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CANDIDATE PROFILES, BALLOT REVIEW AND MORE INSIDE!



# 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 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.



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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.

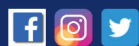
As comptroller, she said, she would serve as the "taxpayer's watchdog." "Taxes and spending need to be controlled in Nassau County," she said. "I have the background and expertise to implement audits to weed out waste, abuse and fraud, saving taxpayers money. Further, I will audit the recent property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



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# 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 6

## Bill Gaylor Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 58

**Hometown:** Lynbrook

**Career:** Retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel; attorney

**Political experience:** County legislator since 2015; Lynbrook Village Associate Justice from 2009 to 2015

**On the issues:**

Bill Gaylor said he seeks to continue to advocate for Nassau's veterans, first responders and seniors to ensure their mental and physical health needs are being met. Additionally, he said, he would never vote to defund the police, and would always make sure they



have the resources they need to return home safe at the end of their shifts. He added that he plans never to vote for property-tax increases, and to fight to make the reassessment system is more fair, accurate and transparent. Gaylor said he pushed for legislation to cut \$100 million in fees that residents pay to deliver real financial relief for working class families.

Gaylor said he was proud to secure tens of millions of dollars in federal funding that went directly to small

business relief to ensure that businesses had personal protective equipment and to create a special revenue fund to pay down county refund liability owed to small businesses.

He added that he would continue to strongly denounce any legislation that supports defunding the police and oppose Albany's cashless bail laws, which he called "dangerous," and he would continue to support law enforcement and work closely with them to keep communities safe.

## Laura Burns Challenger

**Party:** Democratic

**Age:** 52

**Hometown:** Rockville Centre

**Career:** Writer and activist; founding member of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

**Political experience:** Second-time candidate.

**On the issues:**

Laura Burns said her top priority is to maintain the county's fiscal health. She added that the taxpayers' money should be spent on infrastructure, programming and services to make taxpayers' lives better. Additionally, she said, her goal is to maintain financial stability



and phase out the Nassau Interim Finance Authority so that the county can move forward with more funding for the taxpayers. Burns would also maintain regular communication with her constituents by hosting bimonthly town halls and weekly "office hours" with district residents in public places and at local businesses.

She said her focus would be to assess the infrastructure needs of the 6th District and begin work on addressing them, making sure to

include constituents in the process.

Burns said that as an advocate for gun violence prevention, she has become well-versed in building coalitions among community groups working on different aspects of a complex issue that spans legislation, cultural outreach, public education and community organizing. She said her experience is what's needed in local government for many complex issues that the district faces — a willingness to seek out diverse voices, gather different points of view, and synthesize them into a plan for action to make people's lives better.

*Includes Franklin Square, Hewlett, Lynbrook, Malverne, North Lynbrook, Rockville Centre, Valley Stream, Woodmere.*



# COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 7

## Howard Kopel Incumbent

**Party:** Republican

**Age:** 70

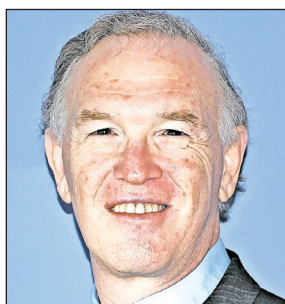
**Hometown:** Lawrence

**Career:** Attorney corporate 1975 to 1985; owner Sutton Alliance, a national title insurance and settlement firm 1985 to present

**Political experience:** Six-term county legislator, deputy presiding officer

**On the issues:**

Howard is running for his seventh two-year term. Kopel, the Legislature's current deputy presiding officer, said he stands on his financial experience and bipartisan work, and is running for another term because he



said he has significant influence in the Legislature.

On the ongoing reassessment, he said he disagrees with County Executive Laura Curran administration's computer modeling, saying he believes that facts on the ground indicate that it is incorrect. Kopel said the county should halt property-tax increases, conduct a careful study to determine what went wrong and correct the system.

With multiple development projects proposed in the district and nearby sur-

rounding communities, Kopel said he has been an outspoken community leader in opposing the proposed Woodmere Club redevelopment, as well as other apartment projects throughout the district and beyond.

