

# From Washington to Albany: 2020 Election Preview

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While much of our electoral focus has been on the battle for the Oval Office, New York State races are also heating up as all 63 Senate and 150 Assembly seats are up for re-election. Of note, the statewide offices (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller) are not on the ballot this year. Though 26 seats in the Assembly are open and several more are considered contests, the lower house's super majority does not appear to be in peril. The action, so to speak, is playing out in the Senate races where a huge influx of cash by independent billionaires such as cosmetic executive Ron Lauder, police unions and a Virginia-based entity known as Good Government for New York have (combined) spent nearly \$4 million to support Republican candidates running in key suburban and upstate races this year.

In 2018, Senate Republicans lost their decades long hold on the Chamber in a number of stunning defeats across the State. Regardless of the funding being poured into campaigns, the work to regain ground is considered to be uphill as nine Republican held seats have or will be vacated due to an unprecedented number of announced retirements and resignations over the last several months. Nonetheless, the battles are expected to be at full throttle until Election Day on November 3<sup>rd</sup> as Senate Democrats stand two seats away from having a veto proof majority and thereby controlling the once-in-a-decade redistricting process following the 2020 census with long-term implications for the balance of power in the upper house.

In addition to nine vacant seats being defended by Senate Republicans, several races around the state held by freshman Democratic members are reported to be bloody battlegrounds, such as **District 3**, where Senator Monica Martinez (D), Chair of the Domestic Animal Welfare Committee is staking out her territory against Republican challenger Alexis Weik. In **District 5**, Senator Gaughran (D), Chair of Local Government and Republican challenger, veteran and small business owner, Ed Smyth, are traversing a bumpy road toward Election Day. **District 6**, is seeing a battle between Senator Kevin Thomas (D), Chair of Consumer Protection Committee and Vietnam Veteran, Town Councilman Republican Dennis Dunne, while in **District 22**, Senator Andrew Gounardes is fighting to stay alive against Republican challenger, Vito Bruno, founder, and CEO of AM-PM Entertainment Concepts, whose claim to fame was his early work at 2001 Odyssey, the Brooklyn club made famous in the John Travolta classic "Saturday Night Fever."

Further up the river, in **District 40**, freshman Senator and Chair of the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Committee, Peter Harckham (D), is fending off a challenge to his seat by Republican and former Westchester County Executive, Robert Astorino. Astorino launched an unsuccessful campaign against Governor Cuomo in 2014. And in **District 42**, Senator Jen Metzger (D), Chair of the Agriculture Committee is doing battle with Republican backed and well financed, Mike Martucci, farmer, philanthropist, and school bus business owner.

## **Vacant Republican Held Senate Seats:**

**District 1**, long held by retiring member, Senator Kenneth LaValle (R) covers the eastern end of Suffolk County on Long Island, including the towns of East Hampton, Southold, Shelter Island, Southampton, and Riverhead, as well as some of eastern Brookhaven. The district is located entirely within New York's 1st congressional district, and overlaps with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th district of the New York State Assembly.

Contenders for the seat are Democrat, Laura Ahearn vs Republican, Anthony Palumbo. Ahearn holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Dowling College, a master's degree in social work from State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a law degree from Touro Law Center. Palumbo is a member of the New York State Assembly, representing District 2. He assumed office on January 7, 2014. His current term ends on December 31, 2020. Palumbo earned his bachelor's degree in Government and Law from Lafayette College and his J.D. from St. John's Law School.

**District 2**, It is currently vacant, following the resignation of Republican former Senate Majority Leader John J. Flanagan. District 2 covers north-central Suffolk County on Long Island, including the town of Smithtown, as well as portions of Brookhaven and Huntington. The district overlaps with New York's 1st and 3rd congressional districts, and with the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 10th, and 12th districts of the New York State Assembly.

Contenders for the seat are Democrat Michael Siderakis vs. Republican Mario Mattera. Siderakis is a 28-year veteran of the New York State Police and Mattera is a 39-year member and leader of the Plumbers Local Union 200.

