

Onondaga County Court Judge

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Court Judge. Please answer in 75 words or less.

What do you bring to the bench that sets you apart from other judicial candidates?

Anthony F. Aloï

Republican, Conservative, Independent, Veterans
6271 Addison Loomis, Cicero, NY 13039
315-699-7596 Office:315-471-5777

tonyaloi@ymail.com

Profession: Judge for the past 10 years

Education: Bachelor of Science, Lemoyne College, Juris Doctor Degree,
University of Akron Law School

Other elected offices Held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I am the only candidate for Onondaga County Court Judge that has both the legal and judicial experience required to be the Onondaga County Court Judge. As a result of my hard work and extensive experience, I have been designated as an acting Supreme Court Judge.

For 28 years, I was the Confidential Law Assistant to the Onondaga County Court Judges, and I am recognized throughout the State of New York as a criminal law expert. I have lectured and taught both judges and lawyers on behalf of the New York State Bar Association, the Onondaga County Bar Association, the Office of Court Administration, and the Onondaga County Magistrates Association.

I have presided over hundreds of complex criminal trials, and have written thousands of decisions during the course of my 35 years working in the Onondaga County Court. In conclusion, I have spent my entire legal career preparing for and acquiring the knowledge, skills and experience to carry out the duties of an Onondaga County Court Judge.

John Crisafulli

Democratic

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jsc1969@gmail.com website: www.citizensforcrisafulli.com

Profession: Attorney, Supervising Hearing Examiner

Education: B.A., University of Rochester, M.A., Long Island University, J.D.,
Syracuse University School of Law

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I am a loyal Syracuse City resident who has been providing legal services to the residents of Onondaga County for over twenty-seven years. My wife, Susan and I raised our four children here in Syracuse as well. I look forward to drawing upon my experience as an attorney, an educator, a supervising hearing examiner, and a parent to bring thoughtful judgment and sound legal reasoning to the bench as the next County Court Judge.

Onondaga County Legislator, 1st District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 1st District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Richard M. Lesniak

Republican, Independent, Conservative
3302 Patchett Rd, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
315-638-8373

Rlesniak1@UCR120N.net

Profession: Union Representative

Education: George Meaney Center for Labor Studies

Other elected offices held: Town Council, Lysander

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I have always supported consolidation or shared services. While on the Lysander Town Board, we were the first town to consolidate our tax collection with the County. Presently as Chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee I have overseen the consolidation of the Clay Police Department with the Sheriff's Department. If re-elected I will continue to pursue more public safety consolidation. However for consolidation to work, it must be supported at the lower levels first. I believe purchasing and our city-county economic development departments could be consolidate or at least purchase off at the same bid.

Joseph R. Coleman

Democratic, VAW, Veterans, CWA
2195 Connell Terrace, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
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electjoe-coleman@aol.com www.electjoecoleman.com

Profession: Retired Superintendent of Schools-Lafayette

Education: B.S., Cornell University, M.S., University of Maryland, Graduate

Hours: Syracuse University, SUNY Oswego

Other elected offices: None

Fair Campaign Pledge-Yes

Answer: Areas I would pursue to increase efficiency and lower taxes include: police protection, fire departments, schools, department of transportation and utilization of buildings. We have to communicate with each other and build partnerships sharing what we do best with others." Turf" has to be overcome one step at a time. We have to invite people to in gage in communication, not push a string up a hill.

Onondaga County Legislator, 2nd District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 2nd District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Donna Marsh O'Connor

Democratic, Veterans, Working Families
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315-652-6056 Office: 315-559-2183

donna@donnamarshoconnor.com www.donnamarshoconnor.com

Profession: Adjutor Writing Instructor

Education: B.A, SUNY Oswego, Graduate work, MA Syracuse University (not completed)

Other elected offices held: LCSD School Board

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

We provide fundamental, life supporting services in broken, disparate and outmoded ways. We can consolidate services like firefighting, road maintenance and public safety by contracting shared services between towns, city and county. But, an important piece of this is budgeting more efficiently at the county level, making sure that patronage is eliminated. When the county took over police patrols in Clay, many approved the measure, but remain uncertain of the real motives for the move.