He has expressed opposition to any Industrial Development Agency benefits being extended to such projects, which he said harm the community. Kopel said he supports sensible development and business expansion with the accompanying infrastructure for the proper support.

## Lisa Daniels Challenger

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 55

**Hometown:** East Rockaway

**Career:** Attorney and owner of Law office of Lisa Daniels, 1998 to present; adjunct professor, Queens College 1997 to 2001; adjunct professor Hofstra University, 1997 to 2001

**Political experience:** Second-time candidate

**On the issues:**

Lisa Daniels ran against Howard Kopel in 2013. Daniels said she would work with municipal officials to promote the creation of a community advisory board and master planning com-



mission, saying that residents and community leaders should have more of a say about the direction of their communities, and these decisions should be made holistically to see what makes sense for the entire community.

She said the county must ensure development does not exceed the level of its infrastructure, with roadways and wastewater infrastructure already often overwhelmed by existing use. She said she would seek to bolster the infrastructure

work to ensure there is more coordination between jurisdictions when development is proposed.

Daniels said she supports increasing the amount of green space across the county and doing a better job of maintaining it. Saying that she does not want what she called the same mistakes after Superstorm Sandy, Daniels said she acknowledges the climate crisis and how it affects shoreline communities.

Daniels said she supports the work of Curran's administration, from the budgets to the Boost Nassau program that uses federal money to offer grants to small businesses and the \$375 payment that is open to 400,000 households across the county, which could help residents a pay a bill or spend locally at small businesses.

*Includes Cedarhurst, East Rockaway, Hewlett Bay Park, Hewlett Harbor, Oceanside, Rockville Centre, Woodmere.*

# 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



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

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.

## 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



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

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.

# 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



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 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.



# 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 intro-

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.

## 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.



# 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:** Bachelor's from St. John's University, and J.D. St. John's University.

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

## Joseph Girardi

**Party:** Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 62

**Education:** Graduated from SUNY Oneonta in 1981 with a dual major of U.S. history and political science. Graduated from Georgetown Law Center in 1984.

**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:** 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; received law degree from Villanova University School of Law.

**Legal career:** From 2007 to 2010, a defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County. Since 2012, 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.

**Legal career:** 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 NYS Supreme Court in 2007, presiding in the commercial division over the tax certiorari part of the court in Nassau County. N.C. District Court judge from 2004 through 2007. Was appointed to the New York State's Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics.

# SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT

# ELECTION '21



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

**FRANKLIN SQUARE / ELMONT**

**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.

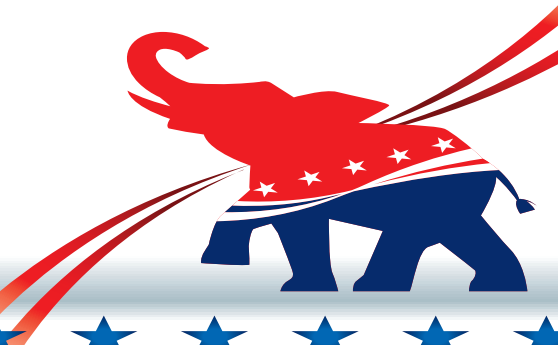
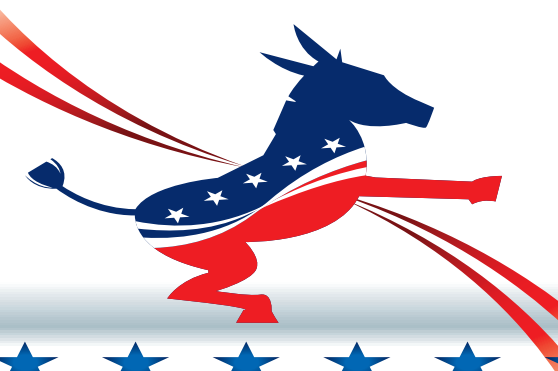
This is not an actual ballot, but a composite of several sample ballots so as to reflect all the districts within the communities covered by your edition of the Herald. Complete reporting on candidates running in districts covered by the Herald – as well as the full text of our endorsements in each race – 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 4 (Vote for one) Concejal Distrito 4 (Vote por uno)	Hempstead Town Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario Municipal (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 7 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 7 (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 8 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 8 (Vote por uno)
Democratic A	<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 Sapricono	<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. Ablove	<input type="radio"/> 16 Aaron E. Meyer	<input type="radio"/> 17 Olena Nicks	<input type="radio"/> 22 Lisa Daniels	<input type="radio"/> 22 Nadia Holubnyczyj
Republican B	<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 Sapricono	<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 Anthony P. D'Esposito	<input type="radio"/> 17 Kate Murray	<input type="radio"/> 22 Howard J. Kopel	<input type="radio"/> 22 John J. Giuffre
Conservative C	<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 Sapricono	<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 Anthony P. D'Esposito	<input type="radio"/> 17 Kate Murray	<input type="radio"/> 22 Howard J. Kopel	<input type="radio"/> 22 John J. Giuffre
Working Families D								<input type="radio"/> 11 Ryan E. Cronin			<input type="radio"/> 12 Justin R. Brown					<input type="radio"/> 17 Olena Nicks	<input type="radio"/> 22 Lisa Daniels	<input type="radio"/> 22 Nadia Holubnyczyj	
Common Sense E								<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran						<input type="radio"/> 15 Jason L. Ablove	<input type="radio"/> 16 Aaron E. Meyer				
Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in	<input type="radio"/> Write-in