**District 45** will be vacant for the first time since 2003, when Senator Elizabeth Little (R) retires at the end of the year. District 45, covering 6,800 square miles, is the largest in the state and includes a large swath of northeastern New York's North County and Capital District, including all of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and Warren Counties, and parts of St. Lawrence County and Washington County. The district, which contains Plattsburgh and Queensbury, reaches the northernmost point in the state. The district is located entirely within New York's 21st congressional district, and overlaps with the 107th, 113th, 114th, 115th, and 118th districts of the New York State Assembly.

Contenders for the seat are Democrat Kimberley Davis and Republican Daniel Stec. Davis holds degrees in Business (Marketing) and Philosophy and Accounting from SUNY Plattsburgh and has served as the Clinton County Treasurer for the last seven years. Prior to that she served as the Town Assessor. Stec has a bachelor's degree from Clarkson, served in the US Navy and currently holds the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly seat.

**District 46** will become vacant with the retirement of Senator George Amedore (R). District 46 is located in the Hudson Valley and eastern Capital District, and covers all of Montgomery County and Greene County and parts of Albany, Schenectady, and Ulster Counties. The district overlaps with New York's 19th and 20th congressional districts, and with the 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 109th, and 111th districts of the New York State Assembly.

Contenders for the seat are Democrat, Michelle Hinchey, and Republican Richard Amedure. Hinchey comes to the race with a degree in Labor and Industrial Relations from Cornell University and experience in communications. Amedure comes to the race with 31 years of service as a New York State Trooper and prior to that, he served in the Army.

**District 51** is being vacated by Senator James Seward (R) who has held the seat since 1986 and is retiring at the end of this session in December. The district is a geographically convoluted, covering that parts of Central New York and Hudson Valley – including all of Schoharie, Otsego, and Cortland Counties, as well as parts of Tompkins, Herkimer, Chenango, Cayuga, Delaware, and Ulster Counties. The district overlaps with New York's 19th, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th congressional districts, and with the 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 118th, 119th, 121st, 122nd, 125th, and 126th districts of the New York State Assembly.

Contenders for the seat are Democrat Jim Barber vs. Republican Peter Oberacker. Barber has a lifetime of experience as a farmer and Oberacker comes with business and local government experience, working in his family meat market chairing the Public Works Committee, and as Maryland Town Supervisor and as a town board member.

**District 55** is another open seat due to the pending retirement of Senator Richard Funke (R) who has represented the district since 2015. District 55 covers parts of Monroe and Ontario Counties, including the eastern half of Rochester and many of its eastern and northern suburbs. The district overlaps with New York's 23rd, 25th, and 27th congressional districts, and with the 131st, 133rd, 135th, 136th, 137th, and 138th districts of the New York State Assembly.

Vying for the seat are, Democrat Samra Brouk and Republican Christopher Missick. Brouk comes to the race with a bachelor's degree from Williams College and experience in fundraising for a grassroots journalism organization. Missick comes to the race having served in the army and running a law practice

**District 56** is being vacated by long-term Senator Joseph Robach (R), who has held the seat since 2003. The District is located entirely within Monroe County in Western New York, and includes much of western Rochester and its surrounding suburbs of Brighton, Gates, Greece, Parma, Clarkson, and Hamlin. The district overlaps with New York's 25th and 27th congressional districts, and with the 134th, 136th, 137th, 138th, and 139th districts of the New York State Assembly.

Contenders for the seat are Democratic Jeremy Cooney vs. Republican Michael Barry. Cooney holds a degree in public policy from Hobart College and a law degree from Albany Law School. Barry comes to the race with local government experience as he served as the Executive Director of the Monroe County Youth Bureau and Town Councilman of Greece, NY.

**District 60** was held by relative newcomer (2017), Senator Jacobs (R) who recently vacated the seat to run for congress. District 60 is located entirely within Erie County in Western New York, including much of southern Buffalo and the surrounding suburbs of Brant, Evans, Grand Island, Hamburg, Orchard Park, and the city and town of Tonawanda. The district overlaps with New York's 26th and 27th congressional districts, and with the 140th, 141st, 142nd, 145th, 147th, and 149th districts of the New York State Assembly.