John Dougherty

Republican, Clay First
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315-652-4711 Office: 315-657-7640

john@johndougherty.org www.johndougherty.org

Profession: Engineer

Education: B.S. Electrical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, M.B.A.

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I would look to consolidate any and all County Departments where a cost savings is possible without reduction in the level of service. I would look most carefully at police departments (similar to recent merger between Town of Clay and the Onondaga County Sheriff), building maintenance, government administration, and planning and development. I would consider consolidation within County government as well as between the County and other local municipalities.

Patrick Hogan

Democratic, Working Families, Independent
212 Bryant Ave, Syracuse, NY 13204
315-468-3880

oldstody@hotmail.com

Profession: Common Councilor

Education: Onondaga Community College
Other elected offices held: None
Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes
Answer: Advocate to put the Carousel Center on the tax rolls.

Onondaga County Legislator, 3rd District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 3rd District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Edward J. Szczesniak

Democratic, Independent, working Families, Veterans
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315-288-4008 Offices:

edsez2009@yahoo.com edsezforcountyleg.com

Profession: Retired

Education: B.S. in History Canisius College, Merrill Lynch Account Executive Training Program, US Army Command and General Staff College, Industrial College of the Arm Forces

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

- a. I embrace the "Andrew Cuomo" bill facilitating government consolidation. As county legislators, we should be active in the role of facilitator for shared services, consolidation and government modernization. Areas for focus include police, economic development, purchasing, emergency services and DPW. We must have affordable, sustainable programs.
- b. My Onondaga County Board of Elections experience has demonstrated that implementing appropriate information technology initiatives can increase worker productivity and reduce operating costs while increasing efficiency.
- c. A metropolitan, county wide police force has the potential to be a more cost effective way for efficient delivery of service with a similar sense of local policing as in current city, town and village police force.

William Meyer, Jr **Too late to Publish in Syracuse New Times**

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7021 Van Antwerp Dr, Cicero, New York 13039
315 699-8574, Offices 699-2690

legislator.bill.Meyer@yahoo.com, www.electbillmeyer.com

Profession: Insurance Agent

Education: BA Business and Social Sciences, CPUC, Army Classes

Other elected office held: Town Council-Town of Cicero

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer: We must continue to make every effort to cut waste and improve efficiency in Government and to reinvest the savings into proven programs at institutions like OCC. OCC has a record of supporting both local companies and

new growth opportunities. Second, we have a major opportunity to grow jobs and provide better service to our residents with our local hospitals that we must support.

Onondaga County Legislator, 4th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 4th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Judy Tassone

Republican, Independent, Conservatives

4855 Thornwood Dr, Liverpool, NY 13088

315-457-5458 Office:

Jtasson3@twcny.rr.com www.ElectJudyTassone.com

Profession: Retired, National Grid, current owner New York Marketing & Consulting

Education: St. John the Baptist, Attended Columbia College

Other elected offices held: none

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

In this present economic time it is everyone's duty to do more with less. –and it should start with government. Consolidating departments and agencies, along with shared services will help eliminate some of the costs burdened by local taxpayers. Services such as: economic development, purchasing, highway departments, police departments and assessors should be examined and researched to determine consolidating for savings. Shared services along with government modernization are a necessity to alleviate this financial situation.

Onondaga County Legislator, 7th District

Thomas Buckle

Unopposed

Onondaga County Legislator, 8th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 8th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

James Ennis

Democratic, Working Families Party

118 Benham Avenue Syracuse, NY 13219

315-468-8630 Office: 430-0340 (cell)

StrengthInNeighbors@gmail.com www.StrengthInNeighbors.com

Profession: Syracuse Firefighters
Education: High School Graduate- Solvay High School
Other elected offices held: Geddes Town Council
Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Instead of expressions like “consolidation” or “shared services,” I prefer to use the term “creative partnerships.” I believe there are many ways to improve the delivery of county services, but in order to be successful, change of any kind cannot be mandated. It must first be presented to ALL parties involved (management, employees, constituents and tax payers). Ideas from all sides need to be presented and explored, and everyone must have equal input into the decision-making process.

