



2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
STATE SENATE
NEW MEMBERS

12/17/2020

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Anthony Palumbo (R)

1st Senate District (East Hampton, Southold, Shelter Island, Southhampton and Riverhead, Suffolk County): *Seat currently held by Kenneth LaValle (R)*

Occupation: NYS Assemblyman, Assembly District 2

Past Professional Experience: Attorney

Education: B.A. Lafayette College, J.D. St. John's Law School

Biography

Anthony Palumbo has dedicated his career to protecting Long Island families.

As a Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney, he prosecuted major crimes and drug traffickers. He has taken that background to Albany and as an Assemblyman, he's fought to keep our communities safe, hold officials accountable and enhance the quality of life that makes Suffolk County special.

Since his election to the Assembly in 2013, Anthony has shown the drive and vision families on Long Island need and deserve in state government. His very first piece of legislation was a massive tax-cut bill that would save the average Suffolk County resident over \$2,500 annually. That same year he accomplished a rare feat for a freshman GOP Assemblyman by sponsoring and passing a law that helped first-time homebuyers and younger residents save thousands and made the dream of homeownership on Long Island more affordable.

In addition to his proven record as a tax reformer, Anthony hasn't shied away from tackling the tough quality of life and public safety issues Long Island families face. He was a leader of the movement to reform and repeal Common Core, supported and passed a constitutional amendment stripping corrupt politicians of a taxpayer-funded pension and supported significant investment in improving our water quality and environment. He has also made education a top priority and is a strong advocate in the battle to ensure Long Island taxpayers receive their fair share of school aid and infrastructure funding.

Currently, Anthony's top priority is repealing the controversial bail and discovery reforms harming our residents and local law enforcement. As the next Senator in the 1st District, he will continue to lead this effort and maintain his commitment to defending Suffolk County values and enhancing the quality of life on the East End. As a lifelong resident of Suffolk County, becoming our next State Senator is the next step in a career built on protecting and serving our communities.

Issues

- Public Safety: Repeal the recently enacted bail reform measures
- Environment: Protect Long Island's beaches and waterways
- Education: Get Suffolk County their fair share of school aid and provide relief for property taxes

Endorsements

- CSEA



Mario Mattera (R)

2nd Senate District (Smithtown, Brookhaven and Huntington, Suffolk County): *Seat previously held by John Flanagan (R)*

Occupation: Plumber, Local 200

Past Professional Experience: Union Official

Biography

Mario Mattera, a lifelong resident of St. James, is a union leader, a community leader and, most importantly, a father who is raising two daughters with his wife Terry.

As someone who has lived and worked in the 2nd Senate District his entire life, Mario understands the needs of local families and the need to reduce the impact Albany's tax burden is placing on our way of life. As a longtime union leader in the Plumbers Local Union #200, he has cultivated a keen understanding of the needs of our working men and women and how a good economic climate is essential to helping local businesses create much-needed jobs that provide workers with decent pay and benefits. As a father and husband, he is personally aware that the key to achieving all of this is ensuring that everyone has access to a quality education.

This understanding, and his experience in the region led Mario to look towards his fellow Long Islanders to provide him the honor of replacing Senator John Flanagan in the 2nd Senate District and bringing their voice to Albany.

As a member and leader of the Plumbers Local Union #200 union for over 39 years, Mario has dedicated himself to working to protect the needs of Long Island's workers and their families. That has led him to oversee the protection of over 1,300 working men and women and manage over \$250 million in benefit funds to protect their futures. It has also provided him with the opportunity to help his fellow union brothers and sisters gain access to good paying jobs while ensuring that they have safe work environments where their rights are protected.

For his work on behalf of his fellow members, Mario has been presented with the Order Sons of Italy in America's Golden Lion Award as 2019's Labor Leader of the Year as well as the PBA Columbia's 2012 Labor Leader of the Year. He has also led the way for the younger generation of union employees by serving 25 years as a board member on the apprenticeship program at Plumbers Local Union #200 to improve their opportunities and to ensure that our region has a qualified workforce.

