

2011 Voters' Guide

Niagara County



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO NIAGARA**

Election day: November 8, 2011
Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara 716-884-3550 www.lwvbn.org

New York State Assembly

New York Assembly District 148 – Special Election

Description: 2 year term - \$79,500 - The Senate and Assembly are concerned with issues at the state level. Members enact laws, pass a state budget, and discuss public policy issues.

Craig Bucki



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

Education: I graduated from Canisius High School in 2000. I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, magna cum laude, with induction into Phi Beta Kappa, from Yale University in 2003. I was awarded a Juris Doctor Degree from Columbia University Law School in 2006.

Qualifications and Experience: Since graduating from law school, I have worked as an attorney at the Buffalo law firm of Phillips Lytle LLP, where I have focused on litigation involving State and municipal government. I have advocated for clients in successful lawsuits to invalidate unconstitutional laws and government actions.

Campaign Email: craigbucki@aol.com

Campaign Address: 49 Manor Oak Drive, Amherst, NY 14228

Campaign Phone: (716) 691-6005

Q: *What is your position on the establishment and the composition of a non-partisan redistricting commission?*

A: I support the creation of a non-partisan redistricting commission to draw boundaries for all Congressional and State Legislative districts after each decennial census. It should include attorneys with knowledge of legal requirements of redistricting, and academics with expertise in statistics.

Raymond W. Walter



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

Education: After graduating from SUNY Geneseo, I worked in sales before making the decision to go back to school and pursue a law degree at UB. During my time in law school, I clerked for the US Attorney's Office, the Erie County District Attorney's Office and served as a research assistant for the Erie County

Qualifications and Experience: As Erie County Legislator, I have fought hard against the status-quo to implement common sense reforms to County Government. Upon election, I closed all legislative district offices and successfully fought the party bosses to downsize the legislature from 15 to 11 members. These reforms will save

Campaign Web Site: www.ElectRayWalter.com

Campaign Email: ElectRayWalter@gmail.com

Campaign Address: 81 PO Box East Amherst, NY 14051

Campaign Phone: (716) 235-1920

Q: *What is your position on the establishment and the composition of a non-partisan redistricting commission?*

A: I support the establishment of a true non-partisan redistricting commission. A non-partisan committee will ensure a greater level of integrity to the redistricting process. New York state voters deserve proper representation that they don't have under the current majority party system.

Niagara County

Niagara County Family Court Judge

Description: 4 year term

Kathleen M. Wojtaszek-Gariano

Party Endorsement: DEM, REP, CON, WOR, IND

Education: University at Buffalo, BA; Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, JD

Qualifications and Experience: Private practice attorney focusing on Family Law; Law Guardian; Former Assistant County Attorney prosecuting juvenile delinquency and PINS cases ; former Niagara Falls City Court Judge/Acting Niagara County family Court Judge; Court Attorney in Niagara County Family Court since 2002

Q: *What is your position on being appointed rather than elected?*

A: - no response -

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?*

A: - no response -

Niagara County Clerk

Description: 4 year term - The County Clerk directs activities of the Niagara County Clerk's office and works under the general direction of the Niagara County Legislature in performing the duties of the County Clerk. The County Clerk exercises full supervision over a substantial number of employees in the office of County Clerk and does related work as required.

Wayne F. Jagow



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, WOR, IND

Education: Bachelor's Degree - Concordia College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana Master Divinity Degree - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Missouri, Erie County Sheriff Academy, Numerous Law Enforcement Training Classes, Upper Level Management Training NYS Sheriff's Association, Leadership Niagara Graduate 1998

Qualifications and Experience: In addition to having a broad background in leadership management crossing many areas of expertise, I have served as County Clerk since 1995 employing those skills to translate government into excellent customer service at ZERO cost to tax payers for 10 years. Lifelong resident active in community.

Campaign Web Site: www.waynejagow.com

Campaign Email: wjagow@gmail.com

Campaign Address: 6310 Ridge Road Lockport, NY 14094

Campaign Phone: (716) 434-2022

Q: *What are your priorities for improving services without increasing cost?*

A: I have used technology to improve customer service. My office, one of the first in NYS to use electronic filing of court records, and the digitization and internet availability of land records, improving access for public, legal and finance industries. Operating at ZERO cost to taxpayers for 10 years.