James Corbett

Republican, Conservative, Independent, Veterans
133 Blackstone Way Syracuse, NY 13219
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jcorbett7@twcny.rr.com www.jimcorbettonline

Profession: Referral Agent IBEW Local 43 (Electricians)

Education: Sacred Heart High School, 4 year Apprenticeship with IBEW Local 43

Other elected offices held: 1989-1995 Councilor with Town of Geddes

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I believe two of the areas worth looking at are water delivery and purchasing. Currently the Metropolitan Water Board, Onondaga County Water Authority and City of Syracuse provide wholesale and retail delivery throughout Syracuse and Onondaga County. At the same time there are purchasing departments for both the City and County. They perform the same tasks and at times use the same state resources. Would our residents be better served if these departments were consolidated?

Mike Sutton

Republican, Independent, Conservative Primary winner
1501 Glencove Rd Syracuse, NY 13206
315-876-4801 Office:

electmikesutton@gmail.com www.electmikesutton.com

Profession: Information Technology/Customer Service Writer

Education: A.A.S., completing B.S.-SUNY I.T.

Other elected offices held: Lead facilitator-T.N.T. for Eastwood

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

We need to keep law enforcement strong. I will propose that city and county offices share and eventually consolidate D.P.W. and administrative staff and services. I will also review the same for County, Town and Village Clerk offices.

Onondaga County Legislator, 9th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 9th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Mark Stanczyk

Democratic, Conservative, Veterans
228 Brattle Road, Syracuse, NY 13203
315-479-6144 Office: 316-223-7976

czyk228@aol.com

Profession: Financial Advisor, Partner, Pinnacle Investments

Education: University of Notre Dame, BA with Honors in Government, Syracuse University, MPA, Maxwell Schools, Masters in Public Administration

Other elected offices held: Democratic Floor Leader and Floor Leader two previous times.

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Lowering property taxes and cutting costs in government is a goal we actively pursue. We have achieved some consolidation and cost savings in planning and purchasing. There are significant areas to tackle; these include courts, policing fire assessment, schools, highway and transportation. We are building the political will to move on these.

Onondaga County Legislator, 10th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 10th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Ralph D. Jones

Democratic, WFP
5100 Highbridge Street, 35C, Syracuse, NY
315-637-4311 Office: 316-637-4311

Rralph26@yahoo.com www.CitizensforRalphJones.com

Profession: Administrator

Education: B.S. Cornell University-1976, A.A.S. OCC-1973

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Property taxes can be lowered by increasing the taxable economic base through deliberate short and long term planning for Residential, Commercial, Retail Development with the County Government serving as a convener for all parties, businesses, labor residents to come together and plan for what we want to look like in 5,10,20 years. Consolidations through attrition and retirement will minimize duplication of services and costs while share services between government entities, (villages, towns, city, county) should be encourage to minimize costs in the short term.

Kevin Holmquist

Republican, Conservative, Independent, Veterans
123 Summerhaven Dr South, East Syracuse, NY 13057
315-637-8364 Office:

kevin@KevinHolmquist.com www.KevinHolmquist.com

Profession: Licensed Relationship Manager, Key Bank, Key Investment Services

Education: B.A. Political Science, Syracuse University, A.A.S. Business

Administration, Onondaga Community College

Other elected offices held: Manlius Town Board-2001-2005, Manlius Village Board-1991-2000

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I prefer a "bottom up" approach, which means the ideas, and initiatives come from the people and the smaller municipalities to streamline and consolidate. County-City collaboration is also critical. Duplications should be eliminated. Everything should be on the table. There are lots of great ideas; let's keep this process going!

Onondaga County Legislator, 11th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 11th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Patrick Kilmartin

Republican, Conservative, Independent, Veterans

4482 Renee Meadows Dr, Syracuse, NY 13215

315-498-6398 Office: 315-2985-0810

pkilmartin@oncountyleg.com www.patkilmartin.com

Profession: Attorney & Business Owner

Education: Westhill High school, University of Rochester, B.A., New England School of Law, J.D.

