

LOCAL
ELECTIONS
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **GUIDE** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CANDIDATE PROFILES, BALLOT REVIEW AND MORE INSIDE!



OB TOWN BOARD



Tom Hand
Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 61

Hometown: Massapequa Park

Career: Executive at FedEx

Political experience: Oyster Bay Town Councilman since 2017

On the issues:

Hand believes it is most important to foster a stronger climate for economic growth and job creation; his top priority is to hold the line on property taxes, while ensuring federal grant funds are best used to put people back to work. He is working

with Supervisor Saladino on a plan to allocate over \$24 million in federal funds for a variety of causes, including attracting consumers to downtown businesses and for infrastructure projects that put people to work. Additionally, funds will be used to support not-for-profit organizations that serve those struggling with mental health and substance abuse.

Hand believes it is now critical for the town to help fill these storefronts by fostering a better economic climate and by making infrastructure improvements that attract people to the downtown. He is currently working to provide federal funds to the Chamber of Commerce to make those improvements.

Recently Hand, along with the rest of the town board, submitted a grant application to New York state for downtown revitalization funds that could be used to beautify storefronts.



Louis Imbroto
Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 37

Hometown: Bethpage

Career: Litigation attorney in private practice

Political experience: Town councilman since 2017

On the issues:

As chairman of the town's Quality of Life Taskforce, it was particularly important to Imbroto to make sure local business owners survive the impacts of the pandemic. He expedited the decision to allow for outdoor-dining opportu-

nities during the pandemic and urged the state to ease restrictions on local businesses.

Imbroto has worked to help residents re-enter the workforce or find gainful employment through the town's Workforce Career Center.

Imbroto wants to continue the board's efforts in water preservation and the protection of the harbor, as well as continue to sustain and maintain investments in parks, roadways and general infrastructure. He plans to proactively seek grant money for improvements to the hamlet, including areas around the waterfront and the area surrounding the train station.



Michele Johnson
Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 47

Hometown: Locust Valley

Career: Town councilwoman and attorney

Political experience: Town councilwoman since 2013

On the issues:

Johnson joined with restaurant owners in the hamlet to urge the state to allow them to reopen and she worked to extend outdoor dining opportunities for those local businesses.

Johnson works with her colleagues to bring greater

awareness to the town's Workforce Career Center, which assists both those seeking employment and employers to find meaningful employment. The center offers hundreds of potential courses free of charge to residents seeking employment opportunities, as well as resume services.

One of the issues most important to Johnson is the preservation of Oyster Bay's water quality and continued enhancement of the harbor. She initiated the construction of the shellfish hatchery at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park a few years ago, which initially resulted in the growth of a few hundred thousand baby oysters and clams and have now expanded to the seeding of more than 10 million clams and oysters this year alone. Johnson plans to expand the hatchery to even further efforts of increasing water quality.



Nicky Kaur
Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 52

Hometown: Hicksville

Career: Corporate executive

Political experience: None

On the issues:

Kaur believes the town needs to find ways to assist the community and local business for it to be able to run and sustain; the board should be able to assist them with the basics, PPE and whatever else is needed so that they don't need to spend their own capital

on necessities.

The two most important issues to Kaur are corruption and infrastructure. She believes corruption brings in inequality amongst people. To correct this, Kaur envisions a government that is for all people. Kaur thinks improvement in the infrastructure are needed, starting with the town's roads, which are "in a terrible state." She says [the town] lacks parking spaces at the train stations and is not clean. Kaur's belief is that the funds are there but are not utilized in the right way and this is the very reason corruption needs to be removed.



Reema Rasool
Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 42

Hometown: Brookville

Career: Business Consultant

Political experience: None

On the issues:

Rasool said the biggest issue facing Oyster Bay is the lack of government transparency, and the town should communicate with residents more through email and the town website, cut down on town mailings and eliminate duplicate mailings being sent to a

single household.

She said she wants the town to create opportunities for more affordable homeownership without repeating the issues that led the federal government to sue the town for discrimination for its homeownership programs.

As an entrepreneur herself, Rasool personally knows the struggles that Covid brought to small business. The last few months Rasool has been the town's Main Street market meeting with local business owners to bring in new ideas to revitalize Main Street and bring in new customers. She also says the board needs to take a real look at the roads and parking downtown to make sure that the town's infrastructure can handle more outside business in a way that is fair to all.



Lisa Reinhardt
Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 51

Hometown: Hicksville

Career: Executive assistant

Political experience: None

On the issues:

Coming out of Covid, Reinhardt has noticed the need for more assistance for the small business owners of Oyster Bay. She says she would expand the resources currently offered by the town to include assistance in researching grants and any existing federal, state and regional programs for the

small business owners in the hamlet.