Patrick Murphy



Party Endorsement: DEM, NTP

Education: Bachelor of Science in Business Management · D'Youville College, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration · Niagara Community College, Licensed New York State Insurance Agent for Life, Accident and Health, Group Benefits Disability Specialist – GBDS

Qualifications and Experience: Group Benefits Consultant, EMS Group – Stahlka Agency/ Walsh Insurance Group, Senior Marketing Consultant, Independent Health Association, Senior Account Executive, Univera Healthcare, Marketing Representative, Senior Choice, Univera Healthcare

Campaign Web Site: www.patmurphy4countyclerk.com

Campaign Email: patmurphy4countyclerk@roadrunn

Campaign Address: PO BOX 358 Lockport, NY 14095

Campaign Phone: (718) 225-8108

Q: *What are your priorities for improving services without increasing cost?*

A: THE NIAGARA COUNTY CLERK MUST IMPROVE SERVICES WHILE REDUCING THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF TAXPAYERS CREATE USER FRIENDLY WEBSITE, CROSS TRAIN ALL EMPLOYEES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, MOBILE SITES TO TRANSACT BUSINESS, EXPLORE NEW SOURCES FOR KEEPING LICENSE RENEWAL & REGISTRATION DOLLARS REVIEW SERVICES

Niagara County District Attorney

Description: 4 year term - The District Attorney directs legal staff and coordinates major prosecutions for crimes and offences committed in Niagara County and does related work as required. The District Attorney works within an established State Legislative framework and receives supervision on fiscal and administrative matters from the Board of Supervisors. The District Attorney also exercises full supervision over a small number of Assistant District Attorneys and legal and clerical assistants.

Michael J. Violante

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

No response received.

Niagara County Legislator

Description: 2 year term - \$17,500 - The legislature is a committee form of Government with seven Standing Committees overseeing all County Departments. The Chairman of the Legislature appoints committee members. Each Legislator is responsible for attending their assigned committee meetings in addition to attending the regularly scheduled full Legislative meetings held twice monthly.

Niagara County Legislator District 1

Clyde Burmaster

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

No response received.

Niagara County Legislator District 2

William L. Ross

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

Education: I am a 1995 graduate of Michigan State University with majors in History and Political Science and a minor in physical education.

Qualifications and Experience: I have had 10 years of appointed town/county positions in local government in remediation projects, environmental and recreation (1969-1979). I have held elected local government offices for 26 years (1980 -2011). The offices have included: Town of Niagara Councilman, Town of Wheatfield Councilman a

Campaign Address: 6761 Walmore Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Campaign Phone: 731-5949

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: The chemical industry with abundant and cheap hydro-power brought jobs and prosperity to Niagara County during the first 75 years of the 20th century, but created a legacy of Brownfields, active and inactive hazardous landfills including the infamous Love Canal. The above areas have been identified

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: As an ex officio member of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council, I am actively participating in the process of shaping a 5-year Regional Economic Development Strategy. As part of this process, I have directed the Niagara County Department of Economic Development to participate

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: We will continue to reach out to our existing employers through the Niagara County Business Growth & Retention Program. research continues to point to the fact that 80% of all new jobs in a community are created by existing companies. This is why we will continue to reach out to at least 60 to 70

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: I continue to support programs like Niagara County's Rural Niagara Transportation Program and continue to promote and support key linkages to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority's Metro Bus routes in Niagara County. I also continue to support the efforts of our Niagara County Workforce Inv

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: The lack of mandate reform with the new NYS Legislature's 2% property tax cap will mean a drastic reduction of services to the citizens to enable the county to remain with in the 2% property tax cap. The reductions may occur in discretionary spending in sheriff road patrols, county parks, county roa

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: New York State can enact policies that encourage the sustainable use of natural resources. Policies on Hydrofracking, water quality and quantity and agricultural protection should be considered. NYS should also reinvest in brownfield programs that will help remediate contaminated properties and

Niagara County Legislator District 3

John P. Briglio

Party Endorsement: DEM

No response received.

