

LOCAL ELECTIONS **** GUIDE ****

CANDIDATE PROFILES, BALLOT REVIEW AND MORE INSIDE!



ELECTION 2021 **Rhoads and Schuster compete for L.D. 19**

By ANDREW GARCIA

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Nassau County Legislator Steve Rhoads faces a new challenger, Bellmore resident Jake Schuster, in the 19th District. The district includes Wantagh, Seaford, Bellmore, Merrick and Freeport.

The Herald asked the candidates a series of questions to get their stance on the issues.

Herald: What would you do at the legislative level to improve the livelihood for the younger population on Long Island and ensure that they keep a residence here?

Rhoads: Working with Civic Associations and Chambers of Commerce, we can find opportunities for transit-oriented development. The Village of Farmingdale provides an example in the transformation of its Main Street corridor to include apartment style housing geared towards young professionals in proximity to the LIRR with restaurants, a grocery store, dry cleaners, etc., within walking distance. This provides an opportunity for young people to transition to independent living while they save to enter the housing market. Job creation is another important goal. Both the pandemic and the continued erosion of public safety in NYC, has provided Long Island with an opportunity to entice companies providing high-tech, good paying jobs, to make the move. Working with our Nassau County IDA, we should be encouraging business development and providing opportunities for our young people to find sustainable jobs locally without having to move out of state. Unfortunately the decision by the County Executive to utilize nearly \$100 million CARES act funding to pay for County salaries rather than provide relief to businesses and residents impacted by the pandemic, puts us at a competitive disadvantage as nearly 1 in 6 small businesses already in Nassau County closed permanently during the pandemic. Nassau should also work with New York State to create a first-time home buyer tax credit for Nassau residents to help put home ownership in reach for our Kids. Better leadership and a comprehensive strategy for business development, job creation and housing opportunities will stem the tide of Nassau's "brain drain"

Schuster: We need the younger population to be more involved in our businesses, local government, and other. The vounger generation is the future of our county and our district, and we need to reflect that. On the legislative level, we need to provide greater leadership opportunities for these young adults so that the decisions of the future are being made by those who will truly feel the impact of those decisions. We need their voices, opinions, and demands to be heard in every aspect of our community.

Herald: If elected/re-elected, how would you work to resolve the housing crisis in



Steve Rhoads Incumbent

Age: 52

Hometown: Wantagh

Party Affiliation: Republican

Political experience: From 2006 until 2015, he served on the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee to the Nassau County Planning Commission, becoming its secretary in 2009. In 2015, Steve was elected in a special election to represent the 19th Legislative District in the Nassau County Legislature. Rhoads is also a volunteer firefighter with the Wantagh Fire Department and is an ex-captain of Engine Co. No. 5.

this district?

Rhoads: We must address the overall issue of assessment and taxes. While government cannot regulate the local housing market, we do have an obligation to make government spend less and make the process that determines your share of taxes as fair, accurate and transparent as possible. Often, it is not the price of a house, but the property and school tax burden on top of the mortgage, that makes home ownership unaffordable. I've joined my Republican colleagues in proposing a property tax cut of \$120 million and fee cuts in excess of \$100 million to help lessen the burden on residents and businesses

Laura Curran's error-riddled reassessment has made a bad situation worse, shifting the tax burden to middle-class communities and away from higher-end properties on the north shore. In the 19th Legislative District, nearly 70% of homeowners saw school and property tax increases as a direct result of the County Executive's botched reassessment. We have local homeowners seeing school and property tax increases of 20, 30, 40 - even as much as 200 percent, while multi-million-dollar homes are paying no taxes at all. Over 200,000 valuation errors were uncovered during the reassessment and County taxpayers have paid nearly \$50



Jake Schuster Challenger

Age: 26

Hometown: Bellmore

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Political experience: After receiving a bachelor's in business administration at Hofstra University, Schuster attended College of Law at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Okla., where he received his law degree. In 2017, he volunteered for Bellmorite Jeff Gold's campaign for the same seat, and then worked for State Sen. John Brooks as a legislative aide.

million in refunds in the past year alone due to additional errors that have since been discovered. Even worse, this is just Year 2 of the Curran phase-in, with 3 more years of increases to go. This reassessment must be scrapped, and a full, accurate and transparent reassessment must be conducted.

Schuster: There are more than enough resources to convert empty land and empty/abandoned buildings into affordable housing for those in need of it. By working with County and State leadership, we can demand greater funding and absolutely re-allocate funds from many different over-funded programs to better provide for those who are living outside of their means by necessity.

Herald: How do you plan to bring more businesses and revenue to the area post-Covid?

Rhoads: There's an opportunity to attract businesses concerned about safety and looking to move to more affordable spaces to Nassau County and we should be using the tools at our disposal to take advantage of that. Enticing high-tech, sustainable jobs to Nassau expands opportunities for our workforce and increases economic activity for the local companies that service those new businesses. Further, we

need to avoid the mistakes made by the County Executive in her use of CARES act funding, with the new Federal funding through ARPA. Nassau is slated to receive over \$350 million in funds over the next two years. A portion of these funds must be used for job retraining for individuals that lost careers due to the pandemic and to support local businesses 8 who are still struggling to recover from government-mandated shut downs. Empty storefronts are the result of the Administration's failure to do so with the first round of Federal stimulus and we must act swiftly to reverse that trend.