In his community, Mario has continued the hard work he has delivered for the union members to the lives of his fellow Long Islanders by dedicating his time to his community. To ensure that all have a better quality of life, he has dedicated himself to helping local organizations and has served as a board member on the St. Catherine's Health and Wellness Advisory Board, the Suffolk County Water Authority, Community Association of Greater St. James and the Smithtown Advisory Board for new construction projects.

His work with the Smithtown Advisory Board was part of their successful effort to work with Senator Flanagan to secure millions in State funding for sewers in the area. This funding will deliver sewers in the Smithtown, Kings Park and St. James business districts to protect the environment while also enhancing business opportunities for local business owners – leading to more jobs for those in the area.

Additionally, he has joined efforts with the Work Force Housing Committee, Helmets to Hardhats for our returning veterans and the Long Island Housing Partnership where he assisted in their Superstorm Sandy relief program to help people in trying times.

While Mario has undertaken these efforts for the betterment of his community, he is proud to have been recognized by the Children’s Museum at Hallock Farm, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center and the Ward Melville Heritage Organization for his efforts.

Issues

- Public Safety: Repeal bail reform and support police
- Economic Development: Invest in infrastructure to create jobs and protect the environment
- Education: Fight for fair education aid and support educators

Endorsements

- Long Island Environmental Voters Forum
- Italian-American PAC
- Suffolk PBA
- Coalition of Suffolk Law Enforcement
- AFL-CIO



Alexis Weik (R)

3rd Senate District (Brookhaven, Islip, and Brentwood, Suffolk County): *Seat currently held by Monica Martinez (D)*

Occupation: Deputy Receiver of Taxes, Town of Islip

Past Professional Experience: Legislative Aide to Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi;
ACE Certified Personal Trainer

Education: B.B.A. Dowling College

Biography

Alexis is married and a mother of three children who currently resides in Sayville. She grew up in Ronkonkoma and Oakdale and graduated from Connetquot High School, and got her B.B.A. from Dowling College. Alexis is an active member in local chambers of commerce, civic and educational groups, scouting and youth sports. Alexis is the Islip Town Receiver, an elected position she has held for nine years. Prior to her current position, Alexis was a legislative aide and former small business owner.

Weik has said her top priority in Albany would be repealing bail reform and other “anti-police” legislation, and restoring 50-A, to prohibit the disclosure of police officers’ disciplinary records.

Issues

- Public Safety: Repeal bail reform, block defunding of police, oppose making NY a sanctuary state
- Economy: Fight for property tax relief and restore STAR rebates, stand up for small businesses by cutting regulations and taxes
- Environment: Protect Long Island’s drinking water

Endorsements

- Suffolk County PBA
- NYS PBA
- Suffolk County Police Superior Officers Association
- NYC Detectives



Jabari Brisport (D)

25th Senate District (Fort Greene, Boerum Hill, Red Hook, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Sunset Park, Gowanus, and Park Slope, Kings County): *Seat currently held by Velmanette Montgomery (D)*

Occupation: Math Teacher, Medgar Evers College Preparatory School

Past Professional Experience: Actor

Education: NYU, Tisch School of the Arts, Yale School of Drama

Biography

Jabari is a third generation Caribbean-American resident of Brooklyn. Born in Bedford-Stuyvesant and raised in Prospect Heights, Jabari has witnessed firsthand his community's struggles with rapid gentrification, lack of investment in public schools, over policing, and the systemic racism that underlies all of these issues. Jabari's experiences as a queer, black, public school teacher, and as a proud socialist, union member, and child of an immigrant, have shaped his drive to make his community and all New York communities more just and equitable.