Contenders for the seat are Democrat Sean Ryan and Republican Joshua Mertzluft. Ryan holds a bachelor's degree from SUNY College at Fredonia and his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. His professional experience includes working as a lawyer at a private practice, at Neighborhood Legal Services and at the Legal Aide Bureau of Buffalo. He has served in the Assembly since 2011. Mertzluft is an engineer turned attorney. He holds a bachelor's degree in Applied Physics from Houghton College and his law degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law.

### **Vacant Democratic Held Seats**

Two seats long held by Democrats will usher in new Representatives as Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Chair of Children and Families Committee is retiring after 17 years in office and Senator Carlucci, Chair of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee gave up his seat to launch a bid for Congress. As a result, new Committee Chairs will be determined early in the 2020 session.

In **District 25**, Senator Montgomery staffer Jabari Brisport prevailed in a hard-fought three-way primary for the seat. The District encompasses the communities of Fort Greene, Boerum Hill, Red Hook, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Sunset Park, Gowanus, and Park Slope. Brisport has no Republican challenger for the seat as he heads toward November 3<sup>rd</sup>. He comes to the position with deep roots in the community as a public-school educator and activist.

Further North, in **District 38**, Democrat Elijah Reichlin-Melnick and Republican, William Weber are battling for the recently vacated Orange County seat which covers the vast majority of Rockland County in the northern New York City suburbs, including the towns of Orangetown, Clarkstown, and Ramapo; the district also crosses the Hudson River to incorporate a small part of Ossining in Westchester County. The district is located entirely within New York's 17th congressional district, and overlaps with the 95th, 96th, 97th, and 98th districts of the New York State Assembly.

Reichlin-Melnick comes to the race with a bachelor's degree from Cornell and years of experience in local and state government. He currently serves as Legislative Director for Senator James Skoufis. Weber holds a BBA in Public Accounting from Pace University, is a NYS Certified Public Accountant and sits on the Board of the Mental Health Association of Rockland County.

Overall, 16 Senators (or 25% of the Senate) are running unopposed, according to Ballotpedia. State of Races for Senate Leadership & Key Committee Chairs:

- Senate Temporary President and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D) is running unopposed.
- Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris (D) is running unopposed.
- Senator Toby Stavisky, Chair of Senate Higher Education Committee, is running unopposed.
- Senator Gustavo Rivera, Chair of Senate Health Committee, faces Republican Dustin Martinez and Conservative Steven Stern.
- Senator Neil Breslin (D), Chair of Senate Insurance Committee, squares off against Republican David Yule.

**NY Assembly November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election Preview** Heading into the 2020 election cycle, 26 Assembly seats will be up for grabs without an incumbent on the ballot. The reason for these open seats: retirements, elected to another office, running for another office and in one case the passing of Assemblymember David Gantt earlier this summer. As it stands, the 150-member body consists of 103 Democrats, 42 Republicans, and 1 independent. In 49 of the 150 Assembly Districts (approximately 33%) there is only one candidate on the ballot on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, according to information

available from Ballotpedia. In most instances it is the incumbents in these districts running unopposed or the candidate who prevailed from the June primaries.

#### State of Races for Senate Leadership & Key Committee Chairs:

- Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D) faces Republican Brenton Ritchie and Conservative Regina Cartagena.
- Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes (D) faces Republican Sean Miles.
- Assemblymember Richard Gottfried (D), Chair of Assembly Health Committee, is running unopposed.
- Assemblymember Debra Glick (D), Chair of Assembly Higher Education Committee, faces Republican Tamara Lashchyk, author and career coach who worked on Wall Street for 26 years.
- Assemblymember Kevin Cahill (D), Chair of Assembly Insurance Committee, faces Republican Rex Bridges, a U.S. Navy veteran.
- Assemblymember Aileen Gunther (D), Chair of Assembly Mental Health Committee, is running unopposed.