Further, we must correct the Curran Administration's mismanagement of the Department of Consumer Affairs. 800 businesses are waiting for new licenses and a staggering 5,000 renewal applications are pending. These businesses - and the families supported by them - have lost tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars in potential business while waiting nearly a year for permits that other municipalities process in weeks. That equates to hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity lost to the detriment of County taxpayers. That is simply unacceptable.

Schuster: There are so many things that our district can improve upon to drive new business into the area, but the most clear answer to me on how we can at least take an initial step in generating greater revenue would be the regulated and taxed sale of marijuana within our district. Many elected officials have stated that they will opt-out of such sales - this makes absolutely no sense. Whether we open up shop or not, it is legal and it will find its way into our district. The question now becomes whether we want the revenue generated from such sales, or do we want to hand this opportunity over to other districts or counties.



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FREEPORT HERALD

October

Blakeman, Curran vie for county executive

By JEFFREY BESSEN

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Democratic incumbent Laura Curran is running for her second four-term as county executive. Her Republican opponent is Town of Hempstead Councilman Bruce Blakeman. The Herald asked the candidates three pertinent questions to get their take on the issues.

Herald: Nassau is one of three counties that pay the highest average property taxes in the state. What is your plan to help reduce the tax burden?

Curran: As the hardworking families of Nassau know, you can't get far without a balanced budget. Before I took office, decades of wasteful corruption and reckless mismanagement plagued our county. I am proud that through dogged fiscal discipline, my administration has turned budget deficits into surpluses. Nassau families deserve to know their hard-earned money is being spent responsibly. That's why I devoted my first term to cleaning up the mess others left behind and bringing real accountability to government:

I delivered four balanced budgets and consecutive budget surpluses; secured Nassau's first bond upgrade in over a decade; held the line on property taxes and proposed a responsible \$70 million tax reduction for 2022, and a \$150 million tax reduction over the next four years.

As Nassau continues the economic recovery from Covid, I am also proud to say that we are in a position to give American Rescue Plan dollars back to the taxpayers. Our books are balanced, so I am giving \$375 direct cash payments to more than 400,000 households. I have worked hard to earn the trust of Nassau taxpayers, and I will continue to pursue tax relief, like my tax cut, without sacrificing our future fiscal stability.

Blakeman: Laura Curran's reassessment is crushing families and seniors with higher property taxes. School tax bills are arriving at home this October, and just like last year, property taxes will soar for an overwhelming majority of homeowners because of Curran's reassessment. While your property taxes are going up, Laura Curran's taxes went down [decreased by \$255].

For the majority of homeowners, Curran's tax hikes continue for three more years unless you stop her this Election Day. I believe it's wrong for Laura Curran to increase county property taxes to the highest level ever in Nassau's history while also generating millions in surplus funds.

As county executive, I will end Curran's reassessment and cut taxes. Government should never collect more than it needs to operate. My plan cuts property taxes by over \$128 million – that's \$58 million more than Laura Curran is willing to give back – and I'll pay for that tax



Bruce Blakeman

Age: 66

Hometown: Atlantic Beach

Professional Background: Attorney

Political experience: Town of Hempstead councilman; Nassau County legislator including serving as presiding officer; Port Authority commissioner

cut by returning Nassau County's entire budget surplus to residents. I will continue to return budget surpluses each year while restricting new spending and reducing debt. It's time to put government on a serious diet, and it's time to really cut taxes.

Herald: The residential property assessment system still needs an overhaul. What would you do to make it beneficial for homeowners and the county?

Curran: Nassau's assessment system has been a mess for decades. Politician after politician kicked this can down the road, choosing what was politically convenient over what was right. I ran on a promise to finally address our broken assessment system, and I did just that. My administration took on a tough fight and had the political courage to implement a fair and accurate reassessment of the tax roll, which had been frozen for nearly a decade.

The accuracy of my administration's reassessment has been verified by Newsday, by the state and by independent experts. I have ensured residents have the opportunity to adapt to changes in assessment values by implementing my Taxpayer Protection Plan, which phases in any assessment correction over the next five years. I will also always protect residents' right to grieve their property assessment.

In my first term, I tackled the fiscal mismanagement that has plagued Nassau for decades, turning chronic deficits into surpluses. I took on reassessment when my predecessors lacked the political courage to do so. As a result, our assessment system is fairer and more accurate today than it has been in years.



Laura Curran

Age: 53

Hometown: Baldwin

Professional Background: Journalist, Herald Community Newspapers, New York Daily News and New York Post

Political experience: Baldwin Board of Education and Nassau County legislator 2014 to 2017

Blakeman: Laura Curran placed a huge financial burden on the backs of families and seniors, with an overwhelming majority of homeowners facing soaring school taxes in 2021 as a result of her reassessment.

Errors in Curran's assessment roll also resulted in multi-millionaires having their property tax bill erased. Mansions received tax bills for zero dollars in property taxes. While the reassessment was supposed to create equity, it did not. Neighboring homes built by the same developer pay different tax amounts regardless of being exactly the same.

It's clear that we need to scrap Curran's reassessment plan entirely and start fresh. As county executive, I will terminate Laura Curran's reassessment. Her phased-in tax hikes for the next three years will be immediately terminated by my administration. Instead, I will hire qualified professionals to run the Assessment Department and create a new, fair system while also cutting property taxes by over \$120 million.

Herald: The Covid-19 pandemic remains an overarching problem. What would you do to help ensure that residents are healthy life can to return to "normal?"

Curran: I worked around the clock with communities and health officials during the toughest days of the pandemic to keep residents healthy and informed. I visited small businesses constantly to keep a finger on the pulse of our local economy. I advocated for safe re-openings when it made sense to support our long-term economic health.

