

**LOCAL**  
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CANDIDATE PROFILES, BALLOT REVIEW AND MORE INSIDE!



# Blakeman, Curran vie for county executive

By JEFFREY BESSEN

jbessen@liherald.com

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:

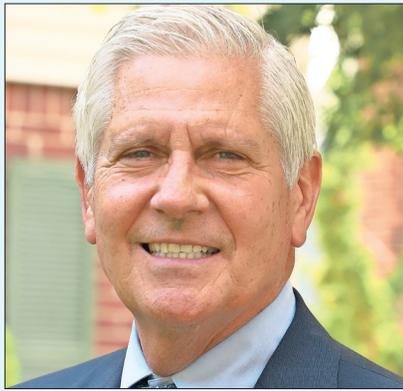
I delivered four balanced budgets and consecutive budget surpluses; secured Nassau's first bond upgrade in over a decade; held the line on property taxes and proposed a responsible \$70 million tax reduction for 2022, and a \$150 million tax reduction over the next four years.

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 years 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.



## LET US KNOW

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Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication.

Send to [exeditor@liherald.com](mailto:exeditor@liherald.com)



# NASSAU COUNTY CLERK

## Maureen O'Connell Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 70

**Hometown:** East Williston

**Career:** County clerk, former nurse

**Political experience:** Nassau 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



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.

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

## 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 years

**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

## 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 re-elected 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



a translation component so the site can be seen in the language preferred by the user.

A firm believer in providing 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.

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

## Oneka Nicks Challenger

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 29

**Hometown:** Uniondale

**On the issues:**

First-time candidate and 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



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.

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 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 modernizing the website to make



# Donnelly, Kaminsky slug it out for D.A.

By JIM BERNSTEIN

jbernstein@liherald.com

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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# COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 13

## Thomas McKeivitt Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 50

**Hometown:** East Meadow

**Professional experience:** County legislator, attorney

**Political experience:** New York State Assembly, 2006-2017; Nassau County Legislature, 2018-present

**On the issues:**

Thomas McKeivitt, who has served as the District 13 legislator since 2017, said that it is important to revitalize the economy and downtowns post-Covid. He said he voted in favor of allocating millions of dollars from federal funds to assist small businesses with loans and grants to assist them with



the severe consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. He said he has been and will continue to follow up with businesses to make sure that their grant applications are being timely processed and the funds are promptly received. He supports the development of the Nassau Coliseum property that will not only provide economic development in the area but also housing for our next generation, which is sorely needed, he added.

As far as the two most important issues in the dis-

trict, McKeivitt believes that public safety is one of them. He said he will continue to ensure that police and first responders are adequately funded so they can carry out their missions. He said that providing public safety also includes addressing the opioid crisis, which he said was being addressed before Covid. He has also sponsored numerous drug take-back programs as well as Narcan training. The other issue that he deems important is providing for a full county workforce to provide services for the residents. Staff shortages allow for things to fall by the wayside, where employing workers will generate income.

In terms of keeping the younger generation on Long Island and making it affordable to them, McKeivitt said that property taxes need to be less than they are now.

## Eileen Napolitano Challenger

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 59

**Hometown:** East Meadow

**Professional experience:** New York state licensed optician for over 30 years

**Political experience:** Second-time candidate

**On the issues:**

Eileen Napolitano, who is the challenger for the incumbent Thomas McKeivitt, has no prior political experience. A long-time East Meadow resident, Napolitano said that she would use a portion of the surplus of tax revenue for businesses needing assistance recovering from the pandemic. She said that getting business back up



and working puts employees back to work, which is especially helpful since usually, the employees are local residents. She believes that this is a cyclical effect and that as more individuals get to full-time work, more money is used in the community.

As far as the two most important issues in the district, Napolitano believes that better contract vetting and making sure that services are not being overpaid for is important. She believes that the contractors should be held to a warranty, to

ensure that the work they do lasts a decent amount of time. Along these same lines, she believes that sustainable roads are something that should be looked into. Also, leasing out county-owned vacant buildings and land that can bring revenue is another topic that should be addressed. This puts them back on the tax roll and increases revenue that can be passed down to the taxpayer, she said.