Cheree J. Copelin



Party: REP, CON, WOR, IND

Education: BA-History; Ed. M-Masters in Social Studies Education; MLS-Masters in Library Science (SUNY at Buffalo).

Qualifications and Experience: Member, Community Safety and Security Committee. Member, Economic Development Committee. Member, NYSUT, American Library Association, National Council for the Social Studies, Niagara River Anglers, LaSalle Sportsmen's Club

Campaign Email: chereecopelin@gmail.com

Campaign Address: 9302 Hennepin Ave. Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: Contaminated sites like Love Canal, which is in my district, dot our county. The County Legislature's Brownfields Development Corp. must have federal and state funds to continue cleaning up these sites. Also, Niagara Falls must address new FEMA flood maps issued in LaSalle and protect homeowners.

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: As a member of the Economic Development Committee, I'm proud we have an aggressive marketing strategy that targets Canadian businesses, businesses in water-starved states, and those that rely on abundant and cheap energy. Our county has a great deal to offer, and we're letting business leaders know.

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: Through efforts like the expansion of the Niagara Falls Opportunity Zone and USA Niagara Development Corp.'s footprint, which I helped champion as a legislator, we are making LaSalle a friendly and attractive place for small business to create jobs. We need more tax benefits tied to job creation.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: Existing NFTA routes are largely adequate in this regard, as are the Rural Niagara Transportation routes. Additionally, with a new train station being constructed in Niagara Falls, and our airport, we bring more people here to do business. We need transit that creates jobs, not new bus routes.

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: We must aggressively cut government waste, while protecting services that our taxpayers expect. We need a good, professional county workforce, and major cuts there hurt services. However, we must also do everything we can to protect taxpayers, and that means a line-item by line-item budget review.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: Niagara County is home to one of the most successful, cost-effective power generation facilities in the state, and one of only two NYPA facilities that is profitable. We have repeatedly demanded a Niagara County trustee. Albany needs to respect our role in NYPA and give us a voice in its policies.

Niagara County Legislator District 4

Kristian Green

Party Endorsement: CON

No response received.

Owen T. Steed

Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

No response received.

Niagara County Legislator District 5

Brittany I. Catchpole



Party Endorsement: REP, CON

Education: B.A., Niagara University - Currently enrolled

Qualifications and Experience: Appointed to Legislature to represent Town of Niagara. Selected unanimously by bipartisan panel. Member, Economic Development Committee. Member, Community Services Committee.

Campaign Email: brittany14304@gmail.com

Campaign Address: 2926 Louisiana Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: Residents of the DeVeaux portion of my district have been adversely impacted by the off-schedule, over-budget Lewiston Road repaving project for years. With a roadbed that contains radioactive material, there are real public health concerns. I will work to keep the NYS DEC accountable on this issue.

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: The county has already taken great strides through a 20+-year County Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, if Gov. Cuomo takes specific suggestions I and my colleagues provided him regarding the Regional Economic Councils, Niagara County will see strong state investment in, and support of, job creation.

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: As a young woman, I'm closer to this issue than many. Many of my friends are just entering the workforce or working towards degrees. We must foster a climate that encourages small businesses to create jobs while continuing to draw global corporations like Yahoo, and aggressively market our region.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: Public transit in Niagara County is generally adequate. However, specific assets like regional tourism trolleys that would link Niagara Falls, the Town of Niagara's shopping, Lewiston, and Eastern Niagara County would create employment opportunities and do far more for workers than a new bus line.

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: Our county budget must hold the line on taxes, preserve vital services, and cut government fat. We have implemented a 2012 pay freeze on senior staff and department heads, and will make other tough choices. Ultimately, though, Albany must stop passing costs for programs like Medicaid on to counties.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: Niagara County must be awarded a trustee seat at the New York Power Authority. I, along with County Legislator Renae Kimble, Assemblyman John Ceretto, and others, have demanded this. We provide New York's power, but Downstate politicians and their local allies leave us powerless.

Jason A. Zona

Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR, IND

No response received.