We were open and transparent

throughout the pandemic, pursuing an approach centered around education, outreach and accessibility. It is this approach that has earned us the ranking of highest vaccinated county in the state and second highest vaccinated among large counties nationally. Our 93.6 percent adult-vaccination-rate has allowed for a robust recovery — but we're not done.

As we recover, the county is reaching out to small business owners to get \$10,000 in individual grants to those that need them. County mobile vaccination teams are visiting businesses directly and providing vaccinations to staff. Paramedics are taking vaccines to the homebound. We will provide \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funds to some 400,000 households as \$375 direct cash payments, which will help families buy school supplies, cover utility bills and stimulate our local economy as we continue to come back stronger.

Blakeman: Covid-19 will be around for vears to come, and we can never return to the days of a closed economy. We must adapt by fully reopening government to serve the people and welcome those in need of services. We must continue to offer free testing, vaccines and booster shots to people who want them. Schools must never close again. Big box stores should never be allowed to stay open while small businesses are shuttered. Restaurants should be allowed to keep outdoor dining and continue their indoor operations. As county executive, I'll keep my pledge to do these things while also ensuring we have a transparent reporting process related to Covid cases.



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FREEPORT HERALD

2021 -

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October

COMPTROLLER

Brian Cronin

Party: Democratic

Age: 40

Professional experience: Corporate attorney, business litigator

Political career: Second-time candidate

On the issues:

Brian Cronin said the Nassau County comptroller's office must lean into the "new normal" and embrace modernization, saying that the office still uses technology from the middle of the 20th century and is thus overdue for an upgrade. In doing so, it would allow the office to adapt more effectively not only to the "new normal" but also to any hurdles to come.



Nassau has become a "hub of diversity," he said. As comptroller, he would "represent the entire county" and strive to have voices from every community heard. Many new businesses in Nassau are minority-owned, he said, and he would work to ensure that county contracts were evenly distributed among business owners.

The comptroller, he said, is the "taxpayers' watchdog responsible for fighting waste and fraud," adding that the office will take on "increasing importance given the uncertainty of the post-Covid economy."

He would recruit "highlevel professionals from the private sector to join our team so that we have the skilled team required to address these unprecedented times," adding, "Taxpayers must have confidence that this team is not politicized. Like most taxpayers, I am sick and tired of divisive politics. This is why I have committed to hiring a moderate Republican as my top deputy. Such bipartisanship has become far too rare in today's politics."

Elaine Phillips

Party: Republican

Age: 61

Professional experience: Financial adviser, vice president of mortgage finance and institutional sales

Political career: Formerly state senator, 7th District, mayor of Village of Flower Hill

On the issues:

As Nassau County comptroller, Elaine Phillips said she would play a crucial role in "objectively identifying those governmental agencies whose performance is lagging and making recommendations to address deficiencies." An example of a lack of adequate management and adaption has been seen within the Department of

Consumer Affairs, she said. The county administration, she said, should "follow the Town of Hempstead's successful practice of issuing permits and licenses off campus through the use of mobile trailers. Strict safeguards have been employed to meet the needs of taxpayers."

While in the private sector at Goldman Sachs, she said, she oversaw the diversity efforts, and while she was a New York state senator, she sponsored multiple educational and outreach forums on diversity. As Nassau comptroller, she said she would work to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace, and educate and promote solutions to ensure equal rights for all. At the same time, she would undertake performance audits of all county departments to ascertain whether they are meeting diversity, equity and inclusion metrics.

ELECTION 2021

As comptroller, she said, she would serve as the "taxpayer's watchdog." "Taxes and spending need to be controlled in Nassau County," she said. "I have the background and expertise to implement audits to weed out waste, abuse and fraud, saving taxpayers money. Further, I will audit the recent property tax reassessment to determine the extent to which mistakes [were] made."

Don Clavin Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 52

attorney

Hometown: Garden City

Career: Elected official,

Political experience: Hempstead town supervisor (2019 to present); receiver of taxes (2001-2019)

On the issues:

Don Clavin said tax relief is at the top of his priorities, and that after freezing taxes in 2021, he intended to cut them in 2022. He has also dedicated \$75 million to road repaving and infrastructure upgrades and \$10 million on parks improvements. Additionally, he said, he



hoped to continue to slash unnecessary spending after trimming \$1 million from the supervisor's staff budget upon taking office, while also eliminating "take-home cars" for top managers, and driving his own personal car.

He added that he is proud of the town's fiscal strength under his administration, which has been recognized with credit rating upgrades from two top Wall Street credit agencies – Moody's and Standard & Poors. Clavin said he was pleased to have recently ntro-

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SUPERVISOR

duced the "pothole patrol," an effort to expedite roadway repairs using state-of-the-art pothole repair vehicles and promoting a hotline for residents to report potholes in their neighborhoods. He said that under his leadership, the town has worked to ramp up efforts to improve town infrastructure, which he called critical for the safety and quality of life of residents, while still freezing town taxes for 2021 and cutting them in 2022. Clavin said he has sought and will continue to seek to assist small businesses as they reopen. Using federal CARES Act funds, the town distributed money and personal protective equipment kits to small businesses and residents during the pandemic.

Clavin also said he instituted an Economic Advisory Council to help strategize and make decisions.

