



**2019**  
**Vote 411 Candidate Guide**  
**Compare candidate qualifications and positions**  
**on issues.**

General Election Day  
Tuesday, November 5, 2019  
6:00am-9:00pm

All polls open 6am-9pm

**Early Voting**

Saturday, October 26 – Sunday, November 3, 2019  
Info and locations: <http://www.nyearlyvoting.org>

Candidates and Proposition in the following order:

- Supreme Court Justice 6<sup>th</sup> District
- Broome County District Attorney
- Binghamton City Council Districts 2-7
- Village of Johnson City Trustee, Justice
- Village of Endicott, Mayor, Trustee
- Town of Vestal Supervisor, Councilman, Justice, Clerk
- Town of Union Proposition Number One
- Tioga County Sheriff
- Owego Town Councilman
  
- *Candidates not responding are indicated as such in the guide.*

# Supreme Court Justice 6th District

## Description:

The 6th Judicial District encompasses the 10 counties of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins.

**Term is 14 years.**

**Salary: \$210,900**

**Vote for 3**

The Supreme Court, which in New York State is below the highest State Court, the Court of Appeals, hears civil case and criminal cases and criminal cases involving a felony. As the State's highest trial court, it has unlimited jurisdiction and can hear any type of case, but usually hears cases outside the jurisdiction of other courts, e.g., civil matters dealing with monetary amounts over the jurisdiction of lower courts, divorce, separation and annulments. Justices are elected from each of the state's 12 Judicial Districts.

## Chris Baker

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

#### Questions:

**Q:** *What is your experience, specialized legal expertise, accomplishments and judicial philosophy on the practice of law? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What measures would you propose to reduce court congestion and delays? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *NYS Chief Judges past and present have proposed changes to consolidate the maze of supreme, family, surrogate surrogate, housing and county courts, as well as the court of claims, which hears lawsuits against the state, into a more orderly two- or three-tiered system. If elected, what would you propose for streamlining and modernization of the NYS Court System? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *How would you balance the need for judicial independence with the need to raise campaign funds? Would you, for example, accept contributions from attorneys who may appear before you? (Answers exceeding the 100 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Oliver N. Blaise III

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

#### Questions:

**Q:** *What is your experience, specialized legal expertise, accomplishments and judicial philosophy on the practice of law? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

## Oliver N. Blaise III, continued.

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What measures would you propose to reduce court congestion and delays? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

**Q:** *NYS Chief Judges past and present have proposed changes to consolidate the maze of supreme, family, surrogate surrogate, housing and county courts, as well as the court of claims, which hears lawsuits against the state, into a more orderly two- or three-tiered system. If elected, what would you propose for streamlining and modernization of the NYS Court System? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *How would you balance the need for judicial independence with the need to raise campaign funds? Would you, for example, accept contributions from attorneys who may appear before you? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Pete Charnetsky

**Party:** Dem



### Biographical Info:

**City/Town of Residence:** Vestal, New York

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** None

**Education:** AAS from Ulster Community College in Criminal Justice BS from Clarkson College in Sociology and Psychology MSW from Florida State University JD from Stetson University College of Law

**Experience and Qualifications:** Served for 10 years as a Family Court Judge and 9 of those years i was also an Acting Supreme Court Justice. My duties as an Acting Supreme Court Justice included presiding over the Integrated Domestic Violence Court and resolving contested and uncontested divorces and foreclosures.

## Pete Charnetsky, continued.

As a Family Court Judge I presided over custody and visitation, adoption, neglect and abuse and juvenile delinquency matters. As an attorney I have represented children as an Attorney for The Child in Supreme Court.

**Civic Involvement:** I am currently a Board member of Crime Victims Assistance Center and ACCORD. I am a judge for the High School Mock Trial Competition and have coached youth sports in the past.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 743-1840

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** petecharnetskyforsupremecourt@gmail.com

**Facebook:** petecharnetskyforsupremecourt

### Questions:

**Q:** *What is your experience, specialized legal expertise, accomplishments and judicial philosophy on the practice of law? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I served as a Broome County Family Court Judge for 10 years. During my term, I was also an Acting Supreme Court Justice for 9 years. As an Acting Supreme Court Justice, I presided over the Integrated Domestic Violence Court, contested and uncontested matrimonial matters and foreclosures. As a Family Court Judge, I presided over matters regarding custody and visitation, adoption, neglect and abuse, juvenile delinquency and persons in need of supervision. These matters were resolved in various ways, either through stipulation or during a fact finding hearing. My current practice includes representation of children in Family Court for custody matters and in Supreme Court in matrimonial matters as an Attorney for The Child. I also appear in Supreme Court for contested and uncontested matrimonials, contract actions and matters regarding property disputes. If elected, I will continue with the same judicial temperament and work ethic that I developed as a Family Court Judge.

**Q:** *What measures would you propose to reduce court congestion and delays? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** As a Family Court Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice, I worked diligently to resolve matters in a timely fashion. I strived to meet the Standards and Goals established by the Office of Court Administration. As an elected Supreme Court Justice, I would continue to strive to resolve matters in a timely fashion. Maintaining docket control is a necessity. Reviewing the status of each pending matter on a weekly basis with chambers staff would provide an excellent procedure for docket control. I would meet with attorneys and unrepresented parties in a timely manner. I would make myself available to attorneys and unrepresented parties on an as needed basis. As the case progresses, I would hold conferences to monitor the status and ensure that any issues that may cause a delay are resolved in an expeditious fashion. Finally, when the matter is resolved by a trial or hearing, I would review the pleadings and testimony in an expedited manner and render a timely decision.

**Q:** *NYS Chief Judges past and present have proposed changes to consolidate the maze of supreme, family, surrogate surrogate, housing and county courts, as well as the court of claims, which hears lawsuits against the state, into a more orderly two- or three-tiered system. If elected, what would you propose for streamlining and modernization of the NYS Court System? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I have had the opportunity to practice in and observe the court structure of another state when I practiced in Florida. Florida has a two tier trial court system consisting of Circuit Courts and County Courts. The jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts consisted of all criminal felony matters and all civil matters including divorces, family court matters and probate matters and litigation involving claims of over \$15,000. The County Courts resolved criminal misdemeanor matters, vehicle and traffic matters and civil litigation with claims under \$15,000. This court structure was "user friendly" for all, attorneys and unrepresented parties. A majority of the civil matters would be addressed in the same courthouse, and, more importantly, by the same judge. Florida's court structure is extremely efficient and easily accessible for everyone involved in the system. When the New York State legislature addresses the current court structure in our state, I certainly hope they look to the Stat

**Q:** *How would you balance the need for judicial independence with the need to raise campaign funds? Would you, for example, accept contributions from attorneys who may appear before you? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** New York State has taken the initial steps to resolving the issue of campaign financing. The legislature recently enacted a provision to provide up to \$100 million in public financing for political candidates.

## Pete Charnetsky, continued.

The Public Financing of Elections Commission has been established to determine how these funds will be administered. Currently, for judicial campaigns, judicial candidates can not personally solicit campaign contributions. Additionally, judicial candidates can not be informed of who is contributing to their campaigns. There are some current procedures in place to minimize the impact of contributions, and contributors, upon the judicial candidate. However, there are some faults to the current system. Extending the public financing to judicial campaigns would provide additional protections for the need for judicial independence. The committees for the judicial candidate would no longer need to raise funds for the candidate, from lawyers and other individuals, and would eli

## Mark Masler

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

### Questions:

**Q:** *What is your experience, specialized legal expertise, accomplishments and judicial philosophy on the practice of law? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What measures would you propose to reduce court congestion and delays? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *NYS Chief Judges past and present have proposed changes to consolidate the maze of supreme, family, surrogate surrogate, housing and county courts, as well as the court of claims, which hears lawsuits against the state, into a more orderly two- or three-tiered system. If elected, what would you propose for streamlining and modernization of the NYS Court System? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *How would you balance the need for judicial independence with the need to raise campaign funds? Would you, for example, accept contributions from attorneys who may appear before you? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

# Claudette Newman



**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Gilbertsville, New York

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Butternuts Town Justice

**Education:** Albany Law School - Juris Doctorate. Binghamton University - BA.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Town Justice, Town of Butternuts, 2012-Present. Chenango County Court Attorney, 2019-Present. Principal Law Clerk in Supreme Court, 2018. Principal Law Clerk to Justice Kevin M. Dowd, (retired), 1999-2017. Chenango County Court Attorney, 1996-1998. Private practice, 1994-1996. Wide legal knowledge from work in Supreme Court for 19 years. Experience dealing with attorneys, courts and their staffs throughout the 6th Judicial District. Judicial experience as Town Justice.

**Civic Involvement:** Chenango County Bar Assoc-President, past President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Del-Chen-O Chapter of Women's Bar Assoc. of State of NY- Founding Member. New York State Bar-Member. Otsego Bar Assoc- Member. NYS High School Mock Trial Tournament, Attorney Advisor, former County Coordinator.

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://claudetteforsupremecourt.com>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [claudettenewmanforsupremecourt@gmail.com](mailto:claudettenewmanforsupremecourt@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Justice Claudette Newman

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What is your experience, specialized legal expertise, accomplishments and judicial philosophy on the practice of law? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** My judicial philosophy is simple—I believe everyone who comes before the court should be treated equally and with respect. Everyone deserves to be heard. I have had the unique opportunity to practice and work in every trial court in New York, except the Court of Claims. That means I have experience in and knowledge of the Supreme Court, County Court, Family Court, Surrogate's Court and the Justice Courts. While the majority of my legal experience has been working in the court system, I was in private practice early in my career. I know how the courts works from the Town Level up to the Supreme Court and Appellate Division. My time behind the bench has given me a unique perspective on how the court should work.

## Claudette Newman, continued.

Town Justice, Town of Butternuts, 2012-Present Chenango County Court Attorney, 2019-Present Principal Law Clerk in Supreme Court, 2018 Principal Law Clerk to Justice Kevin M. Dowd, (retired), 1999-2017 Chenango County Court Attorney, 1996-1998 Private practice, 1994-1996

**Q:** *What measures would you propose to reduce court congestion and delays? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** The Courts should not be afraid to try new things, whether it is new technology or new procedures. Being open and willing to give things a chance is much more productive than clinging to the past. For example, while many scoffed at the idea, I fully supported e-filing of court documents. It lowers the cost of litigation, saves resources and allows for access from virtually anywhere. I have always tried to keep an open mind and give change a chance. In my Town Court, I have already embraced new procedures such as: A centralized arraignment part where both client attorneys and public defenders attend even if after hours. Diversion programs to clear dockets and get offenders the real help they need. On-line and credit card payments for fines and working with defendants to pay over time.

**Q:** *NYS Chief Judges past and present have proposed changes to consolidate the maze of supreme, family, surrogate surrogate, housing and county courts, as well as the court of claims, which hears lawsuits against the state, into a more orderly two- or three-tiered system. If elected, what would you propose for streamlining and modernization of the NYS Court System? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** The NYS Court System is far behind in both streamlining and modernizing itself. Until major structural changes are made, there is still opportunity for improvement. It is the duty of each Judge to find the technology, programs and procedures that can help litigants and attorneys have better access to justice in New York State. Easy changes that can save money and lead to the more efficient use of resources are: Presumptive Mediation to try to resolve cases early in the process. E-filing to make access to the Courts easier. Phone conferences to reduce expenses for litigants. Communication between Courts regarding concurrent jurisdiction to prevent forum shopping by litigants. Utilization of scanning and shared drives to allow access to cases anywhere in the Courts.

**Q:** *How would you balance the need for judicial independence with the need to raise campaign funds? Would you, for example, accept contributions from attorneys who may appear before you? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I do not think that judicial independence and campaign fundraising cancel each other out. I stand by the Judicial Ethics Commission's guidelines on how candidates are to raise funds. I've never looked at my filings. I have no knowledge of who has contributed to my campaign. In terms of accepting contributions from

attorneys who may appear before me in Supreme Court—the active word here is may. There are many attorneys who never appear in Court, but still recognize the importance of having experienced and knowledgeable judges, and donate accordingly. As a Principal Law Clerk in the 6th Judicial District for 19 years, I know many of the lawyers who practice in Court now. They know that I am independent and uphold the cannons and the ethics of the Court. Any of their contributions to my campaign are an affirmation of how I did my job as Judge Kevin Dowd's (retired) Principal Law Clerk and of how I will do my job once I am on the bench.