Niagara County Legislator District 6

Dennis F. Virtuoso

Party Endorsement: DEM, CON, WOR, IND

Education: Graduated - Niagara Falls High School Attended - Niagara County Community College, Niagara University, Cornell University Also - Certified Code Enforcement officer (CEO) New York State

Qualifications and Experience: I have been a County Legislator for twenty years. I have served as Majority Leader, Minority Leader. I also was in business for ten years and was President of my Business Asso. and President of my union.

Campaign Address: 2703 Independence Ave. Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Campaign Phone: (716) 870-6638

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: I think Brownfields are our biggest environmental challenge. We have many Brownfields sites in Niagara County. As a Legislator I will pursue grants to locate companies to re-locate them to these sites.

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: Niagara County has our Center for Economic Development. This is a one stop shop for Economic Dev. our staff will walk the Developers thru the Red Tape.

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: As elected officials we do not create jobs, but we can create a climate for companies to locate here. We can eliminate unnecessary regulations and keep taxes low.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: No. I don't think there is a public transportation problem in Niagara County. Thus this would not be an obstacle for employment opportunities.

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: It's a fine balancing act. You must first decided which services are reality a necessity and then try to provide these services at the lowest possible cost.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: Niagara County's biggest natural resource is water. We have beautiful lakes, rivers and streams. We must keep them environmentally clean. Stricter State regulations and oversight are needed.

Niagara County Legislator District 7

Gerald J. McCormick

Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

No response received.

Kathleen Polk-Lance

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

No response received.

Niagara County Legislator District 8

Katie J. Rich



Party Endorsement: DEM, Lumberjack

Education: North Tonawanda High School,2001-Regents Diploma. Niagara County Community College,2004- Associates Degree in Liberal Arts Humanities and Social Sciences. University at Buffalo,2007-Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies.

Qualifications and Experience: My degree,Legal Studies required me to take alot of classes about politics.In 2007 I interned with Assemblyman Robin Schimminger.I learned a lot there and dealt with his constituents on a day to day basis.2007-Campaign manager for my father(Joe Rich).2009-I ran for 10th District County Legislator.

Campaign Web Site: www.niagarademocrats.com

Campaign Email: Special_K1@roadrunner.com

Campaign Address: 279 Wheatfield St. North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Campaign Phone: (716) 534-4354

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: Protecting human health and the environment. We need to clean up industrial brown fields, and rehabilitate abandoned contaminated sites in the County. We can turn contaminated sites into useful properties that will help clean up the legacy of pollution, redevelop neighborhoods and create jobs.

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: Creating and capitalizing on opportunities in these tough economic times, strengthen our outreach initiatives, close deals and see tangible results in terms of capital investment and job creation, secure funds for local projects though stimulus funds and also plan for the future.

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: We need to have IDA reform. We need to make sure these businesses are adhering to their guidelines which allow them to get these tax breaks. They need to offer a living wage to employees and adhere to the rules. We need to attract businesses to our area also, which will create more jobs.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: No. I actually feel we have a good public transportation system in Niagara County but I would always be willing to work with NFTA (Niagara Frontier Transit Authority) to improve it if we can.

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: The quality of life of the citizens is most important. We cannot cut police or fire protection if it means jeopardizing someone's quality of life. I would raise the County sales tax one penny before cutting any services or jobs which we so desperately need. A penny from everyone would really add up.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: We need to negotiate with the power authority. The County needs more low-cost power, more money, and more of a say. Negotiating with them and controlling the money more will keep businesses here instead of forcing them out-of-state when we have the supply right here. This will create and keep jobs.

Peter E. Smolinski



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, WOR, IND

Education: Associate's degree in applied science from Erie Community College, general radiotelephone license from the FCC, certificate from Cornell Labor Management School, Buffalo Radio Institute for electronic technician license.

Qualifications and Experience: Chairman, Community Services Committee. Member, Public Works Committee, Refuse District Oversight Committee. Ascension Church & Senior Group, American Legion Stephen Sikora Post 1322, Active Hose Volunteer Fire Department, AARP chapter 3526, North Tonawanda Senior Citizens, Third Ward Social Club.

Campaign Email: petesmo@roadrunner.com

Campaign Address: 449 Robert Drive N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

Campaign Phone: (716) 695-1873

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: Protecting our waterways and rehabilitating old industrial brownfield sites. I'm proud that, as a county legislator, I helped secure Greenway funding to improve our city's shoreline, developing Gratwick Park, and a strong advocate for the Niagara County IDA's support of the Remington Rand project.