Abelove Challenger Party: Democratic

Jason

Age: 51

Hometown: Oceanside

ney since 1994 **Political experience:** Firsttime candidate

Career: Discrimination attor-

On the issues:

Jason Abelove said his top priorities are to lower taxes and bring equity to the delivery of town services. He added that he believes the town has wasted money on "high salary patronage jobs, bloated budgets, expensive mailers

budgets, expensive mailers and inflated no-bid contracts."

Abelove said his goal is



to cut excessive spending to improve infrastructure in the town based upon areas of

most need. He said he also wants to use federal CARES money and the Boost Nassau initiative to provide direct support to small businesses, and to promote job fairs and lower taxes to make business

thrive in the town. He said he would streamline permitting, promote job fairs and lower taxes to make business thrive in the town.

Abelove said if he were

elected, Hempstead would distribute the federal relief money. Abelove said he believes that the town's primary responsibility is local infrastructure, and roads need to be adequately cared for.

He added that, if elected, he would place resources on infrastructure based upon need.

Abelove said he would slash \$5 million that is spent annually on town mailings and would end the waste, putting taxpayer's priorities over those of politicians, and running the town with an eye toward service rather than re-election would save residents millions of dollars.

Donnelly, Kaminsky slug it out for D.A.

By JIM BERNSTEIN

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The contest for Nassau County district attorney has been the most bitterly fought off all races this election season, with State Sen. Todd Kaminsky, the Democrat, and Anne Donnelly, the Republican, trading a slew of bighting accusations against each other, mostly centering on who is most responsible for setting prisoners free on the street to commit other crimes.

The accusations stem from Donnelly's attempts to paint Kaminsky as the legislator who wrote the state's Bail Reform Law, which gives and prohibits judges' discretion to assign bail in many felony and certain non-felony cases. Kaminsky voted for the bill, but did not write it.

Although the State Legislature amended the law in April 2020 to include a greater number of crimes for which bail could be assigned, the issue continues to dominate the campaign, and the ads continue to run on local TV stations. Donnelly points to her 30 years of working as a prosecutor in the Nassau D.A.'s office, heading different bureaus. Kaminsky notes that he served as a prosecutor in the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan.

Herald: Nassau County has a growing immigrant population that often does not trust law enforcement. How would you improve that relationship?

Kaminsky: As district attorney, my office will have information available in every language, as well as community liaisons who do outreach in every part of Nassau County. And let me be clear: I will have a zero tolerance for hate crimes as district attorney. Hate crimes against the immigrant population have risen at troubling rates recently, and the trend must be addressed aggressively. It doesn't matter if you're Jewish, LGBTQ, Asian, Black or Muslim: You deserve to feel safe walking down the streets of your neighborhood. As district attorney, I will take a tough and aggressive approach to hold racists and other hate-mongers accountable in our community by instituting a zero-tolerance policy. I am proud to have the support of law enforcement, including the New York State Troopers and local Police Benevolent Association. They know my record. They know I will fight to protect all Long Islanders. Rebuilding trust doesn't just mean the prosecutor's office has to have a better relationship with communities-it also means trust in government and institutions overall has to improve by prosecuting corruption. Corruption has infested every level of government here in Nassau County. As a federal prosecutor, I worked on the highest-level corruption cases, successfully prosecuting both Democrats and Republicans who violated the public trust. Corruption will have no place to



Anne Donnelly

Party: Republican

Age: 56

Hometown: Garden City

Professional Background: Worked in the district attorney's office for more than three decades and serves as the deputy chief of the Organize Crime and Rackets Bureau. Spent time as the acting chief in the Public Corruption Bureau, senior trial assistant in the Rackets Bureau and as deputy chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau. She earned her law degree from Fordham University in 1989.

hide when I am district attorney.

Donnelly: I am committed to serving all residents of Nassau County in a fair and respectful manner. Part of that commitment consists of helping to ensure that people who have emigrated from other countries into the United States are welcomed into the communities in which they have chosen to settle. Outreach programs that feature governmental liaisons who speak the primary languages of members of our diverse community should be at the top of the priority list. Educational initiatives and literature in various languages are also needed to welcome residents and build trust. I am prepared to play a leadership role in this area.

Herald: Gangs are growing in Nassau and Suffolk. Aside from prosecuting those apprehended, what else can the district attorney's office do to stem the violence?

Kaminsky: As a federal prosecutor, I successfully took down gang leaders and the gun and drug traffickers who supplied them, cleaning up our streets and keeping dangerous weapons out of criminals' hands. Gang violence is a serious threat to our communities, and



Todd Kaminsky

Party: Democrat

Age: 43

Hometown: Long Beach

Professional Background: Member of New York State Senate representing the 9th district, based on South Shore since 2016. He previously worked as an assistant district attorney in the Queens County District Attorney's Office before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York as an assistant U.S. attorney. Kaminsky was elected to the State Assembly, serving in that body from 2014 to 2016. He earned his law degree from New York University.

combating them will be a top priority of my office. Some of the worst gangs are international in scope and go beyond our state and even our country's borders. This means that having strong partnerships with federal law enforcement agencies is critical. As someone who worked as a federal prosecutor, I will coordinate with our federal partners closely to root out gang violence. Importantly, when it comes to gangs, we also cannot keep treating the symptoms—we must treat the underlying disease. We must establish trust in communities with gang violence and work with local organizations to identify bad actors and offer alternatives to crime. My office will be constantly working with schools and after-school programs to educate young people about the dangers of gangs, and investing in these programs so our young people are learning, partaking in constructive activities and do not choose to walk the path that gangs offer them.