#### Overview of 26 open seats:

**2<sup>nd</sup> District** (Suffolk County) – Assemblymember Anthony Palumbo (R) did not run for re-election to his Assembly seat and is instead running for the Senate seat held by retiring Senator Ken LaValle in the first Senate District (see previous section on Senate election preview for further details). The contenders: Democrat Laura Jens-Smith, a registered nurse and former Riverhead Town Supervisor, squares off against Republican Jodi Giglio, a Riverhead Town Councilwoman. The Suffolk-based Assembly district includes portions of Brookhaven Town of Brookhaven, and all of Riverhead and Southold.

**9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Nassau/Suffolk Counties) – Assemblymember Michael LiPetri (R) did not run for re-election to his Assembly seat and instead ran in a crowded June Republican primary for the Congressional seat held by longtime U.S. Representative Peter King but did not prevail. The contenders: Democrat Ann Brancato, of Massapequa who has worked for the last 20 years as a healthcare and human services executive, and Republican Michael Durso, a certified first responder and current Sanitation Supervisor for the Town of Oyster Bay. The 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly district covers parts of both Nassau and Suffolk counties, including South Farmingdale, Massapequa, portions of Fire Island and the Great South Bay area, Massapequa Park, West Babylon, Babylon, West Islip, and Brightwaters.

**12<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Suffolk County) – Vacant – Assemblymember Andrew Raia (R) was elected Huntington Town Clerk on November 5, 2019 succeeding his mother who held the position for 38 years. Due to the risk of spread of COVID-19 Governor Cuomo issued an executive order rescheduling the April 28, 2020, special election to coincide with the November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election. The contenders are two lawyers: Democrat Michael Marcantonio, and Republican Keith Brown. The 12<sup>th</sup> district covers parts of the towns of Huntington, Babylon and Islip.

**16<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Nassau County) – Assemblymember Anthony D’Urso (D) announced earlier this year he would retire at the end of his current term. The contenders: Democrat Gina Sillitti, a veteran of town and county government working as director of legislator affairs and deputy chief of staff for former North Hempstead Town Supervisor Jon Kaiman and most recently as human resources director for the Nassau County Board of Elections, and Republican Ragini Srivastava, owner of two small businesses who immigrated to the U.S. from India in 2001 and previous candidate for North Hempstead Town Council. The 16th Assembly District covers Great Neck, Port Washington, Manhasset, Roslyn Heights, North Hills, Flower Hill, Lake Success, Baxter Estates, Manorhaven and Sands Point.

**31<sup>st</sup> Assembly District** (Queens) – Vacant – Assemblymember Michele Titus (D) was elected as New York City Civil Court Judge on November 5, 2019. Due to the risk of spread of COVID-19 Governor Cuomo issued an executive order rescheduling the April 28, 2020, special election to coincide with the November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election. The contenders: Democrat Khaleel Anderson, a community organizer and member of Community Board 14 who, at age 24, if victorious will become the youngest members of the Assembly; and, Republican Joseph Cullina. The 31st Assembly District covers parts of Avero, Far Rockaway, South Ozone Park, South Richmond Hill, Springfield Gardens, Rosedale and Laurelton.

**34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Queens) – Assemblymember Michael DenDekker (D) was bested in the June Democratic primary by Democrat Jessica González-Rojas, former executive director of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health and adjunct professor for CUNY City College and NYU Wagner School of Public Service. Ms.



González-Rojas squares off against Republican William Marquez. The 34<sup>th</sup> Assembly district includes Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst, and parts of Woodside and Corona.

**36th Assembly District** (Queens) – Assemblymember Aravella Simotas (D) was bested in the June Democratic primary by Democrat Zohran Kwame Mamdani, who was born and raised in Kampala, Uganda and currently works as a housing counselor. Mr. Mamdani, who has the backing of the Democratic Socialists of America, is running unopposed in the November 3rd general election. The 36<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes Astoria and parts of Long Island City.