In terms of keeping the younger generation on Long Island and making it affordable to them, Napolitano said that the property assessment program should remain unfrozen because residents are paying their fair share, which reduces the number of grievances and refunds that historically have impacted the county's finances.

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

# COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 15

## John Ferretti Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 38

**Hometown:** Levittown

**Political experience:** Prior to being elected to the Nassau County Legislature in 2017 and re-elected again in 2019, Ferretti served as the chief deputy county clerk of Nassau County.

**Career:** Practicing attorney at the Mineola-based law firm Nicolini, Paradise, Ferretti & Sabella, where he specializes in bodily injury, subrogation, no-fault, real estate, zoning and land use law.

**On the issues:**

John Ferretti, who has served as the 15th District legislator since 2017, said



that small businesses were significantly impacted by Covid-19, which is why he helped create a special revenue fund in the county budget to help pay off county refund liability owed to small businesses and will continue to vote against tax increases for Nassau residents. He also said he voted to approve tens of millions of dollars in Covid-19 relief money to be used towards revitalization efforts for downtowns and to help promote struggling small businesses.

Ferretti, along with the legislative majority, proposed cutting county fees that residents have experienced. The proposal would cut the red-light camera public safety fee, the tax map verification fee would be eliminated and the mortgage recording fee would be reduced to \$50.

In terms of the housing crisis, Ferretti said he would continue to work alongside members of the legislature to create a fairer, more accurate, and transparent reassessment that did not result in additional tax increases for Nassau property homeowners. In order to keep more seniors, veterans and young people here, he said, Nassau County needs to be more affordable.

**Don't forget to vote!**

**Tuesday, Nov. 2**

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Visit [www.liherald.com](http://www.liherald.com) for results



*John Ferretti's opponent, Mathew Malin, could not be reached, despite many attempts.*

# SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT

# ELECTION '21



**OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR GENERAL ELECTION**  
**November 2, 2021**  
**NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**EAST MEADOW**

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
 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 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 new ballot. The number of choices is listed for each contest. Do not mark the ballot for more candidates 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 want to change your vote, call the Board of Elections at (516) 571-2411 for instructions on how to obtain a new ballot.

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
 Para votar un candidato cuyo nombre no está en la papeleta, marque el óvalo a la izquierda del 'write-in' 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 a 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 a 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

Office	Justice of the Supreme Court (Vote for up to eight) Juez de la Corte Suprema (Vote hasta por ocho)								County Executive (Vote for one) Ejecutivo del Condado (Vote por uno)	District Attorney (Vote for one) Fiscal del Distrito (Vote por uno)	County Comptroller (Vote for one) Controlador del Condado (Vote por uno)	County Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario del Condado (Vote por uno)	Family Court Judge (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Familia (Vote por uno)	District Court Judge District 2 (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Distrito Distrito 2 (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Supervisor (Vote for one) Supervisor (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Council Member District 6 (Vote for one) Concejal Distrito 6 (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Town Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario Municipal (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 13 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 13 (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 15 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 15 (Vote por uno)
Democratic	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapraine	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran	<input type="radio"/> 10 Todd D. Kaminsky	<input type="radio"/> 11 Ryan E. Cronin	<input type="radio"/> 12 Justin R. Brown	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Vincent T. Muscarella	<input type="radio"/> 15 Jason L. Abelow	<input type="radio"/> 16 Matthew A. Galante	<input type="radio"/> 17 Olena Nicks	<input type="radio"/> 22 Eileen M. Napolitano	<input type="radio"/> 22 Matthew W. Malin
Republican	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapraine	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Bruce A. Blakeman	<input type="radio"/> 10 Anne T. Donnelly	<input type="radio"/> 11 Elaine R. Phillips	<input type="radio"/> 12 Maureen C. O'Connell	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Vincent T. Muscarella	<input type="radio"/> 15 Donald X. Clavin, Jr.	<input type="radio"/> 16 Dennis Dunne, Sr.	<input type="radio"/> 17 Kate Murray	<input type="radio"/> 22 Thomas McKeivitt	<input type="radio"/> 22 John R. Ferretti
Conservative	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapraine	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Bruce A. Blakeman	<input type="radio"/> 10 Anne T. Donnelly	<input type="radio"/> 11 Elaine R. Phillips	<input type="radio"/> 12 Maureen C. O'Connell	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Vincent T. Muscarella	<input type="radio"/> 15 Donald X. Clavin, Jr.	<input type="radio"/> 16 Dennis Dunne, Sr.	<input type="radio"/> 17 Kate Murray	<input type="radio"/> 22 Thomas McKeivitt	<input type="radio"/> 22 John R. Ferretti
Working Families									<input type="radio"/> 11 Ryan E. Cronin	<input type="radio"/> 12 Justin R. Brown						<input type="radio"/> 17 Olena Nicks		<input type="radio"/> 22 Matthew W. Malin	
Common Sense								<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran						<input type="radio"/> 15 Jason L. Abelow	<input type="radio"/> 16 Matthew A. Galante			<input type="radio"/> 22 Eileen M. Napolitano	
Write-in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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# 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 "high-level 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.