## Broome County District Attorney

Description:

Vote for 1

Term is 4 years

Salary: \$200,400 (Tentative 2020 Broome County Budget)

The Broome County District Attorney's Office represents the People of the State of New York in all criminal proceedings, which include traffic penal law violations, misdemeanors and felonies. In each case, the prosecution must (1) determine what happened by gathering the facts and evidence; (2) determine what criminal offense, if any, were committed; (3) decide whether criminal prosecution is warranted, if criminal offenses were committed and (4) insure that the prosecution is conducted fairly and completely if prosecution is warranted.

## F. Paul Battisti

**Party:** Rep

### Biographical Info:

#### Questions:

**Q:** *What you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to District Attorney? To what extent has your past experience included criminal law?(Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *New NYS criminal justice legislation measures go into effect January 2020 eliminating money bail and pretrial detention for nearly all misdemeanor and nonviolent felony cases. What do you see as its potential implications in Broome County? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What programs might you directly propose or support for alternatives to incarceration/restorative justice in Broome County? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Debra Gelson



**Party:** Dem, WF

### Biographical Info:

**City/Town of Residence:** Vestal, NY

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** N/A

**Education:** I graduated from Barker High School in the Class of 1976. Upon graduating from high school I attended the University of Rochester graduating in the Class of 1980. After finishing my Bachelor of Arts degree having studied History and Political Science, I attended the University of Toledo College of Law. I graduated from law school in the Class of 1983.

**Experience and Qualifications:** My 35+ years of legal experience has provided me with the proper qualifications to serve as your next District Attorney. As a defense attorney, I have protected the rights of the falsely accused, as a judge I have decided the fate of the convicted, and as a prosecutor I have put away some of the most violent criminals who have committed violent offenses, especially those committed against women and children.

**Civic Involvement:** I am proud to sit on the Board of Directors for RISE. RISE is a local community organization who's "mission is to assist families who experience, or are threatened with domestic violence and to increase the community's awareness of this pervasive problem." ([rise-ny.org/mission](http://rise-ny.org/mission))

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 727-4510

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://gelsonforda.com>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [gelsonforda@gmail.com](mailto:gelsonforda@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/gelsonforda/>

**Twitter:** @gelsonforda

## Debra Gelson, continued.

### Questions:

**Q:** *What you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to District Attorney? To what extent has your past experience included criminal law?(Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** Over the past 35 years, I have worked as a judge, an assistant DA, a public defender, a victim advocate, and a trial attorney. Through the experience that I have gained working within all sides of our legal system, I have acquired a well-rounded understanding of how the criminal justice system operates. I am proven leader, having been the director of one of the first Sex Crimes and Child Abuse units in the nation. I am proud to have implemented programs into the criminal justice system that effectively gave victims a bigger role in putting away their abusers, empowering them to go from victims, to survivors, to thrivers. I am also proud to be skilled in Title VIII and Title IX, as well as being an approved 18 B counsel. I have also served as a civil commitment judge, working with social justice initiatives for 6 six years in state psychiatric hospitals. I am a career criminal attorney, and have always worked in criminal law.

**Q:** *New NYS criminal justice legislation measures go into effect January 2020 eliminating money bail and pretrial detention for nearly all misdemeanor and nonviolent felony cases. What do you see as its potential implications in Broome County? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** As your next District Attorney, I will use my experience as a criminal justice innovator, to successfully and effectively implement the criminal justice reforms that eliminate money bail and pretrial detention for nearly all misdemeanor and nonviolent felony cases. Being the only candidate in the race for DA who has ever implemented criminal justice reforms into the criminal justice system before, you can be sure that if I am

elected that the new NYS criminal justice measures will be properly executed. I believe that these reforms are positive, and are a step forward in the right direction for our community. It's time that we stop sending nonviolent offenders to jail prior to conviction. We need to be allocating our resources towards the root causes of why people are going to jail to prevent them from ever going there in the first place.

**Q:** *What programs might you directly propose or support for alternatives to incarceration/restorative justice in Broome County? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** I believe that through offering alternatives to incarceration such as drug courts and mental health courts, as well as other diversionary programs that we can make a great impact on how many people are being sent to the Broome County Jail. Putting people in jail who suffer from mental health issues or substance use disorders does not solve the problem. By providing these individuals with options other than incarceration, we can keep them in their communities, with their families, at their jobs, and contributing to the economy.

## Michael A. Korchak



# Michael A. Korchak, continued.

**Party:** Lib

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Endwell, Town of Union

**Education:** Fordham Prep High School. College of the Holy Cross. Pace University School of Law.

**Experience and Qualifications:** As a career felony trial attorney, I have taken more than 100 felony (high crimes) trials "to verdict"—fourteen of them for murder. 21 Years Felony Prosecutor 2016-Present Chief Assistant District Attorney, Broome County DA's Office 1996-2007 Senior Assistant District Attorney, Broome County DA's Office 1989-1995 Assistant District Attorney, Bronx County DA's Office 2015 Town of Union Judge 2007 - 2015 Private Practice Criminal Defense and Family Law. Law Guardian for Children

**Civic Involvement:** Active involvement at St. Michael's Church. Church Governing Board. Community Youth Sports Coach. Orphanage Charity work.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 238-3353

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.MikeKorchak.com>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [korchakforda@gmail.com](mailto:korchakforda@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Mike Korchak for District Attorney

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to District Attorney? To what extent has your past experience included criminal law?(Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** I have been a prosecutor for 21 years and an attorney for 30. I served as an Assistant DA for 7 years in the Bronx County DA's Office where I developed my skills as a trial attorney. Since 1996 I have prosecuted some of the most heinous criminals in Broome County. Murders, drug dealers, child molesters including the first Murder 1st Degree conviction ever in Broome County with a sentence of Life without Parole. This one of the 14 murder cases and over 100 serious felonies cases I have taken to trial. The job of DA is to evaluate cases, train younger attorneys, take difficult cases to trial and achieve justice for victims. Only with the valuable experience of working with law enforcement and protecting victims, as I have done for over two decades, can a determination be made as to how a case should be resolved with a just result for all. I believe that my 30 years of experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney and judge in Broome County make me the best candidate for DA.

**Q:** *New NYS criminal justice legislation measures go into effect January 2020 eliminating money bail and pretrial detention for nearly all misdemeanor and nonviolent felony cases. What do you see as its potential implications in Broome County? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** The DA has begun to address the new bail reform law by having a Senior ADA review the list of individuals who are incarcerated in the jail, to determine if bail if necessary or if that person is simply unable to afford bail. If this is the case, and the person is not a risk of flight, the DA will request that the judge release that individual until his /her next court date. Bail reform will mean that a person charged with most misdemeanors or non-violent felony offenses will not be incarcerated. Exceptions include domestic violence, criminal contempt, and some sex offenses. More individuals will be placed in the Dept. of Probation's Pretrial Release Program which is an alternative to incarceration. This will be an additional burden on our understaffed Probation Dept. The DA's Office is currently preparing for this change in bail legislation, as well as, new Discovery laws that also begin Jan 1st. The Legislature makes the law. The job of the DA is to follow the law.

**Q:** *What programs might you directly propose or support for alternatives to incarceration/restorative justice in Broome County? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** As current Chief ADA, the office has implemented several programs as alternatives to incarceration. Drug Court has been expanded to accept more participants. The TAP program (Treatment Alternative to Prosecution) has been instituted where individuals who commit non-violent offences enter treatment and if successful, have their charges dismissed. The DA's Office has implemented a Workforce Program for young adults. Together with Workforce New York and CareerBound participants receive job training, learn interview skills and are placed in an employment opportunity. The non-violent charges that brought them to the program are then dismissed. These alternative programs that were started under the current administration, along with the recently enacted "Raise the Age" legislation, have significantly reduced the number of persons in jail and have created opportunities for them to become productive members of the community.

# Binghamton City Council

## Binghamton City Council District 2

### Description:

**Vote for 1**

**Term is 4 years.**

**Salary: \$10,160 (effective 2020)**

Responsibilities include adoption of the annual tax budget. The City Council shall meet as a committee of the whole to review and vote on each budget item, each page or group of pages...

Other responsibilities can include, among others, acting upon new or existing local laws, ordinances or resolutions, or any other papers to be presented to the Council.

## Daniel Livingston



**Party:** Dem

### Biographical Info:

**City/Town of Residence:** Binghamton

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Binghamton City Councilmember, District 2

**Education:** 2007, Marlboro College, BA Political Theory, Senior Thesis in Civic Engagement NYSDRA (New York State Dispute Resolution Association) Certified Mediator—2001-2008

**Experience and Qualifications:** Principal with WholeShare.com Co-founder, VINES' Binghamton Urban Farm 2 Terms of Service with AmeriCorps (Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, CHOW)

**Civic Involvement:** Team Lead - US Department of Agriculture LFPP Grant Review - 2017, 2018 North Country Food Hub Project - 2013-2016 Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's Agriculture Working Group - 2013 and 2014 Sessions Vice Chair - City of Binghamton's Community Development Advisory Committee - 2012

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 238-3363

**Campaign Web Site:**

[http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCumeUwMngvZHMwzqGTNcLJQ?view\\_as=subscriber](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCumeUwMngvZHMwzqGTNcLJQ?view_as=subscriber)

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** danforbing@gmail.com

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/danforbing](http://www.facebook.com/danforbing)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/binghamtondan](http://www.twitter.com/binghamtondan)

# Daniel Livingston, continued.

## Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** The role of a City Councilmember is to provide fiscal oversight of City Hall, and to serve as a sort of customer service representative for the residents of their district. Too often over the years, the City Council has broken - on partisan lines - either in support or opposition to a Mayor of their party. For City Hall to operate effectively, the City Council needs to serve as an oversight mechanism for City Hall, and the public needs to be engaged at a basic level in the business of City Hall. Since taking office in January, I have provided a pathway for oversight and accountability in City Hall to be more timely and effective; I have filmed and broadcast meetings inside City Hall, and at the Sewage Treatment Plant so that the press and members of the public can keep up with business being conducted on their behalf; I have shared public documents on social media that help residents to understand what City Hall is doing. I will continue to ensure that this civic engagement continues

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** The governance and oversight of the Sewage Treatment Plant. This is the most significant locally managed construction project in a generation, and the burden of its cost will be carried by residents for the next twenty years. If we fail to deliver a quality functioning project to the ratepayers, then we will be paying for that failure for decades-to-come. Oversight and accountability is critical at this final stage of construction, and we need a City Council that has the will to act independently, ask tough questions, and work together to ensure that these private contractors deliver the facility that was promised. We need to address the longstanding issues with the governance structure of the facility. The problems that we have experienced over the years with the governance of our sewage treatment facility make us the exception, and not the rule. We can look to other communities in our region, and around the country to identify best practices, and reform our board structure.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** People often see the police department as the way that a city addresses crime, when in reality the police department primarily addresses criminality. It is the role of the City Council and Mayor to dig deep and address the root causes of crime in the city, and to take some of the burden off of law enforcement. Ensuring that safe, quality, affordable housing is abundant in the city will reduce the pressure on families to move, which results in children moving from one school to another and breaking the ties they form with their peers and teachers; reestablishing the city's youth bureau and funding it to ensure that young people in our city have enrichment activities available to them, and positive role models for them to learn from; treating home-ownership as a pathway out of poverty, and a means by which residents become fully vested in the community. In the short-term, alleviating the worst impacts of poverty. Long-term, breaking the generational cycle of poverty in our community.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Strongly Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** The construction at the plant is 2 years late on delivery, almost \$200 Million over-budget, and incurring \$15k monthly fines. The startup of this newly renovated facility is not magic, and it's not automatic; it takes a lot of work from a highly-skilled and highly-dedicated local workforce who has been operating the facility for decades. At this critical time - when our facility is being brought online, and while we're in the midst of a construction project - it would be reckless to attempt to transform the workforce at the plant. Right now, we need the same workforce that carried our community through two catastrophic floods to carry us the rest of the way into a facility that we have invested a tremendous amount of time and money into improving. Contracting with a private company at this point, before we even know what it costs to operate this facility, could very well result in higher sewer rates, as has been the case for countless communities around the country.