**38th Assembly District** (Queens) – Assemblymember Michael Miller (D) was bested in the June Democratic primary by Democrat Jennifer Rajkumar, a civil rights lawyer and professor at CUNY who worked in Governor Cuomo’s administration as State’s Director of Immigration Affairs & Special Counsel. Ms. Rajkumar squares off against Republican Giovanni Perna, who holds bachelor’s in criminal justice and has experience working for former Assemblymember Pete Lopez. The 38th Assembly District includes Woodhaven, Ridgewood, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park and Glendale.

**50th Assembly District** (Brooklyn) – Longtime Assemblymember Joe Lentol (D), first elected in 1972, was bested in the June Democratic primary by Democrat Emily Gallagher, a local community board member, who proceeds to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election unopposed. Ms. Gallagher formerly worked as co-chair of Neighbors for Good Growth, a community organization that focused on creating new parkland, protecting Greenpoint’s waterfront, and preserving rent stabilized housing. The district 50<sup>th</sup> includes the North Brooklyn communities of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Fort Greene and parts of Clinton Hill.

**51st Assembly District** (Brooklyn) – Longtime Assemblymember Felix Ortiz (D) was bested in the June Democratic primary by Democrat Marcela Mitaynes who faces no opponent in the November 3rd general election. Ms. Marcela Mitaynes is a tenant activist for the nonprofit Neighbors Helping Neighbor and received the backing of the Democratic Socialists of America and U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The 51st Assembly District covers parts of Red Hook, Gowanus, and Sunset Park.

**56th Assembly District** (Brooklyn) – Assemblymember Tremaine Wright (D) did not run for re-election to her Assembly seat and instead ran in the June Senate Democratic primary for the Senate seat held by longtime incumbent Velmanette Montgomery who announced her retirement at the end of the term. Assemblymember Wright did not prevail in the Senate Democratic primary. The contenders: Democrat Stefani Zinerman, who prevailed in the June Assembly Democratic primary over Democrat Justin Cohen to go onto the November 3rd general election. Ms. Zinerman is running unopposed in the general election. Ms. Zinerman is a former pastor and worked as an aide to retiring Senator Montgomery. Ms. Zinerman’s primary election had the backing of virtually all of the prominent federal, state and local officials and among others Planned Parenthood Action and Social Services Employees Union (SSEU) Local 371 and Local 372. The 56th Assembly District covers Bedford-Stuyvesant and Northern Crown Heights neighborhoods.

**57th Assembly District** (Brooklyn) – Democrat Phara Souffrant Forrest, a registered nurse, prevailed over incumbent Assemblymember Walter Mosley (D) in the June Democratic primary. While Assemblymember Mosley conceded the Democratic primary, he is continuing onto the general election on the Working Families Party. The 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District covers Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights and parts of Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights.

**64th Assembly District** (Brooklyn/Staten Island) – Assemblymember Nicole Malliotakis (R) did not run for re-election to her Assembly seat and instead is running against for U.S. Representative Max Rose (D) in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (see section above on federal Congressional races for more information). The contenders: Democrat Brandon Patterson, who holds a bachelor’s from SUNY Albany and master’s degree from Baruch College and worked in a variety of capacities for Senators and Assemblymembers including as deputy chief of staff for Senator Diane Savino; and, Republican Michael Tannousis, a former Staten Island assistant district attorney who received his JD from Pace Law School. The 64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes parts of Brooklyn and Staten Island.

**79th Assembly District** (Bronx) – Assemblymember Michael Blake (D) did not run for re-election to his Assembly seat, opting instead to run in the crowded Democratic Primary for the 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (covering much of South Bronx) to replace retiring Rep. Jose Serrano. The contenders: Democrat Chantel Jackson, a licensed master’s social worker (LMSW), and Republican Donald Skinner and Conservative Dion Powell. Mr. Powell, who worked as a community liaison to the Bronx for the current incumbent, lost in the 6-way June Democratic Primary to Ms. Jackson but is forging ahead on

the conservative party line, according to Ballotpedia. Ms. Jackson's bid has the backing local unions DC37 NYSUT, UFT, Local 372 and Assemblyman Michael Blake, State Senator Luis Sepulveda and State Senator Brian Benjamin.