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

All segments of government should be reviewed for consolidation and shared services including purchasing, economic development, police and public safety. Onondaga County has a track record for success in shared services including the Clay police merger, the County Crime Lab and the County Crime/Evidence tracking systems, but more can be done. The County will continue to aggressively pursue consolidation and encourage the city, towns and villages to consider additional shared services and consolidation.

Onondaga County Legislator, 15th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 15th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Bill Kinne

Democratic, Working Families Party
321 E. Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13205
315-469-4363 Office:
wkinne@twcny.rr.com

Profession: Bill Kinne Lawn mowing and Yard Work also work part time at St. Agnes Floral

Education: A.S., Onondaga Community College, And B.S., Arizona State University

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I believe that we should examine all aspects of our government, including school districts. We have too much duplication of services. It would be nice if we could do this from the bottom up, however I don't think this will occur because we have too many people with vested interest for it not to happen. The two areas were we could have the most immediate impact I believe would be the Police Services and the Department of Transportation.

Onondaga County Legislator, 16th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 16th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Sam Laguzza

Democratic, Working Families Party
147 Lilac Street, Syracuse, NY 13208
315-471-0661 Office:
SLAGUZZA16@hotmail.com

Profession: Receiving Manager- Wegmans Food & RX-Onondaga County

Education: A.A.S.-OCC, B.S., Business Administration, Empire State

Other elected offices held: Current Legislator, 16th District

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Typically, areas such as highways maintenance, policing, purchasing, parks and public works are hot topics areas of discussion with regard to consolidation or shared services. They should continue to be. Added to this list should be volunteer fire services and the consolidation of all municipal government, (including school districts) health care and pharmaceutical providers. Consolidation of school districts should be given serious consideration. Integrated technology could assist in accomplishing these goals.

Onondaga County Legislator, 17th District

Martin Masterpole
Unopposed-No response

Onondaga County Legislator, 18th District

Monica Williams
Unopposed-No response

Onondaga County Legislator, 19th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Onondaga County Legislator, 19th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

New York State has passed legislation making it easier for municipalities to consolidate and share services with the goal of cutting costs and lowering property taxes. What areas would you pursue to achieve these goals in Onondaga County?

Linda Erwin

Democratic, Working Families Party, Independent Party, Veterans Party
6331 Danbury Drive, Jamesville, NY 13078
315-449-1050 Office:

erwinforcountyleg@gmail.com LRE@aol.com

Profession: Retired Realtor

Education: B.A. Psychology-Syracuse University

Other elected offices held: Jamesville-Dewitt Board of Education-12 years

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I would like to study the results of the consolidation of the Clay Police Department and the Sheriff's Department to see if the savings are significant and if the service has been maintained as a result of the consolidation. There appears to be an overlap of service between the Sheriff's department and the various towns or villages and therefore this may be an area than can provide an opportunity for cost savings, however I realize that there is much to study before agreeing that this is appropriate. I would want to make certain that residents receive the same prompt response from law enforcement officers once the consolidation was accomplished. The cost savings cannot come at the expense of adequate protection.

Syracuse City Common Council, President

Van Robinson
Unopposed- No response

Syracuse City Common Council, 1st District

The following question was posed to candidates for Syracuse Common Council, 1st District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

What will you do if the Destiny Project cannot continue?

Michael Heagerty

Democratic, Working Families Party
407 Sedwick, Syracuse, NY
315-395-2515 Office: 315-463-9240

MSH2384@gmail.com

Profession: Self-employed

Education:

Other elected offices held:

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Failure is not an option. Destiny must move forward

Matt Rayo

Republican, Independent, conservative, Veterans
15 Brattle Rd, Syracuse, NY 13203

315-427-2045 Office:

mjrayo3@gmail.com www.matrrayo.com

Profession: Restaurant employee

Education: Bachelor of Science, Environmental Biology, SUNY-ESF-2008

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

The Destiny project is owned and operated by a private developer. It is the responsibility of the developer to fund the project and keep it moving forward, not the responsibility of the city or any taxpayer-funded city agent. As a member of the Common Council, I will support projects and initiatives that will help grow our local economy, regardless of whether or not the Destiny Project moves forward. I do not believe in funding private ventures with taxpayer money, even in the name of economic development.