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."

# HEMPSTEAD COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

## Dennis Dunne

Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 70

**On the issues:**

If re-elected, taking a stand against Covid-19 is "critical," Dennis Dunne said. As a town board member, Dunne voted in favor of making provisions for outdoor dining and for distribution of personal protective equipment kits to local businesses. He and Supervisor Don Clavin also provided Covid-19 tests and vaccines to senior centers and other vulnerable areas. And he helped secure funding for local hospitals, public schools and colleges and air filter replacements for local municipalities.



Dunne said he takes pride in Hempstead's "progressive" stance on green initiatives: Town employees use electric vehicles, and it's home to an award-winning solar energy park and the Norman Levy Park and Preserve.

The town conducted an energy audit, which has led to the conversion of tens of thousands of streetlights to LED lights, which require half the energy to operate. Hempstead town facilities are subject to the same updated lighting.

To Dunne, the most pressing issue facing residents of his district is the property-tax burden. Dunne has voted to cut taxes for two consecutive years, and taxes were frozen last year. Along with Clavin, a tax cut budget was introduced.

Funds are also being invested into infrastructure, including \$75 million for road resurfacing and \$10 million to upgrade local parks.

## Matthew Galante

Challenger

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 32

**On the issues:**

Taking his first foray into politics, Matthew Galante has been critical of the opposing Republican party. He argues there is waste that can be cut from the town budget, namely in patronage jobs given to friends or family members who already have a foot in the door. Eliminating the waste would be a cost-saving measure, helping the town expand or introduce services.

Galante's top priorities are to help those financially affected by the pandemic and to promote the district's



local businesses. Galante wants to provide more extensive aid and services, such as legal aid, to residents to help them stay in their homes. The town can also cut red tape to make it easier to open a business, further encourage residents to shop locally and work hand in hand with local business owners to hear and address their concerns.

To protect the district against severe weather, Galante wants to turn toward state and federal relief. With additional aid, the district

could retrofit and reinforce its residential and commercial buildings against severe weather and flooding, he said. Building in heavily affected areas should also be discouraged.

Long-term, Galante sees the primary issue for younger residents as housing costs. It is too expensive to live in the district, he said, owing to high property taxes, high rents and high mortgage costs. Working with state representatives, property taxes could also be cut by limiting what residents pay in school taxes.

Mixed-use development, especially along Hempstead Turnpike, must also be encouraged, according to Galante, so seniors and young people can stay in their communities.

*Includes Bellmore, Bethpage, East Meadow, Levittown, Merrick, Seaford and Wantagh.*



# 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

**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. McLaughlin of 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.

# SUPERVISOR

## Don Clavin Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 52

**Hometown:** Garden City

**Career:** Elected official, attorney

**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 introduced 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.

## Jason Ablove Challenger

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 51

**Hometown:** Oceanside

**Career:** Discrimination attorney since 1994

**Political experience:** First-time candidate

### On the issues:

Jason Ablove 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 and inflated no-bid contracts."

Ablove 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.

Ablove said if he were elected, Hempstead would distribute the federal relief money. Ablove 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.

Ablove 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.