**85<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Bronx) – Assemblymember Marcos Crespo (D) announced early in 2020 he would not run for re-election in order to pursue employment in the private sector and resigned before the end of his term on June 26, 2020. The contenders: Democrat Kenneth Burgos, current Budget Director for New York City Council and graduate of SUNY Albany, Republican Janelle King who unsuccessfully challenged Assemblyman Crespo in 2014, 2016 and 2018, and Conservative Gabriel Eronosele. The 85<sup>th</sup> Assembly district includes Longwood, Hunts Point, Soundview and Clason Point.

**93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District** (Bronx) – Assemblymember David Buchwald (D) did not run for re-election to his Assembly seat opting instead to run in the June Democratic Congressional primary for the 18<sup>th</sup> District (covering parts of Westchester and Rockland counties) seat represented by U.S. Representative Nita Lowey (D) who is retiring at the end of 2020, which was won by progressive Mondaire Jones, a former Westchester County law department attorney. The contenders: Democrat Chris Burdick, Bedford Town Supervisor, and Republican John Nuculovic, a former New York City correction officer and former Army officer who unsuccessfully ran for the seat against Buchwald in 2018. The 93<sup>rd</sup> district contains all of Interstate 684 in Westchester County and includes the towns of Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge and the City of White Plains.

**114<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Essex/Warren/Saratoga/Washington Counties) – Assemblymember Dan Stec (R) did not run for re-election to his Assembly seat opting instead to run for the Senate seat held by Senator Elizabeth Little (R) who is retiring at the end of current term (see previous section on Senate election preview for further details). The contenders: Democrat Claudia Braymer, a lawyer who owns her own firm and serves on the Warren County Board of Supervisors representing Glens Falls, and Republican Matthew Simpson, Horicon Town Supervisor. The 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly district includes all of Essex and Warren counties, the towns of Corinth, Day, Hadley and Edinburg in Saratoga County as well as the towns of Dresden, Fort Ann, Granville, Hampton, Hebron, Putnam and Whitehall in Washington County.

**122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District** (Broome, Chenango, Otsego and Delaware Counties) – Longtime Assemblymember Clifford Crouch (R) announced his retirement at the end of the current term. The contenders: Democrat Richard Shaw, an air force veteran who retired in 2017 from his position as Health Safety Coordinator for Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego Board of Cooperative Educational Services (DCMO BOCES) and Republican Joe Angelino, former Norwich Police Chief who served in the US Marines for 23 years earning two purple hearts. Angelino secured the Republican nomination for the general election after defeating two Republican challengers including Nicholas Libous, the son of the late Senate Deputy Majority Leader Thomas Libous. The 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District covers parts of Broome, Chenango, Otsego and Delaware Counties.

**125<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Tompkins & Cortland Counties) – Longtime Assemblymember Barbara Lifton (D) announced her retirement at the end of the current term. The contenders: Democrat Anna Kelles, a Tompkins County Legislator who holds a bachelor's degree in Biology and Environmental studies from Binghamton University, PhD in Nutritional Epidemiology from The University of North Carolina, and maintains a private practice in nutritional and wellness counseling; and, Republican Matthew McIntyre, chair of the Cortland County Libertarian Party. The 125<sup>th</sup> Assembly District 125th covers all of Tompkins County, the City of Cortland and the towns of Cortlandville, Virgil, Harford and Lapeer in Cortland County.

**126<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland and Onondaga Counties) – Assemblymember Gary Finch (R) announced his retirement at the end of the current term. The contenders: Democrat Dia Carabajal, former Auburn city councilor and former Auburn School Board member and current computer science and mathematics professor at Cayuga Community College, and Republican John Lemondes Jr., a retired Army colonel and owner of Elly's Acres Farm in LaFayette. The 126 Assembly district covers portions of Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland and Onondaga counties.