Syracuse City Common Council, 3rd District

The following question was posed to candidates for Syracuse Common Council, 3rd District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

What will you do if the Destiny Project cannot continue?

Dorothy Matthews

Democratic, Conservative

711 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13207

315-492-9471 Office:

DorothyForCouncil@gmail.com

Profession: Retired Food Service Worker

Education: Attended Onondaga Community College, LPN Graduate of Central Tech, and Graduate of Marcellus High School

Other elected offices held: Former Commissioner of Education SCSD

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Alternatives to destiny should coordinate with the development of the Inner Harbor to meet the needs of current and future residents of the City. Proposals for a walk able neighborhood with housing and services for young urban

professionals and senior retirees are preferable to plans that would attract increased traffic. As Councilor, I would ask the City to solicit competing proposals, with realistic private financing; and the general public should be given ample opportunity to comment.

Syracuse City Common Council, 4th District

Thomas Seals
Unopposed-No response

Syracuse Common Council, 5th District

The following question was posed to candidates for Syracuse Common Council, 5th District. Please answer in 75 words or less.

What will you do if the Destiny Project cannot continue?

Nader Maroun

Democratic, Working Families Party, Veterans
1702 Euclid Ave, Syracuse, NY 13224
315-727-7007 Office:

naderpmaroun@gmail.com

Profession: Corporate Relations, The Bart-Rick Group
Education: Masters Degree-R.I.T., Bachelors Degree-SUNY Oswego
Other elected offices held: 1st City Council District

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Commissioner of Education Syracuse City School Board

The following question was posed to candidates for Commissioner of Education. Please answer in 75 words or less.

Many people believe teachers should be evaluated on their teaching ability by how well students perform on standardized tests. Explain where you stand on the issue.

Kim Rohadfox-Ceaser

Working Families Party, Green Party
511 Oakwood Ave, Syracuse, NY 13205
315-422-3758 Office:

kfoxceaser@aol.com

Profession: Office Manager
Education: Syracuse University, SU New House School of Communication
Other elected offices held: President of Syracuse City School Board

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I do not believe that standardized test should be the sole indicator of teacher quality. The appropriate way to determine this should be a combined alternative assessment, which includes peer assistance review, formal and regular supervision, and a portfolio that displays student and teacher work. Using

standardized tests alone is ineffective because research indicates that many students don't perform well on them and it could create an environment where teachers teach only to the test.

Blasé W. Parus

Republican, Conservative

305 Tecumseh St. Syracuse, NY 13210

315-425-5410 Office: 315-263-8910

oneframis@yahoo.com

Profession: Contractor

Education: High school-Bishop Grimes, Elect Engineering Tech., CC of Air force

Other elected offices held: none

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

It is useful tool and gauge but it should not be the only way we evaluate teaching ability or student performance. If standardized tests were the only way of evaluating performance then it might encourage teachers to teach only for the test.

Patricia Body

Democratic, Working Families, Independent, Veterans

130 Buckingham Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210

315-472-7641 Office:

pat.body@yahoo.com

Profession: Social worker

Education: Masters in Social Work

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I do believe teachers should be evaluated but it should not be based on how students perform on standardized tests. Each classroom has a wide variety of students. Some children know very little English, others may have parents who do not value education, others may be abused or neglected and some may have learning disabilities. The number of students with learning issues that would affect performance on standardized tests is not equally distributed among the classrooms. The standardized tests would not take into account these classroom variations.

Richard Strong

Democratic, Working Families

803 Stinard Ave, Syracuse, NY 13207

315-299-8581 Office: 315-299-8581

rich.strong@chartacom.com

Profession: Attorney

Education: Graduate, Corcoran High School (1988), Bachelor Degree in Political Science, Syracuse University (1993), Law Degree, Syracuse University (1997)

Other elected offices held: Commissioner of Education 2001-2005

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Student performance is certainly part of the evaluation of teaching ability but student performance is only part of the equation. Student performance is complicated calculus that includes teaching, parent/community involvement and

importance and how interested and motivated an individual is to learn and master the skills being taught. A standardized test only is a partial assessment but an important one.

