information was sought from candidates for this office. We are just providing the candidate names.

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### James Faucci



**Party:** REP, CON

## Mechanicville: Proposition One

**Ballot Proposition:** Should term limits for City Commissioners and the Mayor be eliminated?

**Yes**

**No**

## Moreau - Crandall Library Budget

**Ballot Proposition:** The proposed 2013 budget of the Crandall Public Library District is \$4,260,227.00 to be partially funded by the municipalities comprising the Library District. The share of the proposed budget to be partially funded and raised by an ad valorem assessment upon the real property located within the Town of Moreau is \$674,191.00. Shall the proposed budget be approved.

**Yes**

**No**

## Providence Town Justice

No information was sought from candidates for this office. We are just providing the candidate names.

### Candidates (choose 1):

**Lela Hartman**

**Alan Lahoff**

## Saratoga Town Justice

No information was sought from candidates for this office. We are just providing the candidate names.

### Candidates (choose 1):

**Timothy Williams**



**Party:** REP, CON, IND

## Wilton: Proposition One

**Ballot Proposition:** On September 6, 2012, the Town Board of the Town of Wilton adopted a resolution which shall amend the Wilton Emergency Squad, Inc. Service Award Program for active volunteer ambulance worker members of the Wilton Emergency Squad, Inc., subject to voter approval. The amendment, effective January 1, 2013, would allow participants who attained the entitlement age of 65 and commenced receiving their monthly service award payments to continue to earn additional service credit and therefore increase their monthly service award payments by \$20 for each year of post entitlement age service credit earned in calendar year 2013 and beyond. Such monthly payment increases shall be effective the January 1st following the year in which the additional service credit was earned.

The current annual cost of funding the Wilton Emergency Squad, Inc. Service Award Program could be as much as \$27,000, which includes the cost of administration of \$2,500. Should voters approve this amendment, the annual cost of the amended program is not expected to increase until 2014, and may increase to as much as \$38,000 for current volunteers, which includes the cost of administration of \$2,500.

Therefore, shall the Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Wilton, authorizing the referendum to amend the existing Wilton Emergency Squad, Inc. Service Award Program, be approved?

**Yes**

**No**

Responses received after October 25, 2012 may be viewed online at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

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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.