**HOW YOU VOTE IS YOUR BUSINESS,  
 REMINDING YOU TO VOTE IS OUR BUSINESS**

**NOVEMBER 2nd**

**HERALD**  
 Community Newspapers



**PULL OUT**

**SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT COURTESY OF THE HERALD COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS**

**PULL OUT**





# 2021 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

## 3rd District Court Judge

### Lisa Saltzman

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

**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.



### David I. Levine

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 55

Lives in: Roslyn Heights

**Education:** Graduated 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 Hohausser

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 62

Lives in: xxxxx

**Education:** Earned bachelor's degree from SUNY Binghamton in 1981 and his law degree from Columbia Law School in 1984.

**Legal career:** Hohausser served as counsel and the executive director for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney from 1987 to 2015. While there, his areas of practice included securities, corporate, employment, RICO and real estate law as well as Uniform Commercial Code and tort claims.



## Family Court Judge Candidate

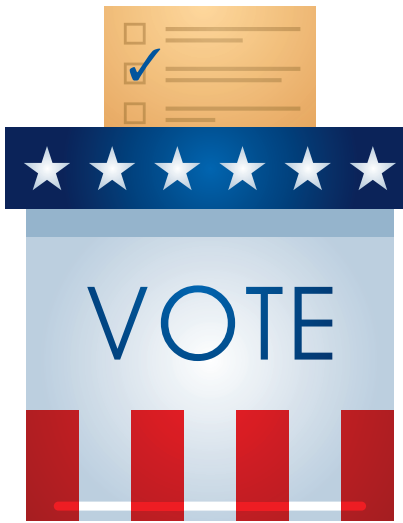
### Darlene D. Harris

Age: 55

Hometown: Uniondale

**Education:** University of Pennsylvania; Hofstra University

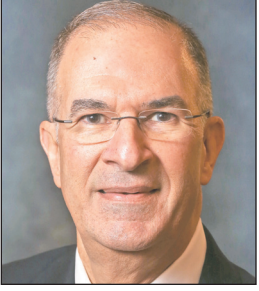
**Legal career:** District Court judge since January 2015, practiced law in family court for 13 years, former Nassau County legislator.



## 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 life-long 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.



NOVEMBER 2, 2021



# Vying for comptroller

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

MWBE. As comptroller, I would continue this pursuit to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace and continue to educate and promote solutions to ensure equal rights to all. What's more, I would undertake performance audits of all county departments to ascertain whether they are meeting DEI metrics. I would do the same for the entities that do business with Nassau County.