## Daniel Livingston, continued.

**Q:** Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** With the out-dated and complicated tax code our city has, PILOT agreements end up being one of the few ways that large-scale development can make financial sense for developers. We need to work to reform our city's tax code so that businesses and developers can invest in our city without seeking public handouts.

**Q:** What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** I would work with the Broome County Safe Housing Taskforce to adapt some of their recommendations, such as Inclusionary Zoning and Proactive Code Enforcement to the City of Binghamton. Because the taskforce is comprised of such a broad base of stakeholders, community members, government and elected officials they are uniquely positioned to provide recommendations to our city that can best help us improve and create housing that is quality, safe and affordable.

## Sophia Resciniti



**Party:** Lib

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Binghamton NY

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Candidate for Binghamton City Council, District 2

**Education:** Masters In Social Work Licensed Clinical Social Worker Trauma Therapist

**Experience and Qualifications:** LCSW-Lecturer at Binghamton University's Masters of Social Work Program. LMSW- worked with Women and Children of Domestic Violence and facilitated mandated Batterers groups. LCSW- Provided support and services to clients and families dealing with end of life issues. LCSW- Former Director of Field Education at Binghamton University's MSW program. Former City Council Member -2018

**Civic Involvement:** Children's Home Board Member. Broome County Community Mental Health Assessment Committee Member. Former Red Cross Mental Health Team Member.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 323-7135

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** Sophia.Resciniti@gmail.com

**Facebook:** Facebook.com/Sophia.Resciniti

# Sophia Resciniti, continued.

## Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** I am a longtime West Side homeowner, social worker, Binghamton University lecturer and proud mother of four. I served on City Council in 2018 after being unanimously appointed to fill the District 2 vacancy. On Council, I fought for tax relief for homeowners, greater investments in public safety and upgrades to infrastructure and City parks, among other things. I am a lecturer in Binghamton University's Department of Social Work, where I previously served as the department's Director of Field Education. My husband, Paul, owns and operates a small business on the West Side. I'm running for City Council because I care deeply about the community where my husband and I raised our family, and I want to see it thrive for generations to come. I believe I am the only candidate with the necessary experience – both personal and professional – to get results on the issues that truly matter to West Side residents.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and ,if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** The most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton is determining how we grow and sustain the types of neighborhoods where current and future generations want to live. To address this, we should focus on three main priorities: public safety, taxes and blight. First, we need to make sure our police and fire departments have the resources they need to keep residents safe, including staffing, training and technology. Next, we must continue to work on lowering property taxes, providing long-needed relief to homeowners and ensuring that families looking to buy new homes in our area aren't deterred by unreasonable tax rates. And last, we need to crack down on blight in our neighborhoods, increasing penalties for landlords and providing City Code officers with the resources they need to do their jobs effectively. In addition to eliminating eyesores, this also means improving housing conditions so that no family or individual is made to live in dangerous or substandard conditions.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I am the only candidate for City Council's 2nd District to receive the endorsement of Binghamton's public safety unions, including the Binghamton Police Benevolent Association. Our public safety professionals know that keeping our neighborhoods safe has been one of my top priorities since day one. That starts with making sure the Police Department has the resources it needs to do its job well and protect the residents they serve. As a City Council member, I voted to invest in new equipment and training for officers, and I supported a critical overhaul of police headquarters that was long overdue. I support hiring more officers and increasing proactive neighborhood patrols, and I will fight for more resources for the City's drug task force and crime prevention efforts.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Neither Support or Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Management of the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant is a complex issue, and as a City Council member, I would thoroughly review each potential proposal, listen to all stakeholders and support the plan that is in ratepayers' best interest. City of Binghamton residents have faced skyrocketing sewer rates for too long as projects at the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant have stretched on. Every elected official should have the residents' best interest in mind on this matter, not only when it comes to rates but also the environmental factors that have the potential to affect every resident.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers.(Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Decisions about PILOTs should be made on a case-by-case basis. While some have the potential to benefit taxpayers and incentivize development that's good for the City, others simply don't make sense and aren't in the best interest of residents. For example, I do not support PILOTs for student housing, which is already approaching or at the oversaturation mark in Binghamton.

## Sophia Resciniti, continued.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Creating and maintaining safe, affordable housing is a top priority City-wide, including on the West Side, where many older residential properties have slipped into disrepair and some residents find themselves living in substandard conditions. First, I will support new affordable housing development across Binghamton, in the form of both new construction and rehabilitation. Next, I will work to make sure Code officers have the necessary resources to hold bad landlords accountable. I will also push for the expansion of the City's Senior Home Repair Program and First-Time Homebuyer Program. The former enables older longtime homeowners to make critical and often costly repairs to their homes, helping them stay in their homes longer and maintain their properties. The latter helps first-time homeowners with the costs of purchasing homes in our community, increasing access to quality housing for low- and moderate-income families and promoting new investment in our neighborhoods.

## Binghamton City Council District 3

**Description:**

Vote for 1

Term is 4 years.

**Salary: \$10,160 (effective 2020)**

Responsibilities include adoption of the annual tax budget. The City Council shall meet as a committee of the whole to review and vote on each budget item, each page, or group of pages...

Other responsibilities can include, among others, acting upon new or existing local laws, ordinances or resolutions, or any other papers to be presented to the Council.

## Shawn Atkinson

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Shawn Atkinson

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Angela Riley



**Party:** Dem, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Binghamton

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** N/A

**Education:** Texas Southern University, BS Pharmacy Midwestern University, PharmD

**Experience and Qualifications:** Executive Director and Asst. Dean, Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Office of Experiential Education March 2016 to Present PGY-2 Geriatrics Residency Preceptor, Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Pharmacy Practice July 2017 to Present

**Civic Involvement:** Member, Broome County Office for Aging Advisory Board 2019 to present Member, The Community Foundation for South Central New York-Women's Fund Leadership Committee 2019 to present President, Apalachin Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 2017 to 2019 Member, BSCD Strategic Planning & Patriot Ambassador Committees Member, National Partnership for Action, Region II Health Equity Council (RHEC II) 2017 to 2019 BCSD-West Middle School PTSA Treasurer, 2017 to November 2019 Membership Chair, 2016-2017 Increased membership by 48% over the prior year • Member, BCSD-Horace Mann Booster Club, February 2016 to August 2017

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 205-8362

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** FriendsOfAngelaRiley@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfAngelaRiley/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/friendsofariley>

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** As an engaged community member and educator, I bring a deep and diverse set of experiences to my Binghamton City Council candidacy—and the values to unite Binghamton as one. Since joining the community as the Executive Director of Experiential Education and Assistant Dean at the Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, I have embedded myself throughout the Binghamton community and made an impact as a PTSA leader, Broome County Task Force member, and School District Strategic Planning volunteer. Today, I am running to enhance transformative and transparent leadership that unites our district and city.

## Angela Riley, continued.

With my strong background in public schools, healthcare, and community engagement, I will ensure that City Council truly represents Binghamton's needs through lasting, inclusive practices that serve and involve everyone, regardless of race, age, disability, economic or housing status.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** One of the most critical issues facing Binghamton is poverty and safe affordable housing. As a member of council, I will work to ensure safe and affordable housing—not only by upholding code enforcement but also by expanding first-time homeownership through new city partnerships. I will build stronger community and law enforcement relations and expand beautification programs because every Binghamton family deserves a secure and welcoming place to call home. I believe access to resources and support are the key to addressing our issues. I have a strong passion for adult education which extends beyond the classroom, and as a City Councilmember, I will work with municipal agencies to provide increased support for small business development. I will also work to provide programs to help job seekers gain access to advancement training, networking, and other vocational support.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Crime, faced by many cities, is a result of several underlying concerns. "POVERTY," wrote Aristotle, "is the parent of crime." The literature has demonstrated that people living in households that have an income level below the Federal poverty threshold have more than double the rates of violent victimization compared to individuals in high-income households. Similarly, when people live in homes that are struggling with poverty, they also have a higher rate of violence that involves a firearm. To address this problem, we must again recognize the poverty facing our city. Focused efforts to address poverty through access to services and supports, e.g., childcare, transportation, jobs, will directly impact one's ability to survive and lead to reduced crime overall. We must also build stronger community and law enforcement relations. "Household Poverty and Nonfatal Violent Victimization, 2008-2012." Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=51>

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Strongly Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Currently, the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant, led by several dedicated employees, is working to address long-standing issues to prevent fines by the Department of Environmental Conservation. However, this project has seen several delays and is growing in proposed cost to address the problems. Until the ratepayers, concerned residents of Binghamton, are able to fully review and understand the project timeline and potential costs to bring the plant into compliance, we should not proceed with privatization. Similarly, the privatization process should be transparent, allowing a full review of the submitted bids, plans, and proposals, by the ratepayers.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Payment in Lieu of Taxes has been a method to encourage economic development and support and attract industrial or commercial property development in our city. However, these agreements cost the city because it decreases the amount of taxable property for a local government, particularly if the property is deteriorated and vacant. As the number of tax-exempt properties increases, the burden is placed upon owners of taxable properties to support and sustain city services. We need to work with the developers to find alternative funding options.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

## Angela Riley, continued.

**A:** As a member of City Council, I would work closely with the Broome County Safe Housing Task Force, to ensure we are working together to address the needs of our city. This group of department representatives, community leaders, and local housing experts bring various experiences and skillsets together to recommend policies and guidance to ensure stable and affordable housing in Broome County, which can be adapted and implemented in our city. Proposals and advice obtained from this task force would include membership and participation on the Fair Housing Advisory Board, as well as address top priorities such as Inclusionary Zoning, Landlord Engagement, and Code Enforcement.

## Binghamton City Council District 4

### Description:

**Vote for 1**

Term is 4 years.

**Salary: \$10,160 (effective 2020)**

Responsibilities include adoption of the annual tax budget. The City Council shall meet as a committee of the whole to review and vote on each budget item, each page, or group of pages...

Other responsibilities can include, among others, acting upon new or existing local laws, ordinances or resolutions, or any other papers to be presented to the Council.

## John Cordisco

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

#### Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers.(Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond

# Aviva Friedman



**Party:** Dem, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Binghamton

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Democratic City Committee Representative for ED 8

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies, minor in Sociocultural Anthropology from Binghamton University (2014)

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have been involved in politics since graduating from college, working behind the scenes on campaigns ranging from local, to state, to national. I have been a community advocate and organizer since high school, consistently organizing educational events, town halls, rallies, food drives, voter registration drives, and workshops.

**Civic Involvement:** I sit on the regional and state boards of Citizen Action, a grassroots organization working for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice. I am also a representative on the Democratic City Committee.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 444-2645

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** avivaforbing@gmail.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/avivaforbing

**Twitter:** twitter.com/avivaforbing

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** I came to Binghamton in 2010 to pursue higher education at Binghamton University, and now, almost 10 years later, I'm still here! I fell in love with the city because there is so much personality and potential here. I would be a perfect fit to represent district 4, which spans downtown and the north side of Binghamton (which have high student and full-time resident populations, respectively), because I have experienced the perspective of both being a university student and a full-time local resident. What drives me is working toward a just and equitable world, which involves amplifying the voices that are not typically represented in politics. I promise to bring new energy and new vision to our city. I look forward to continuing this conversation, and I can't wait to be your City Council representative!

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and ,if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I believe that the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton is the disparity in wealth distribution. We see pockets of Binghamton which receive funding to be developed and remodeled, but this often comes at the expense of other neighborhoods.