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: Niagara County must have a stronger voice on the new Regional Economic Councils. Our Economic Development Commissioner, Sam Ferraro, was denied a seat there by the Cuomo Administration, and that was wrong. We will continue working to ensure we have a real voice in regional economic policy.

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: Niagara County must sell its strengths. We have access to major highway networks, water, Canadian trade, and most importantly, cheap hydropower. We have lured companies like Yahoo because we met their needs and had a good climate. We need to replicate that Yahoo success with other companies.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: We need adequate transit options for our seniors and others, but our current transit system seems to work for most of our workers. More public transit is less important than expanding our successful airport and maintaining our roadways.

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: My goal in the legislature is to keep the size of government down and keep taxes down. I am proud of the fact that, during my term of office, we have cut county property taxes by more than 13%. We've also cut about 400 county jobs. And, we did this while maintaining basic services like road paving.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: Niagara County must demand a permanent representative at the New York Power Authority Board of Trustees. From sweeping half a billion dollars in overpayments by local utility customers into the state general fund, to renegeing on promises made during relicensing, no agency has done less good.

Niagara County Legislator District 9

Paul Wojtaszek

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, WOR, IND

No response received.

Janet B. Zehr

Party Endorsement: DEM

Education: Masters degree, SUNY Buffalo State College 1976

Qualifications and Experience: Vice Chair, North Tonawanda Democratic Party, worked on local and national campaigns

Campaign Web Site: Ntdemocrats.org/jzimmermanzehr.HTML

Campaign Email: Jbzehr@aol.com

Campaign Address: 971 Sweeney Street North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Campaign Phone: (716) 868-9605

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: We have a unique resource in Niagara Falls. The falls is a major generator of electrical power, and we should be the major beneficiary of that power. I am disturbed that our clean power source has been co-opted by politicians who have not put Niagara County first.

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: I will work with businessmen and political committees to find ways to attract new green business to our area. I will also try to reduce the tax burden on business and residents.

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: I feel that we need to emphasize education through our high schools and community colleges. We also need incentives for businesses to hire our graduates.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: Yes, I think it is. I recently visited Chicago and was impressed by the excellent low-cost public transportation there. Young people who can't afford cars need a way to get to jobs when they become available. We need to invest in new buses & routes & seek some grant money for this.

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: This is a real challenge. We must study this situation and reduce wasteful practices while avoiding tax increases on our citizens.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: This must be our highest priority! We must make people aware that this is occurring and put pressure on our state representatives to put Niagara County first.

Niagara County Legislator District 10

David Godfrey



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: Water and ground contamination from Model City. Stricter regulations and stronger state and federal oversight.

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: We must STOP the Governors move to "regionalize" our IDAs. Only our local IDAs have the knowledge and experience to help our local communities. Also, a state-level IDA will drain needed funds from Niagara County to down-state (i.e., New York City and Albany).

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: Improved education with new career-focused courses, job fairs, small business start-up funding, and fight for more low-cost power from NYPA.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: I do not have enough facts to judge the limitations or effectiveness of our public transportation system, however I do believe it requires more of my attention when considering its role in employment opportunities.

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: I have and will continue to fight to STOP future unfunded mandates from both the state and the federal government, and push to reduce existing mandate costs to our tax payers.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: Stop Albany's quest to "consolidate" our IDAs. Fight to restore "our fair share" of funding sources like the E911 surcharge and UASI. Continue to pressure NYPA for more local low-cost power. Fight to have LOCAL representation on state committees and NYPA Board. Help our farmers in every way I can.

Niagara County Legislator District 11

Tony Nemi

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

No response received.

Niagara County Legislator District 12

Rick Updegrave

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

No response received.

Niagara County Legislator District 13

Andrew C. Chapman



Party Endorsement: DEM

Education: Received a Bachelor of Science Degree (BS) in Sociology and a minor with Criminal Justice, Business Administration from Dana College, Blair, NE. Additional education acquired through the Advanced Business Management Program while attending California State University, Fresno, CA.