Jabari has dedicated his life to working with and for his neighbors as both an activist and educator. As a public-school teacher, Jabari observed firsthand how social inequities play out in the classroom, from funding cuts and privatization, to inequitable allocation of resources, to the militarization of schools. As a union member and a child of two union members, Jabari recognizes that good union jobs have tremendous potential to secure significant improvements in quality of life. Jabari views the labor market as deeply unfair to working people and is committed to standing in solidarity with labor. As an activist, Jabari has organized his neighbors to push for progressive legislation, including hard-fought wins in marriage equality and tenant protections. Jabari has a record of protesting alongside workers in many struggles, including Verizon workers in 2016, B&H workers in 2017, New School cafeteria workers in 2018, and IBEW Local 3 workers in 2019. Jabari opposed Amazon HQ2 and will continue to oppose backroom deals created without any community input, especially those that are accompanied by billions of dollars in corporate giveaways.

In 2017, Jabari ran for City Council in District 35 as an independent candidate. In a tough race against a strong incumbent, Jabari was able to build name recognition and garner roughly 30% of the vote, which was the best finish for a nonmajor party candidate in over a decade. Today, Jabari is running for office again because he still has not seen the deep and systemic changes that we urgently need.

Jabari is running for office to fight for his community in Albany. Jabari's vision is a transparent and responsive government that serves all people. As a progressive, Jabari rejects the idea that we cannot afford programs that provide for working people and the most vulnerable in our community. New York's social services, schools, infrastructure, and public housing stock are in desperate need of funds, and Jabari is committed to building support for the revenue that will meet those needs. He will advocate for divestment from fossil fuels and the establishment of a local Green New Deal that invests in green infrastructure and sustainable housing. He will work to ensure a just transition that utilizes union labor and prioritizes traditionally marginalized groups.

As an elected representative, Jabari will remain a movement builder and stay connected to community activists, mobilizing constituents in canvassing efforts to push for issue-based legislation. Jabari views his campaign as being intertwined with critical organizing around community-based mutual aid and census participation, as well as broader struggles for justice. Jabari will fight to provide a home for every New Yorker, to guarantee quality

healthcare for all, to invest in public schools, to empower workers, to tackle the global climate crisis, and to create a world where Black Lives Matter.

Issues

- Criminal Justice: Defund the police, abolish NYPD's Strategic Response Group, legalize marijuana
- Housing: Strengthen tenants' rights, repeal tax breaks for developers, end predatory development practices
- Healthcare: Pass the New York Health Act, support reproductive rights, safe staffing
- Labor: Protect 'gig workers' with the California ABC model, advance the NY SWEAT Act, allow public sector employees to strike, \$15 minimum wage without phase-in, ban arbitration agreements in employee contracts
- Education: Fully fund foundation aid, direct resources to the neediest schools, moratorium on new charter schools
- Immigration: Create statewide sanctuary, cease State business with ICE, strengthen labor rights for immigrants
- Climate: Enact a Green New Deal, put forth \$10 billion/year to fight climate change, close NY fracking waste loopholes

Endorsements

- Bernie Sanders
- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
- Democratic Socialists of America, NYC Chapter
- New York Communities for Change
- Tenants PAC
- WFP
- Local 100
- Teamsters 814



Elijah Reichlin-Melnick (D)

38th Senate District (Orangetown, Clarkstown, and Ramapo, Rockland County):

Seat currently held by David Carlucci (D)

Occupation: Legislative Director, Senator Skoufis

Past Professional Experience: Elementary School Teacher

Education: B.A. Cornell, M.A. Rutgers

Biography

Elijah Reichlin-Melnick was born and raised in Nyack, NY and has lived in Rockland County for almost his whole life.

Over the past decade, Elijah has steadily built his legislative experience by working at all levels of government. After beginning his career as an elementary school teacher, Elijah returned to Rockland and spent nearly five years as a constituent service specialist and district representative for Congressman Eliot Engel and Congresswoman Nita Lowey.