## Aviva Friedman, continued.

While I believe that development and renovation are good things which benefit the city greatly, it is imperative that these are done mindfully so that we do not contribute to gentrification. As a member of City Council, I would ensure that for every luxury housing complex that is built, there is also an equal number of affordable, market-rate or subsidized housing units. I would also seek out grants to allow us to invest in other neighborhoods so that all of our community can benefit from updated and repaired infrastructure.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** In order to reduce crime, we must look at the root causes of crime. Poverty and lack of mental health services are two major causes of crime. If we can bring economic relief and job opportunities to our community, we reduce desperation. If we have effective re-entry programs for members of our community who are leaving jail, there are opportunities for those people to get back on their feet. I also believe that we need to take a hard look at what we criminalize. One way to address crime is to reevaluate what is actually harmful to our community. For example, sending people to jail when they are suffering from substance use disorder causes more harm because it breaks up families and support systems. If we treat those with mental health or substance use issues with compassion and provide services to help rather than punish, crime decreases drastically.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** There are many reasons to oppose the privatization of the Sewage Treatment Plant. We need to keep the plant accountable to the public. It is beneficial to our community to employ local, unionized laborers, which a private company will not do, as a for-profit company will cut corners to maximize profit. A private company is currently responsible for the plant renovations falling behind schedule and costing millions of dollars over budget, and the fines from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. We need accountability and transparency with our sewage plant, which a private company will not provide.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I believe that certain PILOT agreements benefit the city. PILOTS ensure that charitable or tax-exempt organizations can exist in our community without significant financial strain. However, since a PILOT agreement typically results in less revenue than would be collected from regular taxes, I do not believe that a for-profit or private business should have a PILOT agreement.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I would heed the recommendations from the Safe Housing Task Force which they explained at a Housing Public Forum earlier this year, which included the following: prioritizing and codifying protections for tenants, including source of income protection, eviction prevention, and inclusionary zoning (ensuring that there are housing units for low-income renters), and performing pro-active rather than reactive code enforcement. I would also propose home ownership classes and programs/grants to help people become home owners locally.

# Binghamton City Council District 5

## Description:

Vote for 1

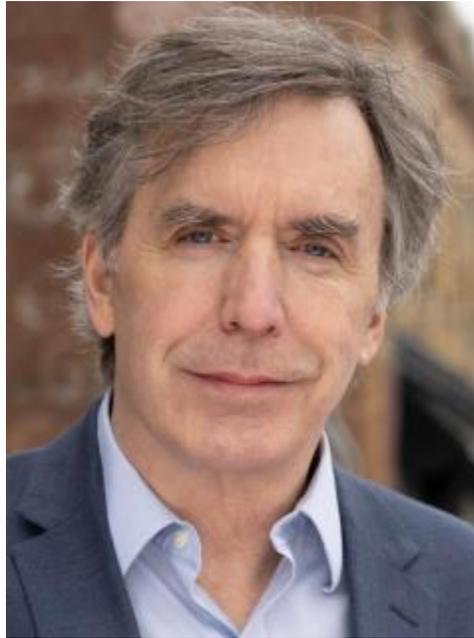
Term is 4 years.

**Salary: \$10,160 (effective 2020)**

Responsibilities include adoption of the annual tax budget. The City Council shall meet as a committee of the whole to review and vote on each budget item, each page or group of pages...

Other responsibilities can include, among others, acting upon new or existing local laws, ordinances or resolutions, or any other papers to be presented to the Council.

## Joe Burns



**Party:** Dem

### Biographical Info:

**City/Town of Residence:** City of Binghamton, New York

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** First-time candidate

**Education:** Catholic Central High School, Class of '72

**Experience and Qualifications:** Joe is retired from a career in film and television that spans over 25 years as a Directors Guild of America Assistant Director. Joe worked as an assistant director for Martin Scorsese, Oliver Stone, Robert De Niro, Ron Howard and many others. His film credits include JFK, A Bronx Tale, A Beautiful Mind, Die Hard with a Vengeance, as well as other major films and television series. Joe kept productions on-time and on-budget. See full details at: [www.imdb.com/name/nm0122722/#assistant\\_director](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0122722/#assistant_director)

**Civic Involvement:** Joe's local affiliations include current memberships to the Southside Neighborhood Assembly and the Board of Directors for the Southern Tier Independence Center.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 725-2115

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [BurnsforBinghamton@gmail.com](mailto:BurnsforBinghamton@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/JoeBurnsforCityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/JoeBurnsforCityCouncil)

### Questions:

**Q:** Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)

**A:** My roots in Binghamton go back six generations. I love this city, its people and its history. That is why I care so much about its future. We all share in the responsibility of making Binghamton a great place to grow up, raise a family, work or run a business, and retire. Serving on City Council is an opportunity to give back to a place that has given so much to me and those I love. My goals in my first term are to make to the city better for its current businesses and homeowners, and to attract new ones. I would like to see the renewed vitality of downtown extend into our neighborhoods. The way forward is to keep Binghamton safe and affordable. I will work hard to see that happen as a member of City Council.

## Joe Burns, continued.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** In my view, there is no greater priority than the safety and security of our communities. My pledge if elected includes increased neighborhood safety; toughened code enforcement; and strong support for our first responders. When your city is safe, it promotes economic growth for businesses and quality of life for residents. Public safety also affects property values, and hence, impacts the personal wealth of local homeowners and retirees.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Our first responders put their lives on the line everyday to keep us safe. We should ensure they have the tools and resources necessary to lower Binghamton's crime rates and provide 21st century law enforcement. This should include investments in surveillance technology, data-driven policing, equipment upgrades, updates in training and tactics, recruitment of minorities and women, crime prevention, and greater collaboration with the community.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Strongly Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** The public has not been given sufficient time and information to properly evaluate this issue. The City of Binghamton and the Village of Johnson City should hit the reset button and bring all the stakeholders to the table to work on developing a coherent plan that addresses the problems at the plant going forward. Plant employees have clearly demonstrated their commitment to working with municipal leaders and the plant board in good faith to correct operational issues and improve practices identified in the course of examining the question of privatization.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Our city continues to face serious challenges attracting investment and retaining sufficient population to support our tax base and provide city services. I support the prudent use of PILOTs when no other meaningful incentives are available, and where a clear benefit exists for the taxpayers. The details of a PILOT are what distinguish a good agreement from a bad one. This is why transparency and accountability are so vital to the process of providing tax exemptions for the purpose of economic development.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Safe and affordable housing starts with safe and affordable neighborhoods. We need a comprehensive approach to our city's housing needs that goes beyond piecemeal solutions. We should broaden the conversation to include addressing neighborhood stability, responsible property management, rental background checks, tax incentives for new development and first-time homebuyers, and partnerships with lenders to reduce barriers to homeownership.

## Carman Garufi



**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Binghamton

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts Political Science, University of Dayton, OH Juris Doctor, St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, TX

**Experience and Qualifications:** Owned and operated small business -my own law practice -Garufi Law P.C.- in the City of Binghamton for over 28 years, very active volunteer in the community

**Civic Involvement:** Extensive - Current Scout leader with Troop 5 Binghamton since 2006 ; CYO soccer coach, YMCA T-Ball Coach, Challenger Little league coach, member Knights of Columbus, Broome County Kiwanis, Eucharistic minister St, Vincent Church- hold communion service at nursing home; Received Broome County Bar Association Community Service Award for 2019

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 759-9405

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** garufiforcouncil@gmail.com

**Facebook:** GarufiforCouncil

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** Although I have never done so before, after thoughtful consideration and by invitation of our mayor, Rich David, I have agreed to run for City Council. I view this as an opportunity to serve our community — to represent and be an advocate for those of us on the Southside, and to address our concerns with the administration. Mayor David has the City moving in the right direction and I want to continue this progress. First and foremost, I will be your advocate at City Hall; addressing our concerns and issues with the Mayor and various departments in the City. My experience as an attorney advocating on behalf of clients requires me to meet with and speak to people with conflicting views in order to resolve issues; this makes me uniquely qualified for this position.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I fell the most critical issue is that the tax burden in this state is outrageous and unfair. The City tax is a component of it that I will be able to address for us on City Council. I will continue to support tax relief such as the 3% reduction Mayor David recently announced in his 2020 budget address. I believe based on property values we are the highest taxed city in New York State. We must hold the line on taxes, which will in turn help to establish a better climate for businesses, large and small, and will in turn attract and retain young residents.

## Carman Garufi, continued.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Continued support for our police department; financially and otherwise. They need the people and resources to be the best they can be. Greater police presence in terms of patrols and a higher profile in our neighborhoods, and more patrols particularly on the southside in my District (5). I am proud to have been endorsed by the Binghamton Police Benevolent Association. Our officers do a great job for us and often do not get the credit they deserve; I have worked in the city every day for the last 28 years so I know what they are facing and the issues/situations they regularly deal with.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Neither Support or Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I need to obtain more information and study the issue. I have two primary concerns - maintaining the quality of the beautiful river that runs through our city, and the financial impact of privatization on the residents and their water and sewer rates.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers.(Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Neither; at times it is beneficial but on certain occasions its appropriateness is questionable and seems difficult to justify.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Proposals to continue and improve Code enforcement, and zoning laws to hold landlords accountable for proper building maintenance and repair, as well as holding banks accountable for care of foreclosed properties. Additional proposals to use federal and state grants for home improvement grants and loans for residents, especially for those desiring home ownership/improvement, particularly for low income or fixed income residents, including senior citizens.

## Binghamton City Council District 6

### Description:

Vote for 1  
Term is 4 years.  
**Salary: \$10,160 (effective 2020)**

Responsibilities include adoption of the annual tax budget. The City Council shall meet as a committee of the whole to review and vote on each budget item, each page, or group of pages...

Other responsibilities can include, among others, acting upon new or existing local laws, ordinances or resolutions, or any other papers to be presented to the Council.

## Tim Ames



**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** City of Binghamton

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** N/A

**Education:** Graduated Binghamton High School, class of 2000. Attended SUNY BROOME

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have over 20 years working directly with the public. This year, I chose to serve the developmentally disabled.

**Campaign Web Site:**

<http://timamesforcouncil.wixsite.com/website?fbclid=IwAR1TZI7u9ehAUUzJT7J9H6n5A1IbkzHFNXE8LRKq3n1BqvKjzAjmPy9uEw8>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [timamesforcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:timamesforcouncil@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BetterBinghamton/>

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** Hello! I am a lifelong resident of the south side. I chose to raise my family a block from where I grew up. My wife Gabrielle and I have two young children, Chloe and Cian. Both Gabrielle and I serve the disabled in our community. I work for the Broome DDSO OPWDD, and my wife with the Windsor School District. We enjoy all that our community offers, especially all the local parks and small businesses that decorate our community. If elected, I will push for infrastructure updates; transparency from our elected officials; stronger code enforcement; and a more inclusive and open community. Additionally, I will be a fiscal watchdog. I will fight for improved services, workers rights, and equal and fair opportunities within our community. I am a "regular" family man, that knows all too well the struggles and the unique joys of living in our community. Ultimately I just want the area to experience greater prosperity, and pave the way for a better Binghamton for years to come.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** There are many critical issues. However, I feel that crime is a paramount issue among my constituents. I have heard this echoed from nearly every door I knock on. To me, we need to do more on the "ground level" with this. Meaning, we need to create a more open and communicative community environment. I feel strongly that if we become more engaged with our neighbors, that we can put a significant dent in deterring crime. Additionally, I will work with law enforcement to foster greater relations within our neighborhoods.

## Tim Ames, continued.

Communication is arguably the easiest and most effective way to deter crime, and we have much room for improvement on this. Working together as a neighborhood to make the criminal feel unwelcome is often more effective than relying on law enforcement and the law to deal with crime alone. If we work together, we will see progress.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I have touched on this in the previous question. Further, we need to push for stronger code enforcement. By having a higher standard of property maintenance and also occupancy rules, we will be able to dwindle down the problem areas in neighborhoods. I would push for fair but more strict language in the city charter regarding rental properties. I would also work with law enforcement to find better and more effective ways of locating; targeting; and dealing with identified problem areas. Additionally, if we engage neighborhoods in community type gatherings we will then know our neighborhoods and neighbors more intimately and be able to identify issues faster with a greater opportunity to flush potential crime before it happens.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Strongly Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** First off, this is a municipal service that is solely paid for by the ratepayer. Therefore, I feel the ratepayer should always have the largest say in the operation of the plant. Second, there are many examples nationally that have shown that when these services go private, the ratepayers lose, BIG TIME!. Lastly, we do not have a finished and fully operational plant at this time. Before any proposition should be presented, we must ensure a safe and fully operational plant exists.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers.(Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** In most cases, PILOT agreements, are to me, a failure. The taxpayer is forced to take on a larger burden while the business owner is able to gain greater profit on the back of the taxpayer. I understand that there are times where said businesses would choose to go elsewhere, but the taxpayer is maxed out and these arrangements need to, at the least, be fully re-worked, or eliminated. We have had many examples in our community of businesses that have been given funding to open, a PILOT agreement to operate, and then the business closes up and/or moves one the special arrangements are expired (I.E. Hansmann's Mills). This needs to stop.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I would need to look closely at current regulations first, and understand better where to go from. I am confident that currently there are many violations of the code already in place that are not enforced. So to me, the first step is to give code enforcement more resources to do their job more effectively. Next, further target rental and/or multi dwelling properties. Often, these are the properties with higher crime; they bring down property values; and tend to be more neglected. We need to look toward federal and state guidelines for safety and make sure that we are at least enforcing minimum standards. Further, we need to limit occupancy in these units. Lastly, I would like to see a push toward local ownership, or stronger property management involvement. Currently, city council is working on a revised zoning proposal. Let us see what changes that will introduce and work from there.