Monique Wright-Williams

Democratic, Independent, Veterans

307 Summit Ave, Syracuse, NY 13204

315-422-4654 Office: 315-439-2217

MoniqueWW@aol.com Monique4schoolbd@aol.com

Profession: Executive Director, Community Center

Education: Syracuse University, Foreign Language & Literature

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

Standardized tests should be viewed as one measure of student's performance Likewise; student results should be considered one indicator of a teacher's ability. These tests poorly measure a student's ability on a given day. As they are often multiple choice; anxiety, illness, lucky guesses and poor test-taking skills all have the potential to impact student results. Better accountability measures might include talking to students, reviewing their work, assessing the academic environment and teacher discipline.

Mayor of the City of Syracuse

The following question was posed to candidates for Mayor of the City of Syracuse. Please answer in 75 words or less.

What are your goals for economic development of the region? How would you work with the county to develop these objectives?

Otis Jennings

Republican, Conservative

303 Bradford Pkwy, Syracuse, NY 13224

315-479-8139 Office: 315-218-5664

jenningso@hotmail.com www.ottis09.com

Profession: Education Consultant/Small Business Owner

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education

Other elected offices held: Commissioner of Parks Recreation and Youth Program

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

- Align with the county to make government operate efficiently and inexpensively.
- Use NYS and Federal Tax Credits as incentives to attract new businesses and to keep existing ones in the region.
- Hire an experienced economic development specialist with a track record of successfully completing projects.
- Hire a construction manager to ensure projects are completed.
- Use education as an economic development tool to attract new residents, produce new opportunities for business development and new jobs

Stephanie Miner

Democratic, Working Families

102 Woodside, Syracuse, NY 13224

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sameminorformayor.com minerformayor.com

Profession: Lawyer, Common Councilor at large

Education: JD, SUNY Buffalo Law School-1999, B.A. Journalism and Political Science-1992

Other elected offices held: Common Councilor at large-2002 to present

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

With existing economic generators, hard-working organized labor, and readily available options for business start-ups, expansions, and relocations, Syracuse has significant opportunities for economic growth. Syracuse needs new direction and a new approach if we are to capitalize on these opportunities. By working with Onondaga County and others to develop a cogent regional economic development strategy we can target areas of our City that are in need of reinvestment, promote growth in the green technology sector, streamline the bureaucratic process, and maximize the public benefit that comes from the use of public dollars.

Steve Kimatian

Republican, Independence

318 Sedgwick Dr, Syracuse, NY 13203

315-420-3199 Campaign Office: 315-218-7182

steve@steveforsyracuse.com Web Site: www.steveforsyracuse.com

Profession: Media Executive/ Lawyer

Education: Princeton University, AB; Cornell Law School, JD

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

My goals include stabilizing the city budget without increasing taxes, creating a Municipal Venture Capital Fund to provide funds/expertise to jump start small businesses, streamlining procedures for development and advocating legislation for strategically beneficial tax benefits.

Goals with the County would be to lower cost without lowering the quantity or quality of services provided to the city residents-areas include aspects of purchasing departments, parks, IT Information Systems and the regional transportation authority.

Syracuse Councilor at Large

The following question was posed to candidates for Syracuse Councilor at Large. Please answer in 75 words or less.

What will you do if the Destiny Project cannot continue?

Jean Kessner

Democratic, Working Families Party, Independent, Veterans

644 Fellow Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210

315-475-3518 Office: 315247-4452

ms.jean@mac.com www.jeankessner.com

Profession: Journalist/Communications

Education: B.S., Sociology/Political Science, University of State of NY

Other elected offices held: None

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I would refocus on what we have; 152 acres of prime land cleared of contaminants, easily accessible by rail, highway, close to the airport, and in the heart of the city. I would put out a request for proposals nationally and internationally to find a new developer.