Qualifications and Experience: Senior executive with verifiable proven success in achieving revenue, profit and business growth objectives within both start-up and static environments. Alderman, 4th Ward, City of Lockport. School Board, Christian Central Academy. Food Security & Terrorism Board, President Bush, Washington, D.C.

Campaign Web Site: www.nc13thdistrict.com

Campaign Email: andy@nc13thdistrict.com

Campaign Address: 532 Pine Street Lockport, New York 14094

Campaign Phone: (716) 433-2006

Questions:

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: It continues to be the contaminated sites and the mediocre action taken. Public awareness needs to be heightened and renewed. I recommend supplementing the existing website which catalogues the contaminated sites with a comprehensive description. Include contact information of all decision makers.

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: If you include the Buffalo Niagara enterprise, there are seven distinct entities with a focus on economic development. Unify these agencies, create one strong entity working collectively to benefit of the entire region. This would reduce redundancy and enabled emergent growth.

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: Training for various trades, coupled with excellence in comprehensive basic education is imperative. Charter school opportunities must be supported by the County. Competent players are a must if we want companies to locate here. We must do a better job in identifying / developing these competencies.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: Public transportation is not a predominant obstacle to employment opportunities. When it does become an obstacle, expansion of many routes by the established Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority should be the starting point. We need not reinvent the wheel.

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: CONSOLIDATE! The County must take the lead to consolidate management of services. A significant byproduct is better product, better price, and increased efficiencies. It is a waste to see county snowplow drivers, lift the blade. Public safety / Dispatch should be coordinated for the entire county.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: Aggressive advocacy by unifying all elected officials, coupled with grass roots support from residents will cause local, county, state, and federal agencies to be more responsive regarding the plight of this region and the natural resources contained within our geography.

Wm. Keith McNall

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, WOR, IND

Education: Graduated DeSales High School NCCC liberal arts...NYS Skilled Trade Certification Princeton Univ. for Quality Assurance Certification

Qualifications and Experience: 18 years Lockport School Board (5 years President) 5 years Niagara County Legislator 23 years Credit/Supervisory Com. Cornerstone FCC

Campaign Email: DMKM739@aol.com

Campaign Address: 739 Willow Street Lockport, NY 14094

Campaign Phone: (716) 434-8070

Q: *What are the main environmental challenges facing Niagara today and how will you overcome them as a member of the Niagara County Legislature?*

A: Environment challenges today in Niagara County relate to the clean-up of some identified toxic sites. Brownfield clean up is on-going as well as the challenging cost of refuge landfill re-cap. Funding is being sought and obtained through the county legislature's Brownfield Dev. Corporation which re

Q: *How will you address the need for regional planning for economic development in Niagara County and its three cities?*

A: Through a detailed county comprehensive plan the legislature and Center for Economic Development have laid out a long term jobs and economic growth plan that preserves Niagara county's unique communities.

Q: *How will you address the challenges and opportunities for jobs for Niagara County residents?*

A: Marketing efforts targeting Canada, water starved states and businesses reliant upon an abundant cheap energy and tax incentives for new businesses are essential when trying to find new job opportunity.

Q: *Is limited public transportation in Niagara County an obstacle to employment opportunities for Niagara County residents? If so, how would you improve public transportation?*

A: I do not believe public transportation in Niagara County is an obstacle for employment. If it were, bus transportation is acceptable to route change and time schedule changes to accommodate employment needs. However, tourism oriented mass transit such as trolley that take advantage of our county's

Q: *How will you provide services to the citizens of Niagara County while paying mandated costs and addressing citizen concerns related to tax rates?*

A: Services will be provided to residents despite mandated costs through serious budget deliberations and costs analysis that will maintain needed services while reducing budgetary areas that are non-essential.

Q: *What can be done to halt New York State from stripping Niagara County of its natural and economic resources?*

A: Good Question! Resolutions to the state usually far upon deaf ears relative to stopping or suspending unfunded mandates. Loud public protest, mass contact to Assembly and Senate elected officials is on way to protect natural and economic resources from being violated. Lawsuit action by city/county

Niagara County Legislator District 14

John Syracuse

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

No response received.

Niagara County Legislator District 15

Mike Hill

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

No response received.