Elijah currently serves as the Legislative Director for State Senator James Skoufis, who represents parts of Rockland, Orange, and Ulster Counties. Through his role as legislative director, Elijah has gained first-hand experience with the legislative process in Albany, so he will hit the ground running as the next State Senator for the 38th District.

While completing his master's degree in city and regional planning from Rutgers University, Elijah worked as the Executive Assistant for Orangetown Town Supervisor Andy Stewart, assisting in municipal management, constituent services, and policy development. Since 2017, Elijah has served Nyack as an elected member of the Village Board of Trustees, where he has prioritized keeping the Village budget under the State property tax cap, enhancing government services, and standing up against over-development.

Elijah has dedicated himself to serving the community, both professionally and in his spare time. After earning his bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 2006, he spent two years as an elementary school teacher at an inner-city school in New Haven where he developed a passion for ensuring that all children have the opportunity to get an excellent education. Back in Rockland, he served on the Nyack Village Planning Board, was chosen as Vice President of Rockland County Young Democrats and Chairman of the Nyack Democratic Committee, and is an active member of the Nyack NAACP and the Nyack Tree Committee.

From 2016-2018, Elijah was a Senior Research Planner at Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, a Newburgh-based non-profit focused on regional planning and local government issues throughout the Hudson Valley. At Pattern, he worked on an efficiency analysis of several town departments in Clarkstown, an affordable housing needs assessment for Westchester County, and a study commissioned by the Rockland Business Association on the crushing burden of high property taxes in Rockland County.

Outside of work, Elijah is an avid nature photographer, hiker, and amateur pianist. He lives in Nyack with his wife Shelley.

Issues

- Education: Fully fund foundation aid, make public colleges, universities, and trade schools tuition free for New York families, support apprenticeship programs in the skilled trades
- Healthcare: Cap prescription drug prices, create a public health option
- Taxes: Protect the STAR program, allow local governments to share services, create a State plan for those in danger of eviction or foreclosures
- Environment: Quickly implement provisions of the CLCPA
- Economy: Prevailing wage, pursue a long-term vision of new passenger rail service, legalize marijuana and tax sales to create a new revenue stream
- Gun Violence: Ban ghost guns, fund school security measures
- Police: Require transparency around police use of force, and racial disparities in arrests

Endorsements

- 32BJ
- 1199 SEIU
- AFSCME
- CSEA
- AFL-CIO
- CWA
- Hudson Valley Stonewall Democrats
- NYSNA
- Moms Demand Action
- NYSUT
- RWDSU
- IBEW
- UAW
- True Blue NY



Mike Martucci (R)

42nd Senate District (Sullivan County and parts of Orange, Ulster, and Delaware Counties): *Seat currently held by Jen Metzger (D)*

Occupation: Owner, Quality Bus Service; Farmer

Past Professional Experience: President of the New York School Bus Contractors Association

Education: B.A. MBA, Marist College

Biography

Mike Martucci grew up in the Town of Minisink and is a lifelong resident of Orange County. First and foremost, Mike is a dedicated family man who believes in giving back to his community through volunteerism, teaching and philanthropy. Mike is a successful small business owner who has employed hundreds of people locally. He started a school transportation company and was the company's first school bus driver. A family farmer, Mike is a steward of our environment and understands the importance of preserving open space for future generations. Mike and his wife Erin, a school counselor, are raising their three children, son Mike Jr., and daughters Elizabeth and Catherine in New Hampton – the Town of Wawayanda.

At the age of 22, Mike took his life savings and opened a school bus business called Quality Bus Service. With a start-up business loan and his grandmother by his side, Mike began driving a school bus and providing service to Greenwood Lake Union Free School District in Orange County. Through hard work and with great risk and good fortune, Mike grew Quality Bus Service to over 550 employees with more than 350 school buses that provided critical services to thousands of local school children each day.