Lance Denno

Democratic, Working Families Party, Veterans

310 Crawford Ave, Syracuse, NY 13224

315-449-1129 Cell: 315-559-9738

lancedenno@gmail.com

Profession: Dep. Chief, Syracuse Fire Department(Retired)

Education: M.A. Public Administration, Maxwell School, SU, 1994

Other elected offices held: 5th District Councilor, City of Syracuse. Elected Nov 2007

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

The authority of SIDA to overrule our elected Councilors and barter away our tax base, must be reigned in. Lost taxes on the mall, no new sales taxes coming in, and the sales tax agreement with Onondaga County about to expire, creates a major problem for Syracuse. Lakefront Development must now approach the remaining development opportunity in a way that will provide for mixed use and residential development that will benefit local workers and taxpayers.

New York State Supreme Court

The following question was posed to candidates for Syracuse Councilor at Large. Please answer in 75 words or less.

What do you bring to the bench that sets you apart from other judicial candidates?

Walter W. Hafner, Jr.

Democratic, Conservative

291 Phinney Road, Hannibal, NY 13074

315-593-3316

Profession: Attorney

Education: 1972 A.A. Honors Onondaga Community College (Math/.Science),
1974 B.A. Magna Cum Laude SUNY Oswego (Economics/Business
Administration)

Other elected offices held: 1998 Elected Oswego County Court Judge, 2008 re-elected

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

I have over 30 years of legal experience, including 10 years as a judge and over 20 years in private practice. I also served as an Assistant District Attorney and as an Adjunct Professor at SUNY Oswego. My independence distinguishes me as a candidate. Since I am not politically connected, my campaigns have been largely supported by regular citizens rather than attorneys and other powerful donors. I am proud to have been elected twice by large margins.

James Tormey

Republican, Independent

342 Oakley Drive, Syracuse, NY 13205

315-469-5235 Office: 315-671-1100

Profession: NYS Supreme Court Justice & Administrative Judge-5th Judicial District

Education: SUNY Cortland, Syracuse University College of Law

Other elected offices held: Onondaga County Legislature (10yrs), Syracuse City Court (7 ½ yrs), Supreme Court Judge (14yrs), Administrative Judge (9 ½ yrs)

Fair Campaign Pledge: Yes

Answer:

In addition to my 22 years as a judge, I feel my work as the Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial District sets me apart from other judicial candidates.

Previous to my service on the Supreme Court bench, I served as an Onondaga County Legislature and a Syracuse City Court Judge. I feel I am making a difference regarding complex issues before the court such as the new civil management of sex offender statutes, housing court issues in our area, and general actions brought in our courts.

I hope to continue work which I began on several important initiatives which set me apart from other judges:

- Modernizing and preserving Town and Village Justice System
- Consolidation of the courts when requested by various towns and villages.
- Continuing my work on the Jury initiative providing every citizen in the 5th Judicial District (6 counties) an exemption of 8 years from jury service (previously 4)

I am proud of my past record of public service, and proud to have been elected to serve on the New York State Supreme Court.

Candidates who did not respond

Legislators

David Stewart – 2nd Dist.
William Meyer - 3rd Dist. (too late to publish)
Ann Howe – 5th Dist.
Kathleen Rapp – 5th Dist.
Karen Hanford – 6th Dist.-Fair Campaign pledge signed
Thomas Buckle – 7th dist – unopposed
James Scaramuzzino – 13th Dist
Robert Warner – 13th Dist
Chuck Henry – 14th Dist
Casey Jordan – 14th Dist
Kevin Kuehner – 16th Dist
Martin Masterpole – 17th Dist – unopposed
Monica Williams – 18th Dist – unopposed

Common Council

Van Robinson – unopposed - President
Fanny Patricia Villarreal – At Large

Counselors

Ryan McMahon – 3rd Dist
Tristan Daedalus – 5th Dist
Thomas Seals – 4th Dist – unopposed

Commissioner of Ed

Michael Hunter

2009 NYS GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT PROPOSALS

This ***Voter's Guide*** will help you to evaluate the two ballot proposals that will be on the November 2009 ballot. Both are amendments to the New York State Constitution. Read about the amendments and decide whether you wish to vote for or against each one. Look carefully for them on the ballot; sometimes they are easy to miss.

PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE: AN AMENDMENT

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot):

Amendment to section 1 of article 14 of the Constitution, in relation to the use of certain forest preserve lands by National Grid to construct a 46 kV power line along State Route 56 in St. Lawrence County.