# Phillip Strawn



**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Binghamton, NY

**Education:** BS in Accounting and Finance

**Experience and Qualifications:** CPA with 25 years experience in public accounting and 20 years in non profit finance administration.

**Civic Involvement:** Founding member and organizer of the Danielle House. Committee member and volunteer for Youth Sports and the Mase Madness Benevolence Fund

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 343-7641

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** philstrawnforcouncil@gmail.com

**Facebook:** phil strawn for city council

**Twitter:** @strawnforc

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** My name is Phil Strawn and I am running for Binghamton City Council on the South Side of Binghamton. My wife, Nikki, and I have lived in our home on Conklin Ave for about 14 years. Our daughter, Hanna, is a Seton Catholic Central graduate and is currently attending Binghamton University and is a member of the womens basketball team. Nikki works as a Monitor at Binghamton's East Middle School. Currently, I serve as the Vice President of Finance at the Children's Home of Wyoming Conference on Chenango Street. I'm blessed to work with such an incredible organization that helps to improve the lives of struggling youth. I believe that all of Greater Binghamton thrives when the center of financial, government and social fabric of Broome County - The City of Binghamton is a strong and safe environment for residents, businesses and visitors from across our region. I will look at all decisions through the lens of what is best for the city to stay strong fiscally and public safety as the top 2

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and,if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** The most critical issue is taxes - both homestead and non-homestead. Binghamton has some of the highest tax rates in the nation. The Mayor's Office has made a commitment to lowering the property tax burden. I will work with the current and next administration to determine the best tax relief policies for City residents and business owners.

## Phillip Strawn, continued.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** We need to strengthen the Binghamton Police Department (BPD) by providing our brave men and women the 'state-of-the-art' resources and tools they need to protect our neighborhoods from drug and violent crime. BPD needs better training and advanced technology to operate effectively and efficiently. I hope to work closely with the administration on securing grants and state funding to advance this goal.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Neither Support or Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Over the past few months of going door to door, a few neighbors have sought my opinion on management at the Binghamton Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Facility. As a candidate, I do not necessarily have a surplus of tools on hand to develop a rationalized opinion to a management structure. If I am elected to City Council, I will do my research and make a decision that is best for the City's ratepayers. I will spend as much time necessary to understand the context moving forward and learn from but not dwell on the past. I believe this will be a strong bipartisan solution with the JC trustees and I look forward to coming up with the best solution possible given the issue and facts we are given now.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** It is my understanding that PILOTs are issued to large developments such as luxury student housing or commercial developments as an incentive to build or refurbish. I agree that the City benefits from PILOTs such as 50 Front Street by bringing young professionals into the area. However, I do not agree that PILOTs are beneficial to City residents and taxpayers. 50 Front Street and Anso Lofts are unaffordable housing complexes. In addition, these developments are removed from the tax rolls for an extended period of time which in turn may push the tax burden onto other property owners.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** As VP of Finance at the Children's Home, I see children who have been placed in our facilities because of the conditions that they were living in at home. Many children are coming from low-income families who rent from absentee landlords. I believe that safe and affordable housing is a policy to be treated by two lenses. Safe - I will work with Code Enforcement to determine what the department is in need of to combat absentee landlords. Affordable - I will work with the Planning Department to determine where CDBG funding can be best allocated.

## Binghamton City Council District 7

### Description:

Vote for 1

Term is 4 years.

**Salary: \$10,160 (effective 2020)**

Responsibilities include adoption of the annual tax budget. The City Council shall meet as a committee of the whole to review and vote on each budget item, each page, or group of pages...

Other responsibilities can include, among others, acting upon new or existing local laws, ordinances or resolutions, or any other papers to be presented to the Council.

## Thomas Scanlon

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

#### Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Salka Valerio

**Party:** Dem, WF

### Biographical Info:

#### Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the City of Binghamton, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the City of Binghamton? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Salka Valerio, continued.

**Q:** Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** What proposals would you submit to City Council to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Johnson City Village Trustee

**Description:**

**Vote for 2**

**Term is 2 years.**

## Clark Giblin

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### **Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Village of Johnson City

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Deputy Mayor of Johnson City

**Education:** Johnson city high school Golf academy of the Carolinas

**Experience and Qualifications:** Village trustee for past two years Deputy mayor for past year

**Civic Involvement:** Current- Board of directors for Broome YMCA Previous - board of directors for ACHIEVE

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 222-7086

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** Clarkgiblin@gmail.com

**Facebook:** Clark Giblin JC Trustee

### **Questions:**

**Q:** Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)

**A:** Life long Village resident. Have been in office for two years and have stood by my statements to not increase anything unless completely necessary, remove blight, and encourage economic growth and development.

**Q:** What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing Johnson City? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)

**A:** Oakdale Mall and development through grants, pilots, and developers.

**Q:** If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in Johnson City? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** No size is too small. Any and all are welcome to develop and grow our economy.

## Clark Giblin, continued.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit Johnson City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Agree but they need to make sense, be strategic and beneficial for everyone.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Neither Support or Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Being on the committee for this analysis I don't feel either way is correct. I think everything needs to continue as is until the construction project is completed and a proper and thorough analysis can take place.

## Charmaine K. Hamlin

**Party:** Dem

### Biographical Info:

### Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing Johnson City? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in Johnson City? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit Johnson City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

# John Walker

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

## **Biographical Info:**

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing Johnson City? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in Johnson City? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit Johnson City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

# Christopher Waters



**Party:** Dem, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Johnson City

**Education:** Associate of Arts Degree , Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management

**Experience and Qualifications:** I manage a staff of 75 at my current position and have experience with budgeting and managing situations and people. I am executive director of the Binghamton Pride Coalition that helps plan the LGBTQ events in the area and I currently am Vice President of the Broome Leadership Institute Alumni Board.

**Civic Involvement:** Volunteer for the Southern Tier AIDS program, Have volunteered at St Ambrose Soup Kitchen. Oversee the Binghamton Pride Coalition

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 321-9224

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** watersfortrustee@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WatersforTrustee/>

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** I am born and raised in Johnson City and am proud to say I am from here. I choose to run for Trustee because I want to make a difference in the Village. Johnson City has changed so much since I grew up here and there needs some new leadership that can help make change in the village. The same old thing is not working, Property Values are dropping and people are moving away, with the influx of BU in the Village that will help bring people here, we just need to encourage business growth in the village and work on increasing property values by enforcing code. I am a hard working dedicated professional with a love of the Village. If you elect me I will work my hardest to make a difference in the life of the residents of Johnson City.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing Johnson City? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Code enforcement I believe is the biggest problem. Property values are dropping because people are not taking care of their properties. Absentee landlords are letting their properties go to ruins and code is not doing a good enough job enforcing the standards thus homes in those neighborhoods are dropping value because of those homes that not being taken care of. Enforce code and make Johnson City Beautiful again and property values will go up and people will want to live here.

## Christopher Waters, continued.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in Johnson City? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I would suggest small businesses especially in the downtown area to get in the ground floor of the growth that BU will bring the village. Look at how Binghamton has really enhanced it's downtown area after the Downtown center opened. The Village will grow to that one day, now is the time to take the opportunity to encourage ideas and suggestions on what we need to enhance the village and enhance downtown. I would encourage more town hall meetings with an open discussion about business growth in the village and encourage this type of growth. Work with landlords in the downtown area to perhaps encourage lower rent to businesses for a period of time to encourage growth especially in that area.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit Johnson City, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I think you can analyze this either way. In my opinion, in order to encourage growth in the village this may have to happen in some respects. But there is also a fine line as the village loses out on the tax revenue, With the growth of BU an UHS in the area, many homes are coming off the tax rolls in the village which hurts the village, but if business is coming into the area and that helps the village in the long run then I do support it, but it really is determined by each different entity that may ask for this.

**Q:** *Do you support or oppose or have no position privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant?*

**A:** Strongly Oppose

**Q:** *Please explain below your reason for support, opposition or no position on the privatization of the management Binghamton/Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I believe we have so many issues at the Sewage treatment plant and letting someone else manage it is the wrong idea. We continue to go over budget with no end in sight and having another outside company managing it will mean higher rates for us as they are going to need to make a profit as well. Let us finish the job and manage the facility as it should be, but ultimately we need to get back on track , cut costs and finish the job.

## Johnson City Justice

**Description:**

**Vote for 1.**

**Term of office is 4 years.**

## Janet Kent

**Party:** Dem, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Please state what you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to Village Court? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Gregory P. Thomas



**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Johnson City, New York

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Republican

**Education:** High School Diploma and AAS Degree in Criminal Justice from Broome Community College.

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have been the Village of Johnson City Justice since being appointed in 2015. I have been the Town of Union Justice since being appointed in 2017. I have been appointed by New York State to temporarily fill vacancies in Town of Maine, Town of Conklin and Town of Binghamton. I am on the Board of Directors for the Broome County Magistrates Association and on the Board of Directors for the New York State Magistrates Association.

**Civic Involvement:** I have been a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians since 1984.

**Facebook:** Judge Gregg Thomas

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Please state what you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to Village Court? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** I am a retired Johnson City Police Officer & have lived in the village for over 31 years. I have ben elected to serve as Justice for both the Village of Johnson City and the Town of Union. Because of my reputation, I've also been appointed to serve as Justice in both the Town of Maine and Town of Binghamton until new town justices could be elected. I pushed for the new countywide overnight arraignment system, which frees up our local police to get back on the streets more quickly, and helps improve public safety so all of us can sleep more securely at night. MY PROMISE The number one word I use is accountability. Accountability for your actions. The increase in the use of illegal drugs in our community has a huge impact on the quality of life in Johnson City. A Village I have called home for over 31 years and where have chosen to raise my children. Petty and major crimes are on the rise and my commitment to the residents of Johnson City to administer justice to keep our community safe

# Endicott Village Mayor

**Description:**

**Vote for 1**

**Term is 4 years.**

## Cheryl Chapman

**Party:** Dem

### Biographical Info:

#### Questions:

**Q:** Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** What is the most critical issue facing the Village of Endicott, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the Village of Endicott its residents and taxpayers.(Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** What proposals would you submit to the Village of Endicott to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** How would you propose addressing crime in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Larry Coppola



**Party:** WF, Lib

### Biographical Info:

**City/Town of Residence:** Endicott

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Endicott Village Trustee

**Education:** Graduated Catholic Central 1969 2 years at University of Pennsylvania

**Experience and Qualifications:** 4 years as Village Trustee Citizen volunteer numerous organizations PTA, youth sports, Boy Scouts and character readings at various schools

**Civic Involvement:** See above

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 761-8873

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** Lwcoppola@yahoo.com

**Facebook:** CoppolaCares

## Larry Coppola, continued.

### Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** Selection is critical! The future of the Village, indeed, it's existence is at stake. The next administration must be flexible, must be able to sell the Village and provide spirited leadership.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the Village of Endicott, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Growth, growth and growth. The tax base is static. New businesses and new construction are absolutely essential. Neighborhood, curb appeal integration and participation is necessary. Specific programs are available on my facebook.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the Village of Endicott its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** This Is a highly simplistic question. Each PILOT must be weighed on its merits. They are definitely needed to spur growth and protect present jobs. My position on two recent PILOTS are clearly known.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to the Village of Endicott to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** My porches and paint proposal and my Vince's Vision would serve the purpose.(clarification on Facebook). I would propose greater control of absentee landlords. Rules, codes and regulations will not solve the problem. The Power is in Pride.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I have addressed crime in the Village in many ways. The hiring of a new and active Police Chief, the hiring of new Police Officers and the acquisition of new equipment. I have been at the forefront of motions and debates regarding these matters.