Mike cared about more than just the bottom line; he volunteered to help the school transportation industry improve safety, expand training opportunities, and foster innovation. In 2015, Mike was elected President of the New York School Bus Contractors Association becoming a leading state and national voice on school transportation. Mike worked side by side with parents, school administrators, and unions advocating for stronger school transportation safety laws to protect children, legislation to protect school transportation workers, and smarter laws to help control the cost of school transportation to allow school districts to keep more money in the classroom.

In 2019, Mike and his wife Erin established The Michael and Erin Martucci Family Foundation and dedicated \$250,000 to help support local women and children in need, farmers, job creation, and education.

A proud member of the local community and a charity-minded individual, Mike enjoys volunteering for his church and supporting the Community Foundation of Orange & Sullivan. Mike is a member of the Board of Directors and Vice President of the SUNY Orange Foundation, which provides scholarships for students seeking a college education. He also chairs the annual SUNY Orange Golfing for Scholarships event to raise money for the college's athletic scholarship fund.

Mike and his family were directly impacted by the tragic events of 9/11 and because of this, his family established the Michelle Renee Bratton Foundation, which provides a scholarship to a young woman graduating from Pine Bush High School who, like Michelle, is a member of the National Honor Society and either an athlete on the women's swimming and diving team or a member of chorus. Created to celebrate the life of Michelle Renee Bratton who tragically lost her life on September 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center attacks.

Mike obtained his Master of Business Administration and his Bachelor of Science at Marist College. Prior to Marist College, Mike graduated with honors from Orange County Community College.

Issues

- Public Safety: Repeal bail reform
- Healthcare: Make healthcare more affordable and accessible
- Education: Ensure schools are safe and properly funded
- Economy: No new taxes, fight against stifling regulations
- Environment: Support sustainable initiatives that balance our freedoms with the needs of communities

Endorsements

- Governor George Pataki
- Unshackle Upstate
- Upstate Jobs Party
- Sullivan County PBA



Dan Stec (R)

45th Senate District (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and Warren Counties and parts of St. Lawrence and Washington Counties): *Seat currently held by Betty Little (R)*

Occupation: NYS Assemblyman, Assembly District 114

Past Professional Experience: Queensbury Town Council; Queensbury Town Supervisor; Nuclear Engineer, U.S. Navy

Education: B.A. Clarkson University, MBA University of Rhode Island

Biography

Assemblyman Dan Stec was elected to serve the constituents of the 114th Assembly District on November 6, 2012. His district includes all of Essex and Warren Counties, the Towns of Corinth, Day, Hadley and Edinburgh in Saratoga County as well as the Towns of Dresden, Fort Ann, Granville, Hampton, Hebron, Putnam and Whitehall in Washington County.

Stec has worked tirelessly on the critical issues New York State faces. He has been a champion for ethics reform in Albany and played a critical role in gaining first passage of a Constitutional Amendment that would provide for stripping corrupt officials of their state taxpayer funded pensions.

Stec has been a leader on Adirondack issues. As the ranking member of the Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee, he played a key role in three additional Constitutional Amendments important to the Adirondacks.

Stec has worked to reduce the tax and regulatory burden that has hampered individuals and businesses for years in New York State, to provide needed financial and mandate relief for our schools and municipalities and to improve essential infrastructure like roads, bridges, water, wastewater and broadband internet services.

A dedicated public servant, Stec brings valuable local government experience to the State Assembly. He got his start in Queensbury town government – first on the zoning board and then for two terms as a town councilman. He served for nine years as Queensbury Town Supervisor – the last two of these as Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors. As Queensbury Town Supervisor, Dan Stec returned almost \$10 million to local taxpayers in the form of rebates.

Stec worked his way through Clarkson University while studying to earn his B.S. in chemical engineering, including one summer in Essex County at the International Paper Company in Ticonderoga. After graduation, he entered the U.S. Navy nuclear power program, serving for eight years as a nuclear engineer onboard the USS Truxtun, and was stationed in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. While serving in the Navy he earned an MBA from the University of Rhode Island.