Donnelly: Collaborating with schools, as well as municipal governments and non-for-profits, we can provide more opportunities for enrichment and socialization programs as viable alternatives to gangs. Safe activities and

good mentors are important components of attractive and positive choices for young people. I plan to explore the use of asset forfeiture funds to further programs of this type.

Herald: Our jails are often overcrowded and riddled with Covid-19 cases. What would you recommend to ease these conditions?

Kaminsky: The best way to address overcrowding, deliver swift justice for victims and lower crime is to fully fund our court system. There are federal funds available through the Department of Justice to help—and I will push the state to add more dollars to ensure justice is served. I will also make sure that programs with proven track records to turn around criminal behavior — especially for substance abuse — are funded to keep Nassau safe and to reduce the recidivism that floods our courts with cases.

Donnelly: The Nassau County jail is not overcrowded, and I am intimately aware of this fact, having served as the district attorney's liaison to the correctional center until recently. Indeed, the inmate population is at its lowest level in the past 25 years. What's more, the facility did an excellent job in containing and treating Covid. Unfortunately, the "cashless bail" law that was co-authored by my opponent has greatly limited the ability of judges to make incarceration decisions for individuals based upon the pertinent facts in each case.



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FREEPORT HERALD

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2021

, 28

October

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ELECTION 2021

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FREEPORT HERALD – October 28, 2021

NASSAU COUNTY CLERK

Maureen **O'Connell** Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 70

Hometown: Fast Williston

Career: County clerk, former nurse

Political experience: Nas-

sau County clerk, 2006-present; New York state assemblywoman. 1998-2005: trustee and deputy mayor, Village of East Williston, 1991-98

On the issues:

Maureen O'Connell said her goal is to continue to expand on the many steps taken to improve the office since she was first elected in 2005, and to ensure that it operates effectively and efficiently. She and her staff



have worked to process more than a million backlogged records and implemented an electronic filing process that converts paper land records to a digital format to ensure they remain safe for the future, and she said she hoped to continue to serve residents of all ages in the community by helping them to learn about the benefits of the clerk's office.

O'Connell and her staff have also implemented security measures to protect residents from scams and identity theft, and have

worked with military veterans to protect them from data breaches through the years. She said she has also found ways to get the community involved by extending office hours, creating outreach programs and educating constituents on what the clerk's office provides.

Justin **Brown** Challenger

Party: Democratic

Age: 30

Hometown: Baldwin

Career: Health-care administrator

Political experience: Served on the Uniondale Board of Education for the past three vears

On the issues:

Justin Brown said he has long been passionate about helping people and being an advocate for residents. He intends to make the office more innovative with technology so that residents could receive documents and enjoy greater accessibility without having to visit the office in person and imple-



menting a modern system that his office would have full control over online.

Brown said he would also ensure that the clerk's office could engage with the communities by providing more education and collaborating with key stakeholders in all towns to create a dialogue so that residents can take full advantage of the county clerk's resources and benefits.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN CLERK

Oneka Nicks Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 29

challenger Oneka Nicks is a Uniondale Library trustee, a 1st Lieutenant in the Uniondale fire Department and a foundation relations and donor communications manager for Planned Parenthood.

If elected, Nicks envisions a modernized clerk's office with a Freedom of Information Law cue system that could best monitor when requests came in, the deadline to answer and the progress that has been made retrieving the requested documents. Additionally, Nicks



said she believes the office would benefit from a meeting management system, and she would like to see the removal of equipment, such as typewriters, to create a fully electronic and digitized office.

Nicks would also like to ensure that documents for ernizing the website to make it available in numerous languages. Lastly, Nicks would like to oversee the creation of a 311 system for residents who prefer to speak on the phone about certain services or issues. She feels that this, as well as online meetings discussing how the office works, would effectively modernize the office.

Kate Murray Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 59

Hometown: Levittown

On the issues:

Kate Murray has been active in the Town of Hempstead politics since first holding the position of town clerk in 2002. After serving a lengthy tenure as town supervisor from 2003 through 2016, she was reelected for the role of clerk in 2019.

Having faced the challenges created by Covid-19, Murray has worked to modernize the office by launching a paperless Long Island Rail Road parking pass system in Oceanside last June, which became available to



the rest of the town in March of this year. She advocated for keeping the clerk's office open during the pandemic by creating safe ways for the office to continue to serve the community. An advocate for catering to all residents, Murray supports multilingual outreach and said she believes the clerk's office must represent people of all nationalities.

If re-elected, Murray would be a part of the implementation process of the Town of Hempstead's new website, which will have

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a translation component so the site can be seen in the language preferred by the user. A firm believer in provid-

ing tax relief, Murray maintained that she worked with the town supervisor to craft a tax-freeze budget in 2021, and would work toward a tax-cut budget in 2022.

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Hometown: Uniondale On the issues: First-time candidate and

residents are available in multiple languages and to make sure that everyone the community is informed on the services offered by the clerk's office. She believes outreach is key, as is mod-

THE HERALD COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS **PULL OUT**

OFFICIAL BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERAL ELECTION To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, mark the oval to the left of 'write-in' and print the name clearly, staying within the box. Any mark or writing outside the spaces provided for November 2, 2021 voting may void the entire ballot. You have a right to a replacement ballot. If you make a mistake or want to change your vote, call the Board of Elections at (516) 571-2411 for instructions on how to obtain a NASSAU COUNTY new ballot. The number of choices is listed for each contest. Do not mark the ballot for more candidates **BOARD OF ELECTIONS** than allowed. If you do, your vote in that contest will not count. Instructions for Voting on Questions and Proposals To vote on a question or proposal, mark the oval to the left of your choice. If you make a mistake, or FREEPORT want to change your vote, call the Board of Elections at (516) 571-2411 for instructions on how to obtain a new ballot.