## Linda Jackson



**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

**City/Town of Residence:** Endicott, New York

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Village Trustee

## Linda Jackson, continued.

**Education:** Graduated from Union Endicott High School, took many leadership classes when I worked at IBM. This will come in very handy for running the Village. Took Zoning and Planning Board courses, attended Opportunity seminars, and attended a variety of community learning events. I belong to the Electric Committee in the Village, and attended all budget meetings, water Board meetings, planning and zoning Board meetings. Participated in a fire fighters exhibition in Albany!

**Experience and Qualifications:** Married and Village resident for 47 years, 2 married children who still work and live in area. One fantastic grandson. After graduation I worked for Trane Air Conditioning (in Pa.) in statistics. Returned to New York to work at Endicott Johnson in Accounts Payable Dept. Took time off to raise family, returned to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant for 7 years. Went to IBM where I had leadership duties. Attended Village and Town Board meetings regularly for 5 years. Elected Trustee in 2019.

**Civic Involvement:** Secretary of Triple Cities Street Rods, a service based non profit club, for over 20 years, member of Endicott Proud and Security and Safety committee working with Police and Code departments. Attend many seminars, committee meetings, etc. Did much work for collecting for the United Way and organized my companies (IBM) participation in day of caring.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 748-6756

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://none>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [lindaj.1951.lj@gmail.com](mailto:lindaj.1951.lj@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Linda S. Jackson Woman of Action

**Twitter:** none

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate general statement (Answer exceeding 1000 characters will be truncated.)*

**A:** Being a Trustee for 9 months, making a difference in the Village. Going to Village and Town Board meetings regularly for over 5 years, forging great friendships with experienced Municipalities. Makes problem solving more extensive. Have been an active member of Endicott Proud, for many years, working on the Security and Safety Committee. With the Village code department, we initiated 2 very important codes -Lock down and Boarding House laws- before I became a Trustee. I have initiated over a dozen needed code change and additions. These codes are our first defense for the security and safety of the Village residents. Many residents, and members of Endicott Proud, have expressed a desire to be involved with working on Village problems and solutions. Establishing new committees to address a variety of concerns. Beautification, grant searching, advertising our restaurants and unique businesses, security and safety, and special event ceremonies like the 100 year anniversary of the arch!

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the Village of Endicott, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Our residents must feel safe. I am now attempting to acquire security cameras for Washington Avenue, hopefully to broadcast in real time activities on the Avenue. We will also have some regular cameras throughout the Village. This will put our police in more areas at one time. We hired two additional police, as well as much updated technology. We hired two additional fire fighters for our protection. Initiated many codes to help clean up the blight in our area, an out of town property owners management system to finally have a manager to hold accountable to deteriorating properties. Will strengthen enforcement of these codes with additional inspectors. Make more transparency in Government. Board meeting broadcast system, newsletters for people who do not have computers, more interaction with residents for decisions. Committees on specific topics to help with delegating and implementing ideas. Continue to work with other Municipalities for experience with problems we share alike.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the Village of Endicott its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** A PILOT is a great idea when it is used for the intended purpose. It is to help an area increase jobs to the area, and/or bring in additional opportunities to the Village. It helps a new Developer get started and invest in our area for their businesses. It brings in additional revenue. But, the tax payment structure must be fair to the Developer, as well as the existing Village residents who have been loyal and paid their fair share of taxes over many years. It is a lending hand, not a 'get rich quick' scheme. We need to entice developers, not finance their whole business! We need developers who are willing to work with us, and negotiate their needs to coincide with the needs of the Village. We need people to be agreeable to work together! Not just look out for their own personal interests.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to the Village of Endicott to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

## Linda Jackson, continued.

**A:** I have already initiated the management of out of town property owners to improve ways for the repairs and upkeep of rentals, and make them safer and more secure for Tenants. We need our Villager codes to be much more strictly enforced, with heavy fines for non compliance. If property owners must keep up their properties, they should be more mindful who they rent to. Being out of town, they do not have to live near obnoxious, destructive, or rowdy tenants who do not respect neighbors. We now have affordable housing to be constructed in part of our Village. This will give people more affordable choices for housing. Making the streets safer, and incarcerating people who consistently break the law, will leave more room for law abiding citizens. Get people more involved with making their properties attractive and encourage their neighbors to do the same! A local church offers help to older or disabled private property owners (no landlords) with repairs, snow removal, and lawn care.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Our new police chief has already made many advancements in this area. We need surveillance cameras in many areas to eliminate privacy for people engaged in illegal activities. A stronger Neighborhood watch Program to have neighbors band together for safety and security. Clean up our area, through stronger codes and enforcement, to attract people willing to come to the Village and become part of the neighborhood. Get more students involved with activities, sports, and our vocational school alternative program. Give more people opportunities to become productive. Endicott Proud has a program to help people study for their equivalency high school diploma to help with better job opportunities. Give people alternatives to better their lives without turning to crime. Help people addicted to drugs. We have a new addiction center to help, and demand responsibility of their clients, not enable them. Bring people back into the community and become productive citizens!

## Endicott Village Trustee

**Description:**

**Vote for 2**

**Term is 2 years.**

## Diane Hunter



**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Endicott, New York

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Endicott Democratic Committee

**Education:** Regents Dipolma, from Haverling High, Bath, NY and Bachelors from Long Island University

## Diane Hunter, continued.

**Experience and Qualifications:** I have participated in local government proceedings as a resident of Binghamton and now in Endicott. I have over a decade of legal experience working with lawyers. And 11 years of leadership skills developed in the US Army and Air Force.

**Civic Involvement:** Troop Leader for Girl Scouts, Member of Indivisible and Democratic Women of Broome County

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 435-3419

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/hunterforendicott/>

### Questions:

**Q:** *General Candidate Statement (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** My name is Diane Ellen Hunter and I am looking to serve you on the Endicott Village Board as a Trustee and advocate for Endicott's businesses and residents. As a graduate of Long Island University and an 11 year Veteran from the Army and Air Force, I have served our community for over 20 years working as a Property Manager, a legal assistant and human services worker. My variety of experiences include working for Lend A Hand at the Press and Sun Bulletin, the Boys and Girls Club of Binghamton and the local Girl Scouts Council. I have two daughters, 18 and 9, that have been raised in Broome County. Over the last 9 years, I have been increasingly concerned about the economic development of Endicott and quality of life of our residents. You can trust me to bring change and new ideas to work for you, making Endicott a more economically secure and safe place to live.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing Endicott, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** It's a close contest between our economy and the pollution here. And they are interconnected. The areas with pollution need to be remedied for business and folks to feel safe here. This toxic plume has turned many away from here and that is extremely unfortunate. The purity of the water is also a constant question. Without safe and clean drinking water, residents get easily frustrated. Or pipes are currently being evaluated and all recommendations that are financially feasible should be made a top priority.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Evaluate high crime areas and work with landlords and residents to provide needed services. Endicott residents are separated from DSS in downtown Binghamton and many folks are in need of assistance. Agencies with facilitators here can help bridge that gap. The area needs to have family and youth activists to occupy people and keep kids off the street. Losing the Boys and Girls Club of Western Broome is a major blow to families here. We need inexpensive recreational options for families and children. People in the court system need rehab and/or options to improve their lives instead of sitting in jail. Volunteer opportunities in the Village could offer community service to get folks involved in their surrounding agencies for the betterment of Endicott as a whole.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the Village of Endicott, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I agree with PILOTS for businesses bringing new jobs to the area or for businesses that are clearly struggling such as Ideal Nursing Home. I don't agree with them being used by companies just wanting major tax cuts but not doing anything to expand services or workforce.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I believe there should be a business association that meets with community leaders every other month to discuss issues or difficulties or expansions considered to help business stay afloat and thrive. Washington Ave. needs a facelift in a big way and empty storefronts should be focused on by the association because they reflect poorly on the Village.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to the Endicott Village Board to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I believe an apartment complex run thru HUD could help many disabled and elderly folks here live in better and safe environments. On a fixed income many areas here are closely to live in. BHA in Binghamton has a great example of this in the downtown area off Isabel. I believe we need a similar proposal put forth here

## Diane Hunter, continued.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the Village of Endicott, and,if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Repeat question. See answer above.

## Eileen Konecny

**Party:** Dem

### Biographical Info:

### Questions:

**Q:** *General Candidate Statement (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing Endicott,and,if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the Village of Endicott, its residents and taxpayers.(Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to the Endicott Village Board to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the Village of Endicott, and,if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## R. Ted Warner

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### Biographical Info:

### Questions:

**Q:** *General Candidate Statement (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing Endicott,and,if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## R. Ted Warner, continued.

**Q:** *How would you propose addressing crime in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *Do you agree or disagree that Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements benefit the Village of Endicott, its residents and taxpayers. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Village of Endicott? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What proposals would you submit to the Endicott Village Board to improve and create housing that is safe and affordable? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing the Village of Endicott, and, if elected, how would you propose addressing it? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

# Union, Town of, Proposition Number One

## Union, Town of, Proposal Number One, Town Proposition Number One

### Description:

Shall the annual contribution of the Town of Union for the operating budget of the George F. Johnson Memorial Library be increased by one hundred twenty four thousand seven hundred twenty two dollars (\$124,722.00) to the sum of one million one hundred twenty two thousand four hundred ninety seven dollars (\$1,122,497.00) annually and shall the annual contribution of the Town of Union for the operating budget of the Your Home Public Library be increased by seventy thousand six hundred sixty two dollars (\$70,662.00) to the sum of seven hundred and seventy seven thousand two hundred eighty two dollars (\$777,282.00) annually?

**Yes - For the Measure**

**No - Against the Measure**

# Vestal Town Supervisor

**Description:**

**Vote for 1**

**Term is 2 years.**

## Fran Majewski

**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

### **Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Vestal

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Town of Vestal Councilman

**Education:** Binghamton Catholic Central HS, State University of Delhi.

**Experience and Qualifications:** 16 years as a Councilman, 12 years as Deputy Supervisor. Of all the candidates running for office in Vestal, I am the only person who was present during all three floods in Vestal, volunteering 100s of hours assisting the Vestal Police Dept in traffic control and setting up stations for distributing water and supplies to residents in need. Working with Vestal Fire Dept and Emergency Squad directing them to notify residents of the flooding issues and when to evacuate.

**Civic Involvement:** My wife and I have been volunteering since we were married 41 yrs ago. We worked on Easter Seals telethon and I was the chairman of the Easter Seals Wing Fest for 3 years. 15 years as coach, board member and Vice President of the Southern Tier Hockey Assoc. 14 years on the Vestal Recreation Committee, the last 4 as Chairman. President of Vestal Senior Baseball League, where we organized a wonderful group and installed lights at Arnold Park allowing children to play baseball. Coached Girls Cinderella Softball, coached Vestal Little League, coached PeeWee football. Donated time and expertise to install all electric at Harold Moore Park. Involved in the planning of the Vestal Rail to Trail.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 624-9467

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** Fmaje@stny.rr.com

**Facebook:** Friends of Fran Majewski

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** It's time for a change in leadership in Vestal. Vestal needs informed and proactive leadership. Vestal needs a leader who is not afraid to question methods and practices, and to make change where change is needed. Too many times I am the only board member questioning proposals and their ramifications. We need honesty, transparency and higher ethical standards.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing your town? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Allocating our resources in the most effective ways. There are departments that need enhanced levels of expertise and we need to make sure those needs are met.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in your town?(Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Small businesses are welcomed to use our Planning, Code, Engineering Departments to consult with. While our town doesn't have any Grant's or funding sources within the town, we are happy to provide our expertise and personnel, to help them along and welcome them into our town.