Assemblyman Stec announced his candidacy to represent the 45th State Senate District following Senator Betty Little's announcement that she will be retiring at the end of 2020.

Stec was born and raised in Queensbury by his father, a retired NYS Forest Ranger who also served in the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam and by his mother, a retired secretary from Queensbury High School. Dan has been married to his college sweetheart, Hilary, for over 29 years and together they have one son, Peter.

Issues

- Public Safety: Repeal bail reform
- Small Business: Reduce tax and regulatory burden
- Ethics: Fight for pension forfeiture for corrupt legislators
- Environment: Protect the Adirondacks
- Infrastructure: Improve bridges, water, and broadband

Endorsements

- Governor Pataki
- Unshackle Upstate
- NYS Law Enforcement Officers Union
- Local 773
- NFIB
- NYS Police PBA



Michelle Hinchey (D)

46th Senate District (Montgomery and Greene Counties, and parts of Albany, Schenectady, and Ulster Counties): *Seat currently held by George Amedore (R)*

Occupation: Executive Director, Corporate Communications EPIX

Past Professional Experience: Brightline; DKC Public Relations

Education: B.A. Cornell University

Biography

Michelle Hinchey grew up in Saugerties and is a 2009 graduate of Cornell University's School of Labor and Industrial Relations. After graduating college, she moved to New York City to pursue a career in communications representing tech and media companies. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development and previously worked with the anti-fracking group Environment NY.

'I'm running for State Senate—to keep fighting for Upstate's future and the people who call our region home, no matter who stands in the way. My father taught me to stand up for what's right, work hard and never back down.'

Issues

- **Economy:** Revitalize job growth by giving our business sector new economic and educational tools, attract green and renewable energy industries
- **Healthcare:** Address prescription drug prices, ensure healthcare workers have reliable living wages
- **Infrastructure:** Invest in roads and bridges, pipelines and reliable broadband
- **Climate Change:** Address climate change by looking at development, education and resources

Endorsements

- AFL-CIO
- NYSUT
- NYSNA
- CSEA
- PEF
- NYS Professional Firefighters
- CWA
- SUNY PBA of New York State
- Building and Construction Trades
- EMILY'S List
- Planned Parenthood
- NYLCV
- WFP
- Eleanor's Legacy



John Mannion (D)

50th Senate District (Parts of Onondaga and Cayuga Counties): *Seat previously held by Bob Antonacci (R)*

Occupation: Teacher, High School Advanced Biology

Past Professional Experience: West Genesee Teachers Union President

Biography

John Mannion is a lifelong resident of Central New York. He was born and raised on Tipperary Hill in Syracuse, and he now lives with his family in Geddes and teaches right next door in Camillus.

Growing up in a union household, John learned from a young age the value of hard work, a good job, and working together. Today he is a public high school advanced biology teacher and a union leader.

John Mannion is running to represent Central New York values in the State Senate. When elected, he will fight to make healthcare more accessible and affordable, increase funding to local education, and invest in our infrastructure to attract well-paying jobs.

Issues

- Education: Smaller class sizes, partner schools with businesses so students see the opportunities they have in their own communities
- Economy: Incentive homegrown industries, prepare the next generation for careers in skilled manufacturing and advanced technologies
- Ethics Reform: End no-bid contracts

Endorsements

- NYSUT
- CSEA
- NARAL
- Council 66
- UAW
- Syracuse Teachers Association
- AFL-CIO
- 1199 SEIU
- IBEW
- Carpenters NASRCC
- Ironworkers Local 60
- Sierra Club
- RWDSU



Peter Oberacker (R)

51st Senate District (Schoharie, Otsego, and Cortland Counties, and parts of Tompkins, Herkimer, Chenango, Cayuga, Delaware, and Ulster Counties): *Seat currently held by James Seward (R)*