				Justice of the S (Vote for u	Supreme Court p to eight)				County Executive (Vote for one)	District Attorney (Vote for one)	County Comptroller (Vote for one)	County Clerk (Vote for one)	Family Court Judge (Vote for one)	District Court Judge District 2 (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte	Hempstead Supervisor (Vote for one)	Hempstead Council Member District 1 (Vote for one)	Hempstead Town Clerk (Vote for one)	County Legislator District 1 (Vote for one) Legislador del	County Legislator District 19 (Vote for one) Legislador del
Office Democratic A	Juez de la Corte Suprema (Vote hasta por ocho)							Ejecutivo del Condado (Vote por uno)	Fiscal del Distrito (Vote por uno)	Controlador del Condado (Vote por uno)	Secretario del Condado (Vote por uno)	Juez de la Corte de Familia (Vote por uno)		Supervisor	Concejal Distrito 1 (Vote por uno)	Secretario Municipal (Vote por uno)	Condado Distrito 1 (Vote por uno)	Condado Distrito 19 (Vote por uno)	
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	Timothy S. Driscoll	Susan B. Heckman	Vito M. DeStefano	Christopher Modelewski	Conrad D. Singer	Danielle M. Peterson	Daly Sapraicone	Fox- McDonough		Todd D. Kaminsky	Ryan E. Cronin	Justin R. Brown	Darlene D. Harris	Vincent T. Muscarella	Jason L. Abelove	Dorothy L. Goosby	Olena Nicks	Kevan M. Abrahams	Jacob I. Schuster
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В	Timothy S. Driscoll	Susan B. Heckman	Vito M. DeStefano	Christopher Modelewski	Conrad D. Singer	Danielle M. Peterson	Eileen Daly Sapraicone	Elizabeth Fox- McDonough	Bruce A. Blakeman	Anne T. Donnelly	Elaine R. Phillips	Maureen C. O'Connell	Darlene D. Harris	Vincent T. Muscarella	Donald X. Clavin, Jr.	James Lamarre	Kate Murray	Elton E. McCabe, Jr.	Steven D. Rhoads
	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	$\bigcirc \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Conservative} \\ \bigcirc \\ 13 \end{array}$	Conservative	Conservative	e Conservative	Conservative	Conservative	e Conservative
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HOW YOU VOTE IS YOUR BUSINESS, **REMINDING YOU TO VOTE IS OUR BUSINESS MBER 2nd** NOVE $\mathbf{\star}$ *

PULL OUT

SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT COURTESY OF THE HERALD COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

PULL OUT

ERALD Community Newspapers

INSTRUCTIONS

Para votar un candidato cuyo nombre no está en la papeleta, marque el òvalo a la izquierda del 'writein' y escriba el nombre claramente en la casilla. Cualquier otra marca, o escritura fuera de los espacios proporcionados para votar, puede anular toda la papeleta. Usted tiene el derecho a una papeleta de reemplazo. Si comete un error o quiere cambiar su voto, llame la Junta De Elecciones al (516) 571-1245 para instrucciones sobre cómo obtener una nueva papeleta. El número de opciones está listado para cada elección. No marque mas candidatos de lo permitidos. Si lo haces, su voto en esa elección no sera

contado. Instrucciones para la votación de preguntas y propuestas Para votar sobre una pregunta o sobre una propuesta, marque el óvalo a la izquierda de su preferencia. Si comete un error o quiere cambiar su voto, llame la Junta De Elecciones al (516) 571-1245 para instrucciones sobre cómo obtener una nueva papeleta. This is not an actual ballot, but a composite of several sample ballots so as to reflect all the districts within the communities covered by your edition of the Herald. Complete reporting on candidates running in districts covered by the Herald - as well as the full text of our endorsements in each race – may be found at LIHerald.com under the Elections '20 tab.

For election results after the polls close Tuesday night, go to LIHerald.com



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ELECTION 2021

COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 1

Kevan Abrahams

Party: Democratic

Age: 47

Professional experience: Legislative Assistant, Office of U.S. Rep. Floyd Flake, 1996-98

Education: Baruch College; B.A., Political Science, Queens College

Family: Married, with two children

On the issues:

Since February 2020, Covid-19 has forced its way to the top of Nassau County's priority list. Kevan Abrahams has been part of bipartisan efforts to equip county staff and residents with personal protective equipment, develop protec-



tive protocols for schools, allocate funds for tax relief and support for front-line workers and deal with reluctance to vaccinate. Abrahams said he would continue helping to set up accessible vaccination sites in neighborhoods, partnering with clergy and local civic leaders to combat misinformation about the vaccines, and reduce other barriers such as fears of revealing immigration status to get the vaccines.

Police reform occupied Abrahams's attention before

the pandemic, he said. He arranged meetings of local clergy with residents and county police in 2019. Since the pandemic, Abrahams has used virtual meeting technology to continue connecting law enforcement with residents. Abrahams did not vote for Proposed Local Law 2021, which would have given police the right to sue citizens for hate crimes against police and first responders, but supports increased police transparency and accountability, and taking steps to increase police diversity.

Infrastructure upgrades have continued under Abrahams in the 1st District, despite the pressures of the pandemic, he said. Abrahams disagreed with the sudden removal of certain county fees from the budget, but would have helped plan their eventual end.