# John Schaffer

**Party:** Dem, WF

## **Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** 204 Elizabeth Street Vestal, NY 13850

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Supervisor, Town of Vestal

**Education:** George Maney School of Labor Studies CDL Driving Instructor, OSHA Outreach Instructor 500, ASTA Flagging Instructor, Math Instructor—Metrics and Construction Math, Mason Tending Instructor, Blue Print Reading Instructor Scaffolding Instructor, Respirator Fit Testing Certification Instructor, Cutting and Burning Instructor, Rough Terrain Forklift Instructor, Concrete Instructor, Apprentice Coordinator/Instructor, Plastering Instructor, Training Director of Labor,

**Experience and Qualifications:** Business Agent/President of Laborers Local 7, 6/08 – present, Secretary/Treasurer, Laborers Local 7, 5/01 - 6/08, VP, Laborers Local 7, 6/98 – 5/01, General Superintendent, DJC General Contracting, 12/90 – 5/01, Recording Secretary, Laborers Local 7, 5/94 – 06/98, General Laborer, Laborers Local 7, 9/70 – 5/94

**Civic Involvement:** Broome-Tioga BOCES School to Careers Partnership Board, Vestal Town Councilman, Town of Vestal Democratic Committee Person, Christmas in April, Special Olympics, Organized fundraisers to build playgrounds throughout the community, Worked on Veterans Memorial Wall at the Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena, worked with the Vestal Elks to complete a new building • Vestal Gridiron Committee President (5 years) • Vestal Little League VP and Coach (10 years) • Vestal Wrestling Booster President (5 years) • Vestal Legion Baseball Coach (3 years) • Former TC Jet Football Player (10 years) • Endicott Boys Club, First Vice President of the Junior Sertoma Club, (4 years)

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 205-5691

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [smessina@stny.rr.com](mailto:smessina@stny.rr.com)

**Facebook:** Schaffer 2019

**Twitter:** na

## **Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** I have worked hard to maintain current staff levels, increase services and be available to residents at all times. My office hours are Monday-Friday during regular business hours to be sure that the Town runs as seamlessly as possible. My goal is to keep Vestal a pleasant and safe place to live.

**Q:** *What is the most critical issue facing your town? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Staying within the New York mandated tax cap while continuing to provide quality services to the residents is the Town's most critical issue. We will continue to utilize zero based budgeting, pursue grant-writing opportunities and lobby state/local officials to secure funds.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in your town?(Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Current planning to consolidate town offices will make it easier for businesses and residents to acquire the information/forms they need. The start-up New York program provides tax incentives to small business owners near Binghamton University.

# Vestal Town Councilman

**Description:**

**Vote for 2**

**Term is 4 years.**

## Leon Brown



**Party:** Rep, CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Town of Vestal

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** N/A

**Education:** B.S. of Science in Criminal Justice/Business Administration from Liberty University

**Experience and Qualifications:** -12.5 years as a police officer. -3+ years as a detective. -7 years as an explosive detection K9 handler. -3+ years as the law enforcement union president and 5 total years on the union board-dealing with contract negotiations, labor disputes and employee relations. -Extensive critical incident training, including active shooter and natural disaster protocol. -Married for 12+years-never divorced. -Father of a 7 year old daughter who attends Vestal Schools. -Property owner and taxpayer in Vestal.

**Civic Involvement:** I am actively involved in my community and take pride in placing others before myself. I am a long time blood donor, and have active involvement with local retirement homes. I like to support elderly during the holidays, who do not have family members that come to visit with them. I am also a big supporter of CHOW and actively donate to them, both personally and through my union. I am a long time member of Calvary Community Church in Johnson City, and support the church's mission to assist the community however they can.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 221-8306

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://N/A>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [leonbrownforvestal@gmail.com](mailto:leonbrownforvestal@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** Leon Brown for Vestal Town Board

**Twitter:** N/A

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** I am born and raised in Broome County, and have lived in the Town of Vestal for over 8 years. My wife Jessica and I chose to move to Vestal because we felt Vestal had the better combination of being a safe place to live and having a great school district. My parents worked extremely hard their entire lives and instilled this work ethic in me. I plan on being a different type of representative should I be elected to the Vestal Town Board. I believe in, "We the people" and I will put the people of Vestal first. I believe the people should have more of a say in their government and will base my decisions on what is best for the people. I have already pledged to take a 20% cut in pay if elected and I am the only candidate to make this pledge.

## Leon Brown, continued.

I am also the only candidate who pledged to make themselves available to the people on a regular basis, by hosting, "Coffee with a councilman" events." I believe in being fiscally responsible and can prove this with my credit score being 807.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing the Town of Vestal? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Throughout my campaign, I have been going door to door, speaking with the people of Vestal. The overwhelming concern Vestal residents have when I ask them what can be improved on are the high taxes they pay. Residents are concerned that they are not going to be able to afford to live in Vestal much longer, should taxes continue to go up. I have spoken with our current Town Supervisor and other department heads for the Town and have learned that the Town taxes themselves are generally low, and it is the school taxes in Vestal that are very high. The Town government doesn't have much to do with the school taxes, but I think doing everything we can to stop the Town taxes from rising, is the only solution to this. The Town does a good job of sharing services now, and I would try to expand this even more. I will speak with the Broome County Executive and Legislators and see how they have reduced county taxes in the last 2 years. If Broome County can reduce spending, than surely Vestal can.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Town of Vestal? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I am very pro-business and feel small business is the engine of our economy. Many business owners in Vestal have told me they are considering moving out of Vestal for the very high taxes they pay, and because newer businesses are being brought in on the pilot program and don't have to pay taxes. Business owners are also telling me they would like to see more help from the Town when it comes to issues they face, such as sidewalk repair, or quicker resolutions to being approved on business expansions or property growth. I want to help these business owners out as best I can. If elected, I also want to, "Recruit" for the Town of Vestal and try to bring in more businesses to our area. We have a lot of young, smart, talented people here who are willing to work and just need the opportunity to find good employment. Vestal has a lot to offer and we just have to reach out to employers and let them know about our area.

**Q:** *If elected, what would you do to make the Town of Vestal a better place in which to live and work while preserving its unique character? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** For personal reasons, I want Vestal to be the best place to live and work. My family, just like everyone else, is top priority. I don't want to have to worry about my wife or daughter getting hurt, or having something bad happen to them. As a Detective with the Broome County Sheriff's Office, I see what crime can do to a neighborhood on a daily basis. I also see the damages that drugs can do to people and their families. If elected to the Town Board, I will work hard with our police chief and our fire department to make sure our first responders have the training they need and manpower they need to keep us safe. I have a great working relationship with our State Senator, and will actively be involved with trying to find a solution to the heroin crisis our area struggles with. As a direct result of drug addiction, we see an increase in property crimes and sexual assaults. My active and inside knowledge of what's going on in this area, due to being in law enforcement will only help.

## Jason T. Ellis

**Party:** Lib, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing the Town of Vestal? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Town of Vestal? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

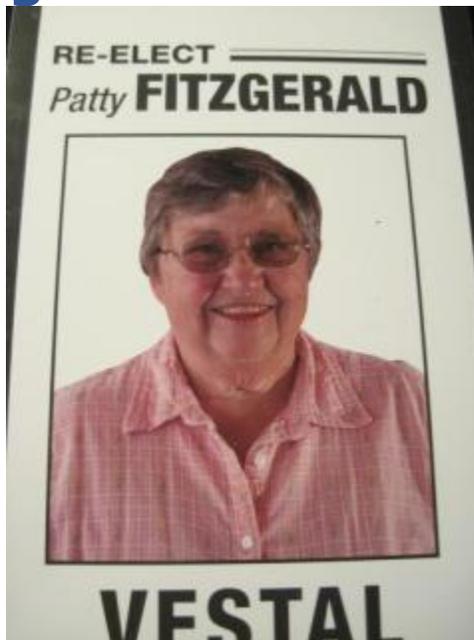
**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Jason T. Ellis, continued.

**Q:** *If elected, what would you do to make the Town of Vestal a better place in which to live and work while preserving its unique character? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Patricia A. Fitzgerald



**Party:** Dem, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Vestal, NY

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Vestal Town Councilwoman

**Education:** Vestal High School, BCC

**Experience and Qualifications:** 12 Years dedicated service as Town Councilwoman

**Civic Involvement:** Empire State Games, Vestal School Dictionary Program, Citizen's Police Academy, Vestal Service Organization, Christmas Turkey program for Clayton Ave School, Vestal High School Booster Club President/Board

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 341-2744

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [budcoco@aol.com](mailto:budcoco@aol.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Personal Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** I have been a Vestal resident all my life. I'm retired from IBM- 30 years, now employed by Vestal Central School District 9 + years. Vestal is a great place to live. 12 years of dedicated service as Town Councilwoman. Its my goal to keep the budget under the tax cap, work with all departments. I will continue to work very hard for our citizens in our town =

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing the Town of Vestal? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** I feel at this time our town is in good shape. Our goal is to keep our property tax increases under the tax cap. ( 8 years under ) the town board works very hard at the budget every year. We are adding another police office to our school. Making sure our town is safe we are moving our Vestal Volunteer Emergency Squad out of the flood area. Also hoping to build a new fire station ( tax payers all have a vote on this ) Its very critical to work with all department heads of our town to keep spending in check.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Town of Vestal? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

## Patricia A. Fitzgerald, continued.

**A:** The town board encourage small & big business into the Town of Vestal. We are talking with some new business people now. I just can't say what they are at this time. Vestal is the shopping place right now.

**Q:** *If elected, what would you do to make the Town of Vestal a better place in which to live and work while preserving its unique character? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I feel Vestal is a great place to live. Our town has a great Police Force, Volunteer Fire Dept, Parks Dept, Rec Dept , Highway Dept. Volunteer Emergency Squad, Water Dept plus all the other dept.

## Vestal Town Justice

**Description:**

**Vote for 1**

**Term is 4 years.**

## Joseph Meagher

**Party:** Rep

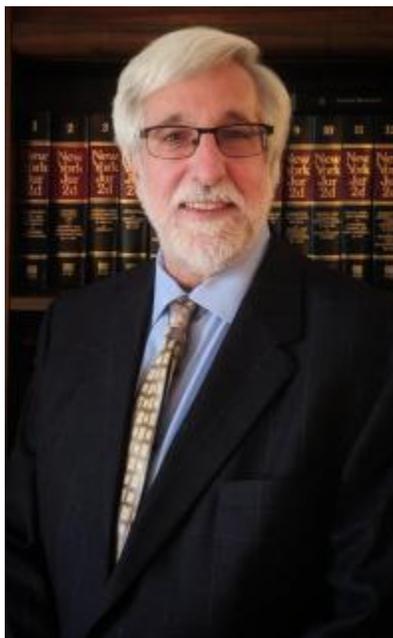
**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Please state what you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to Village Court? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Peter Orville



**Party:** Dem, WF

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Vestal

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Candidate for Vestal Town Justice

**Education:** Graduate of Syracuse University School of Law Graduate of Ithaca College

**Experience and Qualifications:** Peter is a highly respected attorney in Broome County at Orville & McDonald Law, PC. Peter has taught Criminal Justice and Business Law courses for over 20 years at Binghamton University and SUNY Broome. Peter has made presentations to attorneys at seminars in Binghamton, Syracuse, Utica, NY City and Puerto Rico.

## Peter Orville, continued.

**Civic Involvement:** Peter has been a Director of several local organizations including: The SOS Shelter (now RISE), the Urban League, Broome County Bar Assn., Legal Services, BC Homeless Coalition and NYS Assn. of Criminal Defense Lawyers

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 222-4567

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** peteropc@gmail.com

**Facebook:** Peter Orville for Vestal Judge

**Questions:**

**Q:** Please state what you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to Village Court? (Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).

**A:** My legal experience and family and community involvement give me the tools to be an excellent and fair minded Town Justice. I believe that the Vestal Town Court should be a place where all members of our community feel they can achieve justice. Every person coming to Court should feel that they have been fully heard, and that their case received a just result. Besides my legal and teaching experience in our community, my wife (Colleen Kiley Vestal class of 1969) and I have raised three wonderful sons, Jake Orville (Vestal 1991), Devin Moberg (Vestal 1992) and Austin Orville Kiley (Vestal 2007 and now teaching music at Vestal High School). We currently have 5 grandchildren. I have coached and sponsored teams in the Vestal Little League and Vestal Youth Soccer programs.