Reinhardt would also seek to create more events for small businesses, considering multiple events year-round. She believes these measures would result in more robust, direct assistance so owners can keep their businesses running without risking their families' basic needs.

Reinhardt says Infrastructure is a basic necessity that has not been prioritized in Oyster Bay and officials need to put residents' money where it's needed — toward paving the town's roads.

She believes the board should also look to attract people to the hamlet, whether for recreation or to shop, eat or open a business. For residents to navigate safely throughout Oyster Bay and to enable visitors to come to visit and vacation, Reinhardt says Oyster Bay needs safe, reliable roads to travel.



TOWN SUPERVISOR

Joseph Salidino Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 59

Hometown: Massapequa

Political experience: Town Supervisor, State Assemblyman

On the issues:

Salidino says he would like to continue advocating for the environment and improving the town's finances. His economic development team has attracted new companies and hundreds of new jobs from Amazon, Geico and other large employers to the town. While working to draw in big business and create more jobs, Salidino believes revitalization of the downtown, along



with increasing parking throughout the town and making improvements to traffic flow, is the key to build a strong sense of place and provide an environment more conducive to revitalization and job growth. He says downtown Oyster Bay has the potential to become a must-see destination for tourists, history buffs and many others.

Salidino has a vision for the Oyster Bay Hamlet which celebrates its rich history and has the potential to provide for greater recreational

and accessible public space, which may be provided through the redevelopment of properties presently in use for industrial purposes along Oyster Bay Harbor, including environmental cleanup of the Commander Oil site and removal of the storage tanks.

Salidino is focused on improving water quality in Oyster Bay Harbor; and is proud of his work in the oyster sanctuary, drastically improving the amount of healthy oysters in the bay, thus filtering water at a much higher caliber.

Amanda Field Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 45

Hometown: Massapequa

Political experience: President of the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners Association, Plainview Commissioner of Water in 2016, 2019, present

On the issues:

Field, a former Plainview Water District commissioner, says she would focus on creating a fiscally-sound budget. She believes it is critical that the town has new financial oversight after many years of fiscal mismanagement and misuse of public funding, that the Town of Oyster Bay remains in the



worst fiscal stress of all towns on Long Island for the last three years in a row, according to the New York State Fiscal Monitoring System and still has a bond rating that is just above junk bond status, costing taxpayers millions. Field plans to strengthen the town's bond rating by paying down debt instead of interest to lower taxes and will hire qualified experts. She plans to pay down principal debt to lower taxes and will seek more grant funding for programs for small businesses to use.

Another issue Field would like to address is trust in government. She points to the recent findings of the Nassau County District Attorney, that she says show the activities of the town board have been unethical and [created] a complete lack of trust, the most vital aspect of any government. Field believes that given this behavior, there should be an immediate independent audit and reconstitution of the Town Ethics Board and subsequently a fair and balanced ethics investigation into the conduct of the town board.

Includes xxxxxxxx



COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 18

Josh Lafazan Incumbent

Party: Independent, Democratic conservative

Age: 27

Professional experience: Corporate social responsibility adviser

Political experience: School board member, legislator

On the issues:

For Josh Lafazan, the issue of keeping young people on Long Island is personal. He says for years he has watched as his younger classmates and colleagues have left Nassau County for New York City or the South because of the lack of affordable housing options, effective public transportation and good, available jobs



in the county.

Lafazan said he successfully fought for the building of 500 units of next-generation housing for young renters at the Nassau HUB, with an attractive walkable district and bus-rapid transit to the nearest train station. He met with Long Island Rail Road President Phil Eng and continues to push for a discounted monthly LIRR ticket for young commuters; because of the high cost, many young workers are opting to live in Manhattan and pay for a Metrocard as

opposed to riding the LIRR, he said. With a discounted LIRR ticket for young workers, Lafazan said he believes he could help make it more attractive and affordable for young people to live in Nassau and commute to Manhattan for work.

Lafazan helped secure millions of dollars in grants for small businesses to keep their employees on the job during and after the pandemic, along with helping connect students proficient in social media and online marketing with shop owners, and helped raise funds for those in need. Now, Lafazan says local government officials must continue to shift their focus to Covid-19 recovery.