**131<sup>st</sup> Assembly District** (Ontario & Seneca Counties) – Assemblymember Brian Kolb (R), who stepped down as Assembly Republican Leader earlier this year following his arrest on DWI late last year, announced he would not run for re-election. The contenders: Democrat Matthew Miller, a veteran of the New York National Guard where he worked as an intelligence analyst who went to work in a variety of roles including patient care technician in the Emergency Department at Thompson Hospital and a clinical assistant at Boston Children's Hospital; and, Republican Jeff Gallahan,

who served as Manchester Town Supervisor for a decade one-half and is the owner of CR7 Catering & Food Trailer in Shortsville. Cynthia Wade is running on the Serve America Movement Party line. The 131<sup>st</sup> Assembly district includes all of Ontario County and parts of Seneca County.

**134<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Monroe County) – Assemblymember Peter Lawrence (R) announced earlier this year he would not run for re-election ending his 5-year run in the Assembly at the end of the current term. The contenders: Democrat Carolyn Carroll, Fraud Investigator with Monroe County Department of Human Services, Republican Josh Jensen, Town of Greece Councilman and former Director of Communications and Director of Community Affairs and Public Policy for Senator Joe Robach (R), Ericka Jones on the Green Party Line, and Dylan Dailer on the Worker Families Party Line. The 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly district includes the towns of Greece, Ogden and Parma in Monroe County.

**136<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Monroe County) – Vacant – The seat became vacant on February 6, 2020 when Governor Cuomo appointed Assemblymember Jamie Romeo (D) Monroe County Clerk. Due to the risk of spread of COVID-19 Governor Cuomo issued an executive order rescheduling the April 28, 2020, special election to coincide with the November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election. The contenders Democrat Sarah Clark, who currently served as Acting State Director for US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and formerly worked for then-US Senator Hillary Clinton, Justin Clark, who was bested by Ms. Clark in the June primary, on the Independence Party Line, and Steven Becker on the Libertarian Party Line. Mr. Clark is no stranger to government as well having worked as legislative director for Assemblymember Romeo before she resigned and in the same position for former Senator Ted O'Brien. The 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly District covers the eastern parts of the City of Rochester as well as Irondequoit and Brighton in Monroe County.

**137<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Monroe County) – Vacant – The Assembly seat is vacant as longtime Assemblymember David Gantt died on July 1, 2020. The contender: The only declared candidate for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> general election is Democrat Demond Meeks, a labor organizer for 1199 SEIU, who beat three other candidates in the June primary including the Democratic Party's chosen candidate Monroe County Legislator Ernest Flagler-Mitchell. The 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly district covers the southwest sections in the City of Rochester as well as the Town of Gates.

**140<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Erie/Niagara) – After 43 years, Assemblymember Robin Schimminger (D) announced he would not seek re-election. The contenders: Democrat William Conrad, a former high school social studies teacher and member of the Tonawanda Town Board, and Republican Robert Pecoraro, a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and alderman for the North Tonawanda Common Council, and Anthony Baney on the Green Party Line. The 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly district covers all of the Town of Tonawanda (including the Village of Kenmore), the City of Tonawanda in Erie County, and most of the City of North Tonawanda in Niagara County.

**149<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** (Erie County) – Assemblymember Sean Ryan (D) is not running for re-election to his Assembly seat opting instead to run for Senate Seat vacated by Chris Jacobs who was elected to Congress earlier this year in a special election on June 23, 2020 for the 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. The contenders: Democrat Jonathan Rivera, a special assistant to the Erie County commissioner of Public Works and former branch manager for HSBC and Key Bank, and Republican Joseph Totaro, chairman of the Buffalo Republican Party who previously ran for Assembly in 2018. The 149<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes portions of the Cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna, the Villages of Hamburg and Blasdell, and the Town of Hamburg.

### **Congressional Races to Watch**

Seven of New York's 27 Congressional seats are considered to be competitive heading into Election Day.

In New York's **1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District**, located in Eastern Long Island, Democratic challenger Nancy Goroff is seeking to unseat Republican Lee Zelden (Former NY State Senator). Trump won the district by 12 points in 2016, but recent polling suggests that Goroff's campaign is gaining traction and currently leading by two percentage points (48-46).