Occupation: Founder, Form Tech Solutions

Past Professional Experience: Otsego County Board of Representatives; Maryland Town Supervisor

Education: B.A. SUNY Delhi

Biography

From Peter's early days working in the family meat market, to building a successful business, and becoming an effective and productive elected official, it can certainly be said he knows how the sausage is made. Peter Oberacker grew up in a family of sausage makers, working in the family's local market since age eight. Over his life and career, he has become a successful business builder, community leader, and family man. In 2015, Peter was elected to the Otsego County Board of Representatives and quickly showed his effectiveness delivering for his constituents and becoming a respected leader across the county.

Peter Chairs the Public Works Committee, is Vice-Chair of the Administration Committee, Human Services, Negotiations, and Inter-Governmental Affairs committees. Prior to his election to the county board, Peter served as Maryland Town Supervisor and as a town board member.

During his time in both county and town government, Peter has never produced a budget that raised taxes and has consistently supported staying under the tax cap. He has been a leader in focusing on infrastructure improvement and developing effective programs for updating public works fleets in a cost-effective manner. He's known for continually using his business experience to create new and creative ways to make budgets work. Peter has a long career in product research, development, and implementation in the food industry business. In 2007, he created Form Tech Solutions and built it into a successful multi-million-dollar business working with major companies around the world to develop and incorporate new and innovative products and then make them applicable in the ever-growing food industry.

In 2017, Peter bucked New York's disturbing outmigration trends and moved his company's international headquarters from Texas to his hometown of Schenevus, NY where it is thriving today despite the State's poor business environment. A dedicated community member, Peter is a member of his local Fire Department and EMS squad and is a member of the Masonic Lodge. Peter is a graduate of Schenevus High School and SUNY Delhi. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Shannon, of 34 years. They have two adult children.

Issues

- Small Business: Ease restrictions and mandates, create jobs
- Public Safety: Give judges discretion when using bail, support police and emergency personnel
- Protect Farms: Support the No Farms, No Food Act
- Gun Rights: Fight against unconstitutional legislation
- Broadband Access: Negotiate deals with utilities to get more equipment and expand service

Endorsements

- PEF
- NYS Troopers PBA



Samra Brouk (D)

55th Senate District (Eastern Rochester and parts of Monroe County and Ontario County): *Seat currently held by Rich Funke (R)*

Occupation: Chalkbeat, Fundraiser

Past Professional Experience: U.S. Peace Corps; Town of Brookhaven - Recycling Education; Umbrella

Education: B.A. Williams College

Biography

'Our community deserves a strong and unifying voice in Albany. That is why I'm running to be your representative in New York's 55th Senate District.

My life experiences have brought me to this moment.

I was born in the City of Rochester to a public-school teacher and a civil engineer. My father fled his home country of Ethiopia during the civil war, overcoming major cultural and financial barriers to earn his degrees in math and engineering here in Western New York. From my parents, I learned the importance of education, hard work, and the need to be resourceful when faced with obstacles.

I attended School #12 in the Rochester City School District, and then Pittsford Central schools, first as an Urban-Suburban student and then later as a Pittsford resident. My parents still live off Mendon Road in the house where I grew up. On weekends, we'd spend time with my grandparents in East Bloomfield and some of my fondest childhood memories are teaching Sunday School at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Throughout my life, I have always stood up for my values.

As a high school student, I spoke out against unfair testing practices. While at Williams College, where I worked three jobs to pay my tuition, I organized a group volunteer trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. We did everything from removing mold from homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina to helping community clinics navigate FEMA in order to rebuild.

After graduating from Williams College with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in Spanish, I joined the U.S. Peace Corps where I volunteered in rural Guatemala as a health education specialist for two years. Upon returning home, like many of our young people, I was faced with limited job prospects. I was given an opportunity to help the Town of Brookhaven adopt a recycling education program for their population of nearly 500,000 people. I spent the following four years partnering with mayors and municipal leaders across the Northeast to adopt recycling education programs.