The proposed amendment would authorize the Legislature to convey up to six acres of forest preserve land along State Route 56 in St. Lawrence County to National Grid for construction of a power line. In exchange, National Grid would convey to the State at least 10 acres of forest land in St. Lawrence County, to be incorporated into the forest preserve. The land to be conveyed by National Grid to the State must be at least equal in value to the land conveyed to National Grid by the State. Should the amendment be approved?

What will this amendment do if approved by the voters?

The "Forever Wild" clause of the NYS Constitution prohibits any development in the Adirondack Forest Preserve, including the building of power lines, unless the constitution is specifically amended to allow it. A constitutional amendment requires passage by two separately elected state Legislatures and then approval by the voters. This amendment has been passed unanimously by the Legislatures that took office in 2007 and 2009, and is now being presented to the voters on the November, 2009 ballot.

This amendment will make constitutional an action that has, in fact, already taken place. The NYS Power Authority, with the involvement and agreement of the interested environmental and municipal groups, approved the building of a back-up power line through forest preserve land to protect the health and safety of the residents of the village of Tupper Lake. The line was built and activated in May of 2009.

What is the background on this proposal?

Before this new power line was built, the village of Tupper Lake had frequent power outages caused by damage to its single electrical supply line, principally from falling tree limbs in forested land along its route. There was no back-up line in the event of power failure, and during the winter alternative shelter had to be provided to village residents. This was considered an urgent situation that could not wait for the completion of the constitutional amendment process for relief, since it affected the health and safety of the villagers. The most environmentally friendly route for the new line traverses about two miles of Adirondack Forest

Preserve land, affecting a small number of physical acres. While the new line could have been detoured to avoid forest preserve land, the detour would have involved a six mile cut through old-growth undeveloped forest and wetlands, endangering the habitat of wildlife. The chosen route along an existing road through previously cleared preserve land was judged to be more ecologically friendly. National Grid, the builder of the line, will compensate for the loss of existing preserve land by conveying new forest preserve land to the State. This new land must be of equal or greater value than the land that was lost. Environmental and civic organizations are supportive of this remedy to what was a serious and persistent public health and safety issue. Since the amendment is specific to this situation, it does not give broader constitutional permission to other such solutions; each would require another constitutional amendment.

The League of Women Voters could not identify any organizations or opinions in opposition to this amendment.

PROPOSAL NUMBER TWO: AN AMENDMENT

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot):

Amendment to article 3 of the Constitution, in relation to authorizing the Legislature to allow prisoners to voluntarily perform work for nonprofit organizations.

The proposed amendment would authorize the Legislature to pass legislation to permit inmates in state and local correctional facilities to perform work for nonprofit organizations. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

What will this amendment do if approved by the voters?

The NYS Constitution currently prohibits labor performed by prisoners in state or local correctional facilities to be “be farmed out, contracted, given or sold to any person, firm, association or corporation”, except the state or any political division of the state and its public institutions. This means that prisoners cannot perform work, even voluntarily, for nonprofit organizations, such as churches, charities, social service agencies or educational institutions. If passed by the voters, this amendment will remove this constitutional impediment, and will authorize the Legislature to allow these inmates to voluntarily perform work for nonprofit organizations.

What is the background on this proposal?

The sponsors for the legislation proposing this constitutional amendment argue that prohibiting prisoners from voluntarily performing work for nonprofit organizations denies these often under-funded organizations access to a willing labor force for tasks such as grounds-keeping. They say that many localities have requested that the prohibition be removed. They also say that allowing inmate work crews to provide labor to these organizations will help fill the gaps in funding them, and will give the inmates a sense of “giving back” to the community.

The sponsors also make the point that passing this amendment would only give the Legislature authority to pass a law allowing inmates to do such work. This

“enacting legislation” could include restrictions, in the interest of public safety, on which inmates would be eligible to perform this work. Two separately elected Legislatures passed this constitutional amendment with near unanimous votes in favor.

The League of Women Voters could not identify any organizations or opinions in opposition to this amendment.

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of New York State