Next door in New York's **2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District**, in a seat left empty by retiring Representative Peter King (R), Democratic candidate, Army Veteran and former educator, Jackie Gordon is taking on Republican candidate (current Assembly Member) Andrew Garbarino. The open seat is considered a toss-up by the Cook Political Report.

In New York's **11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**, covering Staten Island and parts of South Brooklyn, Freshman Representative, Democrat Max Rose is battling for his political life against Republican Nicole Malliotakis, who currently serves in the

New York State Assembly. Malliotakis ran as the Republican nominee in the 2017 New York City mayoral race, which she lost to incumbent Mayor Bill de Blasio. The Congressional seat is considered extremely hot, given the district went to Trump in 2016 by ten percentage points.

Moving into the Hudson Valley region, two seats are being highly contested, beginning with New York's **18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District** where Democratic incumbent Sean Patrick Maloney, who took office in 2012 after defeating incumbent Republican Nan Hayworth is facing off against Republican challenger Chele Farley, who previously worked in the financial services industry and unsuccessfully ran against US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in 2018. Farley has heavily criticized Congressional gridlock and has also targeted Maloney for co-sponsoring Green New Deal legislation.

In New York's **19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**, Freshman member, Democrat Antonio Delgado is battling to keep the seat against Republican opponent Kyle Van De Water, an Army veteran, and a practicing attorney in Poughkeepsie. Delgado, you may remember, narrowly defeated Republican incumbent John Faso with 51.4 percent of the vote in 2018. Prior to Delgado's win, the seat had been long held by the Republicans.

Representative Anthony Brindisi, who represents the **22nd Congressional District** in central New York (after narrowly defeating Republican incumbent Claudia Tenney in 2018) is locked in a dead heat rematch. Trump won the district by 15 percentage points in 2016.

In New York's **24th Congressional District**, which includes Cayuga, Onondaga and Wayne counties in Western New York, Republican incumbent John Katko is on the defensive against Democratic candidate Dana Balter. Katko has held his seat since 2014, but Democrats have won the district in the last three Presidential elections so while the Cook Political Report rates the race as "Leaning Republican."

## Resources for Additional Information

NYS Board of Elections:

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/>

NY Senate Elections (Ballotpedia):

[https://ballotpedia.org/New\\_York\\_State\\_Senate\\_elections,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_State_Senate_elections,_2020)

NY Assembly Elections (Ballotpedia): [https://ballotpedia.org/New\\_York\\_State\\_Assembly\\_elections,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/New_York_State_Assembly_elections,_2020)

US House of Representatives Elections (Ballotpedia):

[https://ballotpedia.org/United\\_States\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_elections\\_in\\_New\\_York,\\_2020](https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections_in_New_York,_2020)

## Key Dates/Deadlines

October 27<sup>th</sup> – Last Day to apply online, postmark, email or fax a completed application or letter request for the General Election Absentee ballot

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Last day to apply in-person for an absentee ballot for general election

October 24, 2020 - November 1, 2020 -- Early Voting Period

- To find early voting location and information:  
<https://www.ny.gov/early-voting-and-absentee-voting-mail-or-dropbox#>  
(scroll down to chart with listing of counties and links)

November 3, 2020 – Election Day



## Voting By Absentee Ballot

Key Instructions Per Board of Elections: “You must apply online, postmark, email or fax a completed application or letter request for the General Election Absentee ballot no later than 7 days (**October 27, 2020**) before the election. You may apply in-person up to the day before the election (**November 2, 2020**).”

To apply online for absentee ballot: <https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/home/accessible>

Instructions for Returning Absentee Ballot:

1. Put it in the mail ensuring it receives a postmark no later than November 3rd.
2. Bringing it to the County Board of Elections Office no later than November 3rd by 9pm.
3. Bringing it to an early voting poll site between October 24th and November 1st
4. Bringing it to a poll site on November 3rd by 9pm.

Note: New York State requires your ballot to be both postmarked by November 3, 2020 and received by our Board by November 10, 2020.

More information available at: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html>