**Herald: What are the most pressing issues in the county, and how do you address these collaboratively with all stakeholders within the next term?**

**Cronin:** The comptroller is the taxpayers' watchdog responsible for fighting waste and fraud. We are recruiting high-level professionals from the private sector to join our team so that we have the skilled team required to address these unprecedented times. 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.

**Phillips:** As Nassau County comptroller, I will serve as the taxpayers' watchdog. Taxes and spending need to be controlled in Nassau County. 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 made in the Department of Assessment's recent reassessment have adversely impacted property owners. Mistakes in assigning assessments have directly resulted in the erroneous taxation of homeowners and businesses. I will work as an independent watchdog for Nassau's taxpayers, and I will protect their tax dollars. That is my job, and it is my commitment to the residents who I will serve.

# Q&A with candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

top priority is the delivery of efficient, timely and easily accessible services to residents. One of the most important roles of the clerk is to ensure the integrity and security of the records we maintain. Properly filing and safeguarding these records is crucial.

In addition, making the records available in an efficient manner is very important. During my tenure, I have modernized the office by implementing technology, streamlining services and creating efficient processes. Another important function is to protect residents from predatory deed scams and identity theft. To combat this, I created a property fraud alert system for residents to use. Also, as many residents are facing financial hardship, another top priority for me is to have the statutory fees at my office reduced by the county administration. Maintaining costs at my office is essential to ensuring taxpayer savings. My office pays for itself solely by user fees, and is one of the most efficient offices in county government. The revenue generated exceeds the cost to operate it.

**Brown:** Being able to store, provide accessibility and ensure requested documents are provided in a timely manner for residents are key to having a successful clerks office.

**Herald: What have you (can be) done to help improve the county clerk's office?**

**O'Connell:** I have brought the office into the modern day. Upon taking office, I eliminated a multi-year backlog within the first year. I have implemented new technology making access virtually all electronic. Residents can now access records maintained by my office online to provide them with

ease of access to the vital documents my office maintains on their behalf.

Under my leadership, the office has implemented electronic filing of court and land records, enabling residents and professionals to conduct business with the clerk's office remotely while also creating greater efficiencies in the processing and maintenance of these records. The office is one of the highest-volume electronic filers in the state. Continuing on the path of greater access, I established mobile office operations to bring services directly to residents' communities and have extended office hours to better serve them. I will continue to implement state-of-the-art technology and digitize older records to our electronic platform to better protect and serve my constituents. I will also continue my work on modernizing the infrastructure of the office to create greater efficiency in the way it serves the public. I will always bring about initiatives consistent with my goals of providing an enhanced level of service in an efficient and professional manner.

**Brown:** If elected as clerk, my main focus would be to modernize [the office]. In 2021, implementing an electronic system should not be a goal, but we should be discussing ways on how to make the office more innovative with technology so that our residents can receive documents and have more accessibility without all the trouble of having to come up to the office in person. I will implement an in-house, more modernized system that the clerk's office will have full control over. In addition, my staff and I will ensure that we can engage with our communities by providing more education and collaborating with key stakeholders in all towns so that our residents can take full advantage of the resources and benefits the office provides.

RE-ELECT

# Carrié Solages

DEMOCRAT FOR COUNTY LEGISLATOR



ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 2

VOTE EARLY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23 - SUNDAY OCTOBER 31



ENDORSED BY





"PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CARRIE SOLAGES"

666671

## RELIEF IS AVAILABLE FOR NASSAU RESIDENTS

Nassau County has approved a plan to use federal relief funds for direct payments of \$375 to eligible households.

*Here's what you need to know:*



If you receive the Enhanced STAR benefit for Seniors, Senior Citizens' Property Tax Exemption or the Limited Income-Disability Exemption, you will automatically be mailed a \$375 direct payment.

If your household earned \$168,900 or less in 2020 collect your necessary documents and then follow the link or QR code below.

If your household earned \$168,901 or more but under \$500,000 in 2020 follow the link or QR code below to learn if you qualify.

Household Assistance Program (HAP) Information  
[www.nassaucountyny.gov/HAPinfo](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/HAPinfo)

If you need in-person help, call 516-571-1555 for an appointment.

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