Elton McCabe Jr. Challenger

Party: Republican

Age: 55

Professional experience: Engineering, including inspection engineer for the Town of Hempstead

Education: Engineering degree from Southern Illinois University

Family: Married

On the issues: Elton McCabe strongly feels that vaccination against Covid-19 for all eligible county residents should be a goal, but he does not agree with threatening job loss should employees decline the vaccine. He believes that requiring masking and weekly or twice-



weekly testing from unvaccinated workers would afford adequate protection against the spread of Covid-19, and would give people time to be convinced of the necessity of vaccination through the constant dissemination of convincing data. Also, parental concerns about the potential effect of the vaccine on children should be respected, not demeaned, given the reality of breakthrough infections and the newness of the vaccines

Diversity, equity, and inclusion within the county

police force are of primary concern to McCabe. If elected, he would press for better cultural and ethnic issues training in the police academy, which would increase respect among officers toward neighborhoods of color, and foster calmer relations between law enforcement and residents. He does not believe that lack of education or capacity on police academy exams would account for the low percentage of officers of color in the Nassau County Police Department and would act to ensure equality of opportunity for officer training.

Infrastructure concerns McCabe because wealthier districts tend to get more attention.

Includes East Meadow, Freeport, Hempstead, Uniondale, Roosevelt, South Hempstead.

COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 19

Steve Rhoads

Party: Republican

Age: 52

Professional/political experience: From 2006 until 2015, he served on the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee to the Nassau County Planning Commission, becoming its secretary in 2009. In 2015, he was elected in a special election to represent the 19th Legislative District in the Nassau County Legislature. Rhoads is also a volunteer firefighter with the Wantagh Fire Department and is an ex-captain of Engine Company No. 5.

On the issues:

On improving the lives of Long Island's younger popu-



lation to ensure they keep a residency here, Steve Rhoads pointed to opportunities for transit-oriented development. In Farmingdale, for instance, its Main Street corridor now includes apartment-style housing aimed at young professionals who commute on the Long Island Rail Road. Restaurants, a grocery store, dry cleaners and more are all within walking distance.

Rhoads also proposed working with the county Industrial Development Agency to encourage busi-



Rhoads has been critical of the county-wide property reassessment carried out by Executive Laura Curran's administration. He called it "error-riddled" and the cause of a shift of the tax burden further onto middle-class homeowners. In the 19th District, he noted, nearly 70 percent of homeowners saw school and property tax increases are a result of the reassessment.

Jake Schuster Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 26

Professional/political experience: After receiving a bachelor's in business administration at Hofstra University, Schuster attended the College of Law at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Okla., where he received his

Okla., where he received his law degree. In 2017, he volunteered for Bellmorite Jeff Gold's campaign for the same seat, and then worked for State Sen. John Brooks as a legislative aide.

On the issues:

As a young resident making his first foray into politics, Jake Schuster is very aware of the issues affecting Long Island's youth, he said.



Schuster wants to encourage

younger residents to have an

government operations, giv-

increased involvement in

ing them opportunities to

opportunities for young

ment.

have their voices heard. He

adults for sustained invest-

On housing, Schuster

empty land and abandoned

wants to convert plots of

buildings into affordable housing for those who need

it. By working with county

said the county could

and state officials, Schuster

would also create leadership

assistance. Funds could also be reallocated from overfunded programs, he said, to provide for those who are living outside their means. Schuster also strongly supports marijuana legaliza-

demand greater funding

supports marijuana legalization within the district. Through taxation, he believes legalization could bring in much-needed revenue for the county and local governments. He opposes opting out of the sale of marijuana in the district.

While he has not served in an elected political position, Schuster is comfortable in a political environment, he said.

Includes Bellmore, Freeport, North Bellmore, North Merrick, North Wantagh, Seaford, South Bellmore, South Merrick, Wantagh.



SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT COURTESY OF

2021 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

3rd District Court Judge

Lisa Saltzman

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Running on the Democratic, Republican and Conservative party lines in the general election

Age: 55

Lives in: Great Neck

Education: Bachelor's from New York University, 1988; law degree from Yeshiva University in 1991

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Legal career: Upon graduation, Saltzman began working as a trial attorney at the Legal Aid Society, where she stayed until

1997. She has worked as a supervising attorney with Queens Defenders since 1997, and an attorney at law in her private practice since 2010. Saltzman is also an adjunct professor of law at Seton Hall University, a position she has held since 2010.



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David I. Levine

Democratic, Republican. Conservative

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NOT

AVAILABLE

Age: 55

Lives in: Roslyn Heights

Education: Gaduated from SUNY Binghamton in 1987 and earned his law degree from New York Law School in 1990.

Legal career: Judge Levine was appointed by the County Executive Laura Curran to the Nassau

County District Court this past March.

Levine previously served as the associate justice for the Village of Manorhaven from November 2019 to March 2021.

Levine was also a member of the Town of North Hempstead Board of Zoning and Appeals from January 2012 to March 2021.

Prior to ascending to the District Court bench, he maintained a private practice in Mineola from 1997 to March 2021 and was an assistant district attorney in Queens from 1990 to 1997.

William Hohauser

LECTION 2021

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 62 Lives in: XXXX Education: Earned bachelor's degree from SUNY Binghamton in 1981 and his law degree from

Columbia Law School in 1984.

Legal career: Hohauser served

as counsel and the executive

director for Morgan Stanley

NOT **AVAILABLE**

estate law as well as Uniform Commercial Code and tort claims.