## Vestal Town Clerk

**Description:**

**Vote for 1**

**Term is 4 years.**

## Shoba Agneshwar



**Party:** CON, IND

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Vestal

**Education:** MBA, Binghamton University BBA, Texas Christian University

**Experience and Qualifications:** Vestal Library Board (2018 to 2020); Vestal Town Board (2015 to 2017); Vestal School Board (2004 to 2010)

**Civic Involvement:** Vestal Elks, Association of Towns/Villages (Recording Secretary), Junior League of Binghamton, Vestal School Foundation (Past Board Member), Vestal Girls Softball (Past Board Member), Vestal Girls Volleyball (Past President), Samaritan Counseling Center (Past Board Member), Vestal Republican Committee (Treasurer)

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 766-9975

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** scholhouserock@aol.com

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Shoba-Agneshwar-553365361476037/>

**Questions:**

**Q:** Candidate Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)

**A:** I am the only candidate for the Vestal Town Clerk that has been elected to the Vestal Town Board, served as a Vestal Fire Commissioner, been on the Vestal School Board and am currently serving on the Vestal Library Board. I have always had a strong working relationship, open and honest communication and worked collaboratively in all these positions. I have always helped Vestal residents with their problems and issues. As your next Town Clerk, I will work to continuously improve our town's vital functions and will use my skills, experience and knowledge to make the Clerk's office more transparent and be accountable to the taxpayers. I bring relevant experience and the know-how of what a Town Clerk's job and function is to our town.

## Shoba Agneshwar, continued.

For the past 26+ years, I have been an active community volunteer at our schools and many other organizations that help our kids and our community. For me, its about making Vestal better for all of us. I respectfully ask for your vote on November 5th.

**Q:** *What specific qualifications, experience and training related to the position of Vestal Town Clerk do you possess to perform the duties of this position? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Being on the Vestal Town Board, I have first-hand experience of working side by side with our current Clerk. I have attended all the work session, town board meetings and the Fire Commissioner meetings. I have made the tough decisions of balancing budgets and making the necessary cuts while maintaining (and improving) town services. I have worked with all the departments to ensure that their staff always had the necessary equipment and training that was needed to do their jobs which ultimately makes Vestal provide the necessary services to our residents. I was instrumental in consolidating the school tax collection at our Town location which made it easier for our residents to pay their school tax bill. I also spear-headed the reduction of paper usage at all Town Board meetings by introducing the usage of laptops/tablets for all Board communication. If elected, I'll continue to make improvements to the Clerk's office that will enable the office to function better for all of us.

## Debra Wallace



**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Vestal

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Vestal Receiver of Taxes

**Education:** ~ Bachelor's Degree in Psychology ~ Licensed Real Estate Agent

**Experience and Qualifications:** Receiver of Taxes for 12 years. Served in the Town of Vestal for 14 years.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 341-1952

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I have served the Town of Vestal for 14 years in the Tax office and in the Assessors office. Twelve of those years I was elected to the position of Receiver of Taxes. In my time as the Receiver I have streamlined the office to make it more efficient and have reduced my budget each year to make it more cost effective. I have worked along side the school to bring the School tax collection back to the town for the convenience of the tax payers. I have worked on bringing the option of credit card payments for taxes and will be beginning to accept the payments in January of 2020. I have worked closely with the current Town Clerk, Emil Bielecki on a plan to combine the Clerk and Tax office as one department to better serve the Vestal residence and to save the

## Debra Wallace, continued.

Vestal tax payers money in the consolidation of services. If elected to the position of town Clerk I will bring the same work ethic and friendly atmosphere as I have brought to the Tax Office.

**Q:** *What specific qualifications, experience and training related to the position of Vestal Town Clerk do you possess to perform the duties of this position? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Having served the Town of Vestal for 14 years in several capacities and having worked with many different departments, I believe that moving into the role of Town Clerk will be a smooth transition. I have been responsible for and successfully balanced over 69 million dollars in collection to the penny every year. I have worked to make my office as efficient, friendly and customer service-oriented as possible to best serve the Vestal residents.

## Tioga County Sheriff

**Description:**

**Vote for 1**

**Term is 4 years.**

## Joseph Breitwieser



**Party:** Lib

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Candor

**Education:** Associates in Paralegal Studies, Broome Community College.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Real estate agent, paralegal, and investor. Social Services Worker. Local government whistleblower

**Civic Involvement:** Tioga County Libertarian Party

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 223-8150

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.libertiansheriff.com>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** [joebreitwieser@yahoo.com](mailto:joebreitwieser@yahoo.com)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to the position of Tioga County Sheriff. To what extent has your past experience included criminal law?(Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** You have a choice for Sheriff. You can elect a Sheriff who defends the Constitution, who believes the 2nd amendment means what it says. A Sheriff who believes in putting county interests above state and federal pressures, who believes in putting individuals' rights above that of the State.

## Joseph Breitwieser, continued.

A Sheriff who has a plan to lower incarceration rates for victimless crimes, while putting real pressure on drug cartels. A Sheriff who invests resources into protecting children and the elderly, instead of endless surveillance on drug houses. A Sheriff who protects the rights of the accused, while keeping officers safe. A Sheriff who cracks down on local corruption, and applies the laws evenly. A Sheriff who serves the people, not the government. I have taken coursework in criminal law, but most of my experience in criminal law comes as a pro se defendant, accused of crimes I did not commit. Visit my website and read about my experiences after blowing the whistle on abuses of government power.

## Gary W. Howard

**Party:** Rep

### **Biographical Info:**

#### **Questions:**

**Q:** *What you would like voters to know about your experience, leadership qualities, accomplishments and philosophy as applied to the position of Tioga County Sheriff. To what extent has your past experience included criminal law?(Answers over 1000 characters will be truncated).*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

## Owego Town Councilman

### **Description:**

**Vote for 2**

## Jonathan Marks

**Party:** Rep

### **Biographical Info:**

#### **Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing the Town of Owego? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Town of Owego? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

**Q:** *If elected, what would you do to make the Town of Owego a better place in which to live and work while preserving its unique character? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Candidate Did Not Respond.

# Keith Price, Jr.

**Party:** Lib

## Biographical Info:

**City/Town of Residence:** Apalachin, Town of Owego.

**Education:** High school graduate.

**Experience and Qualifications:** Several years of small business management, including accounting, and leadership roles.

**Civic Involvement:** I am a member of a local community action group, the chairman of the county wide Libertarian Affiliate, as well as a multi county district level officer for a fraternal order. I have also served on a few local charity boards as well as coached several youth sports teams.

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 972-7965

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** valkiroc@hotmail.com

**Facebook:** Keith Price or Keith Price for Owego Town Board.

## Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Simply put, I am a candidate interested in fiscal transparency, board member responsibility, and general accountability in government. I like to remind people, the board works for the taxpayers. For the last several years, our town has had the same leadership with few other options at the polls, this has led to a power block by a small handful of people. This type of power, means there is little change and few new ideas. I am a candidate willing to listen and work with all sides, but most importantly, I intend to add a new perspective to the old system.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing the Town of Owego? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** I believe our single biggest issue is departmental redundancy and overreach. We can save the taxpayers time and money by merging departments, consolidating with the county, and leaving some things up to the state. The best way to accomplish this in a timely fashion is by simply auditing our various departments and making simple common sense updates. While few may be in favor of "downsizing", there are always minor changes that can make major positive impacts. If elected, I will review everything within my reach to find and weed out overlaps and redundancies.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Town of Owego? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** By repealing or replacing outdated anti small business laws, permit requirements, and zoning regulations that prevent business from opening and/or staying open. Furthermore, I would introduce a program that rewards small locally owned businesses for opening and staying open for a length of time. Lastly, I would help promote locally owned business by holding public meetings at establishments to generate interest and publicity for said business.

**Q:** *If elected, what would you do to make the Town of Owego a better place in which to live and work while preserving its unique character? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** If elected, I believe that I will provide new and different perspectives, techniques, and concepts, all of which I've learned from my years of service to the community, and the non profits I work with, thus give the town's residents new options to deal with old problems. Solving past issues and facing new issues from different directions will refresh and re-energize the community, thus continuing Owego's grand history, all while making it a better place to live.

## Rich Purtell



**Party:** Lib

**Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Apalachin

**Education:** Associates in Engineering, Penn State, Solar Heating and Cooling Technology 1983 Bachelor of Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Binghamton University, 1985

**Experience and Qualifications:** Thirty-four (34) years in construction Twelve (12) years as a funding allocation panel member, Broome County United Way Former trustee, Endwell United Methodist Church

**Civic Involvement:** Johnson City Jaycees, chapter president 1988 Twin Tiers ASHRAE, chapter president 1991-1992 Member Endwell Rotary since 2016

**Campaign Phone:** (607) 425-9730

**Campaign Web Site:** <http://www.purtellforowegotowncouncil.com>

**Campaign E-Mail Address:** RPurtell@lpny.org

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RichforTownCouncil/>

**Twitter:** @rich\_purtell

### Questions:

**Q:** *Candidate Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Maximum Freedom - Minimum Government. As a Libertarian Rich strongly supports downsizing big-government, "nanny state" efforts here in New York. New York has too many anti-freedom agendas in both our personal lifestyle choices, and also in how we conduct ourselves collectively in the economy. The Town of Owego needs to be as transparent and efficient as possible in the delivery of services such as water/sewer and road maintenance. Property rights must be upheld. Zoning and code-enforcement are two key areas where central planning "visionaries" need to be restrained.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing the Town of Owego? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** I've had a few opinion pieces published in the Binghamton Press on land use regulations. I'd especially desire to see a consolidation of code enforcement in Tioga county to a county government function. The purpose of code enforcement should be re-centered with an attention upon property rights, as opposed to being applied too often as a tool to increase taxes and fees upon residents. The Town of Owego represents 40% of the population of Tioga county, so our board would have a strong voice on this consolidation message compared to the other smaller towns in Tioga county. This is a URL for one opinion piece I had published in the Binghamton Press on the code enforcement topic:

<https://www.pressconnects.com/story/opinion/2017/08/06/yo-code-enforcement-approach/104233194/>

## Rich Purtell, continued.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Town of Owego? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** Almost 30 years ago I went before the town board with a complaint about the rule for small business signage. For anyone with a small business operated out of their home, a sign is limited to only 3 square feet. I'd work to double that. Worse, the rule currently says the sign should be 25' feet from the street line, and the street line is 25' from road center. This requirement would put the sign inside of the home of some residents! This is a silly rule, which some people violate and cross their fingers that it won't be enforced. The rule should be cut from 25' to 5', out near the mailbox, so small business owners can advertise themselves more effectively. The other thing I would do to help the smallest businesses, is to vote against special tax breaks for medium sized and large businesses. Those policies are hostile towards small businesses. I won't listen to threats from big businesses to pull up and leave if we don't pay their ransoms.

**Q:** *If elected, what would you do to make the Town of Owego a better place in which to live and work while preserving its unique character? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** This is a good place to live and work now. Other than a few "tweaks" in zoning and planning and code enforcement, and a water/sewer billing policy that is more hospitable (monthly budget billing options, easy on-line payment with NO extra service charge to pay on-line), I see town government as a service provider that should be lean, efficient, and focused upon enabling our town residents to succeed through their own efforts, by defending their rights and liberties so that they can thrive.

## Barbara Roberts

**Party:** Rep

### **Biographical Info:**

**City/Town of Residence:** Apalachin

**Current Political Office (if applicable):** Town of Owego Councilwoman

**Experience and Qualifications:** Councilwoman for 8 years

**Civic Involvement:** Tioga Republican Committee

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *Candidate Statement. (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** Thank for your support.

**Q:** *What do you feel is the most critical issue currently facing the Town of Owego? How do you propose to meet this priority during your term of office? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit are truncated)*

**A:** The most critical issue facing the Town of Owego is obtaining a larger tax base. Local governments and Taxes payers cannot sustain ever increasing unfunded mandates, taxes and fees imposed by the State. What I will continue to do if re-elected is look for state funding for such things as water and sewer infrastructure and treatment projects. Vote to keep our taxes under the 2% tax cap. Utilize shared services between Town departments, local municipalities, and county government.

**Q:** *If elected, how might you encourage the development of economic opportunities for very small business owners in the Town of Owego? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** I will continue to create an environment to foster business development. I will support all businesses through planning and zoning on the Town Level. I will encourage the use of county resources such as Tioga County Economic Development Agency and the Tioga County Industrial Development Agency.

**Q:** *If elected, what would you do to make the Town of Owego a better place in which to live and work while preserving its unique character? (Answers exceeding the 1000 character limit will be truncated.)*

**A:** If re-elected I will continue to vote to keep taxes under tax cap. Through committees, I will work with Department Heads to find cost saving ideas on budgetary items. I will look for ways to keep forward momentum of our Town to remain attractive to residents and businesses.

*The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan volunteer organization working to promote informed and responsible participation of citizens in government.*

*The League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate.*

*League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties  
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**End of Guide**