Paolo Pironi Challenger

Party: Republican

Age: Unreported

Professional experience: Private sector businessman, home builder, volunteer firefighter

Political experience: Associate board member of the Association for a Better Long Island

On the issues:

Paolo Pironi said he believes too many Long Island families and older adults are having their dreams destroyed by crushing property taxes and a broken assessment system that has forced people to sell their homes and sacrifice their quality of life. Pironi



said that, if elected, he would work to reform the broken property tax assessment system which increased property taxes for the majority of Nassau County homeowners. He would also work to help homeowners grieve their assessment levels and secure the property-tax exemptions they are entitled to under the law, including those for senior citizens, veterans and volunteer firefighters. He would also work to bring reforms, greater transparency, openness and hon-

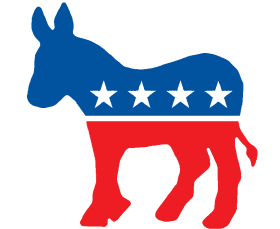
esty to the county's assessment process, which he said has been riddled with problems that both frustrate and confuse residents.

Pironi believes in fiscally-conservative budgeting practices that mandate efficiency and limit spending. He also thinks that giving back to local communities is an important role for any business and government entity, and he has dedicated a great deal of his time toward raising charitable funds for the American Cancer Society, diabetes research and the families of those killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, World Trade Center attacks.

Includes Bayville, Brookville, East Hills, East Norwich, Glen Head, Laurel Hollow, Locust Valley, Muttontown, Old Brookville, Oyster Bay, Oyster Bay Cove, Upper Brookville, Syosset and others.

SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT

ELECTION '21



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

OYSTER BAY

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.

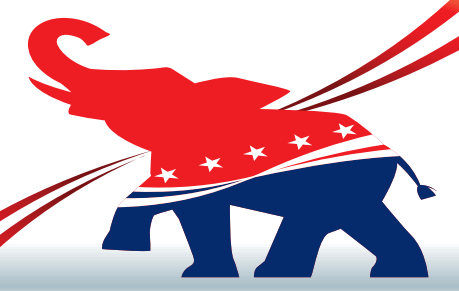
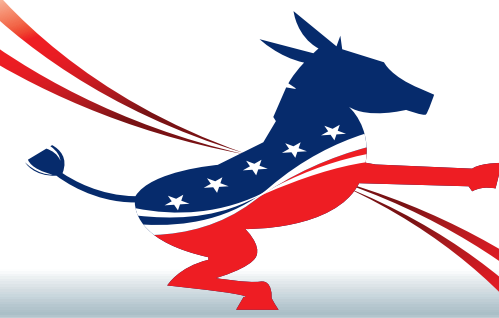
This is not an actual ballot, but a composite of several sample ballots so as to reflect all the districts within the communities covered by your edition of the Herald. Complete reporting on candidates running in districts covered by the Herald – as well as the full text of our endorsements in each race – 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 4 (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Distrito Distrito 4 (Vote por uno)	Oyster Bay Supervisor (Vote for one) Supervisor (Vote por uno)	Oyster Bay Councilmember (Vote for up to three) Concejal (Vote hasta por tres)			Oyster Bay Town Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario Municipal (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 18 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 18 (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 Sapracione	<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 Joseph Girardi	<input type="radio"/> 15 Amanda R. Field	<input type="radio"/> 16 Gurpreet Kaur	<input type="radio"/> 17 Lisa M. Reinhardt	<input type="radio"/> 18 Reema Rasool	<input type="radio"/> 19 Carla F. Hoene	<input type="radio"/> 22 Joshua Alexander Lafazan
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 Sapracione	<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 Joseph Girardi	<input type="radio"/> 15 Joseph S. Saladino	<input type="radio"/> 16 Michele M. Johnson	<input type="radio"/> 17 Louis B. Imbroto	<input type="radio"/> 18 Thomas P. Hand	<input type="radio"/> 19 Richard L. LaMarca	<input type="radio"/> 22 Paolo A. Pironi
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 Sapracione	<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 Joseph Girardi	<input type="radio"/> 15 Joseph S. Saladino	<input type="radio"/> 16 Michele M. Johnson	<input type="radio"/> 17 Louis B. Imbroto	<input type="radio"/> 18 Thomas P. Hand	<input type="radio"/> 19 Richard L. LaMarca	<input type="radio"/> 22 Joshua Alexander Lafazan
Working Families D											<input type="radio"/> 11 Ryan E. Cronin	<input type="radio"/> 12 Justin R. Brown			<input type="radio"/> 15 Amanda R. Field	<input type="radio"/> 16 Gurpreet Kaur	<input type="radio"/> 17 Lisa M. Reinhardt	<input type="radio"/> 18 Reema Rasool	<input type="radio"/> 19 Carla F. Hoene	
Common Sense E									<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran											
Tax Revolt F																				<input type="radio"/> 22 Paolo A. Pironi
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	<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

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.



LET US KNOW

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

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

Send to exeditor@liherald.com

PULL OUT

SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT COURTESY OF



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

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

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

Send to exeditor@liherald.com

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 adaptation 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."



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.

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.

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.

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www.nassaucountyny.gov/HAPinfo

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