Smith Barney from 1987 to 2015. While there, his areas of prac-

tice included securities, corporate, employment, RICO and real

Family Court Judge Candidate

Darlene D. Harris

Age: 55

Hometown: Uniondale

Education: University of Pennsylvania; Hofstra University

Legal career: District Court judge since January 2015, practiced law in family court for 13 vears, former Nassau County legislator.







2nd District Court Judge

Vincent T. Muscarella

Vincent T. Muscarella, a Republican, is running unopposed for the 2nd District Court. He was elected to the first session of the Nassau County Legislature on Nov. 5, 1995. He represents the 8th Legislative District, which encompasses Franklin Square, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, West Hempstead and portions of Elmont, New Hyde Park and Stewart Manor.



Muscarella was born in Nassau County in 1954 and is a lifelong resident of the county. After completing his undergraduate studies at Bowdoin College in Maine, he attended St. John's Law School and received his J.D. in 1979. Muscarella is a partner in the law firm of Muscarella and Tomasone and a member of the Nassau County, New York State, and Florida Bar Associations. He is admitted to practice in the Federal District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts.

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STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Danielle Peterson

Party: Republican Age: 46

Education: Peterson earned her bachelor's from the University of Delaware in 1997 and a J.D. from Hofstra University on 2000.

Legal career: Peterson began her legal career as an attorney in a private practice in 2001. In 2010, she became the principal law clerk to the Hon. Anthony L. Parga of the Nassau County Supreme Court and was elected justice in 2015

Elizabeth Fox McDonough

Party: Democratic, Republican and Conservative Age: 59

Education: Earned bachelor's from St. John's University in 1984 and J.D. St. John's University in 1987.

Legal career: From 1987 to 1997, served as an assistant district attorney in Queens. From 1997 to 2001, served as the principal law clerk to Justice Arthur Cooperman in the Criminal Term of the Queens County Supreme Court.

Joseph Girardi

Party: Democratic, Republican and Conservative Age: 62

Education: Graduated with Highest Honors from SUNY Oneonta in 1981 with a dual major of U.S. history and political science. Graduated from Georgetown Law Center in 1984 and was a Criminal Justice Clinic participant.

Legal career: From 1984 to 1988, served as an assistant district attorney in Queens. From 1988 to 2015, he was an attorney in private practice specializing in criminal cases.

Eileen Daly-Sapraicone

ELECTION 2021

Party: Democratic, Republican and Conservative Age: 57

Education: Bachelor's from St. John's University in 1991; law degree from City University of New York Law School in 1995.

Legal career: Daly-Sapraicone began her legal career in 1995 as an assistant district attorney Queens, where she worked for six years. Daly-Sapraicone served as a special counsel in the special commissioner of investigation for the New York City School District.

Susan B. Heckman

Party: Democratic, Republican and Conservative Age: 41

Education: Earned bachelor's in history and political science from Bucknell University in 2002; received law degree from Villanova University School of Law in 2005.

Legal career: From 2007 to 2010, served as a defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County. Since 2012, Heckman has served as the principal law secretary to Suffolk Supreme Court Justice John B. Collins.

Timothy S. Driscoll

Party: Democratic, Conservative, Republican Age: 54

Education: Bachelor's Hofstra University, 1988; law degree, Harvard Law School, 1991.

Legal career: After graduating from law school, Driscoll began a year-long clerkship with the Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlinof the U.S. Court of Appeals for the second circuit. Upon completion of his clerkship, he entered into private practice. Driscoll left the private sector in 1996 to join the Nassau district attorney's office.

Vito DeStefano

Party: Democratic, Republican, Conservative Age: 54

Education: Wagner College; Brooklyn Law School.

Legal career: Elected to the New York State Supreme Court in 2007 and is presiding in the Commercial Division and over the Tax Certiorari part of the court in Nassau County. He was a Nassau County District Court judge from 2004 through 2007. Was appointed to the New York State's Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics.

HEMPSTEAD COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

Dorothy Goosby Incumbent

Party: Democrat

Age: 83

Professional experience: Licensed dietician nutritionist. journal author, chemistry teach-

Political career: Town of Hempstead councilwoman, Association of Towns president, Hempstead Board of Education

vice president. Marshall Flementary School PTA president

On the issues:

Dorothy Goosby said she voted to implement and supported the following measures during the coronavirus pandemic

Mobile Covid-19 testing and vaccinations

More than \$11 million in federal pandemic relief



funds to colleges and schools

Over a million meals and six million for food banks.

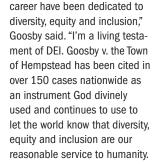
More than \$800,000 to local villages.

More than \$400,000 to fire departments.

A small business personal protective equipment program.

An expedited process for outdoor dining permits.

"My entire life and political



"My focus is quality-of-life

equity," she said, "because the disparities in my district remain unbalanced and alarming. In terms of sewage equity, our sewage system is at the forefront of my list. The Village of Hempstead must be repaired. not just the sewers maintained by the government. In terms of water equity, the North and South shores must be treated fairly and equitably.

James

Lamarre Challenger

Party: Republican

Age: 45

Professional experience: Business owner

Political career: None

On the issues: Lamarre did not respond to the Herald.

Editor's note: James Lamarre could not be reached, despite many attempts.

ΡΗΟΤΟ NOT

AVAILABLE

Includes Baldwin, Freeport, Hempstead, Lakeview, Lynbrook, Rockville Centre, Uniondale and West Hemsptead.

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