Following that, I joined the largest global member organization for young people, DoSomething.org, to mobilize millions of young people as social change advocates. Later, I helped start Umbrella, a start-up that used technology to keep seniors safe in their homes by connecting them with affordable and community-driven home care. Most recently, I drove fundraising efforts for Chalkbeat, the fastest growing grassroots journalism organization, supporting their work reporting on inequities in the public-school system.

I currently live in Rochester, NY with my husband, Brian, who works with court-involved young people.

New York's 55th Senate District is a sprawling geography--starting down in the Finger Lakes, up through Rush, Mendon, Pittsford, Perinton, Fairport, Penfield, East Rochester, Irondequoit, and the East Side of the City of Rochester.

My experiences around the State and the country have given me a broad perspective on what's possible for our region. Now it's time to bring all that I've learned and the relationships I've built to the community I love and call home.

Together we can create a more just, sustainable and inclusive community. Western New York is my forever home. It deserves real leadership.'

Issues

- Economy: Strengthen the economy and generate living wage jobs
- Education: Equitable funding for public schools and child care
- Healthcare: Curb costs of prescription drugs
- Environment: Improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses, protect New York's water, air and soil
- Seniors: Ensure access to healthcare, home and community-based care, telemedicine

Endorsements

- Eleanor's Legacy
- WFP
- NYSUT
- EMILY'S List
- Planned Parenthood
- CWA
- Moms Demand Action
- CSEA
- United Food and Commercial Workers
- True Blue NY
- UAW
- PEF
- AFSCME
- 32BJ



Jeremy Cooney (D)

56th Senate District (Western Rochester and part of Monroe County): *Seat currently held by Joe Robach (R)*

Occupation: Principal, Red Thread Strategies

Past Professional Experience: Vice President, Mercury; Chief of Staff, Mayor Lovely Warren; Office of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter

Education: B.A. Hobart College, J.D. Albany Law School

Biography

Born in an Indian orphanage, Jeremy was adopted by a courageous single-mother and grew up in the South Wedge neighborhood of the city of Rochester. Raised in an Irish family, he inherited a strong sense of family, faith, and our famous upstate accent.

After losing his mother to dementia and brain cancer, Jeremy has devoted his career to serving the community that helped raise him—from the YMCA to all levels of government. He got his start working on Capitol Hill for the late U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and has gone on to work for two New York Governors and the Mayor of Rochester.

With a deep commitment to creating the Rochester of tomorrow, Jeremy is passionate about investing in quality public schools, affordable housing, universal health care, reducing our carbon footprint and helping families find pathways out of poverty.

Jeremy graduated from the Rochester City School District, and went on to graduate with honors in public policy from Hobart College and then obtain a law degree from Albany Law School. He was named “Forty Under 40” by the Rochester Business Journal and is a proud Eagle Scout. Today, Jeremy and his wife, Diane, live in downtown Rochester and are excited about starting a family.

Issues

- **Economy:** Reimagine public education, integrate career training in middle school, adopt a universal base income, create more opportunities for MWBEs
- **Healthcare:** Pass the New York Health Act
- **Education:** Increase local taxes to fund schools
- **Criminal Justice:** End needless arrests, support marginalized communities, mental health counseling
- **Child Care:** Increase child care tax credits and subsidies
- **Gun Safety:** Common sense gun regulations
- **Climate Change:** Support local initiatives to bring jobs in renewable energy

Endorsements

- Moms Demand Action
- NYSUT
- WFP
- 1199 SEIU
- Equality NY
- NYS AFL-CIO

- NARAL
- Citizen Action!
- Operating Engineers
- Council 66
- CSEA
- CWA
- 32BJ
- NYSNA
- HTC
- Tenants PAC
- NYLCV



Sean Ryan (D)

60th Senate District (Southern Buffalo and part of Erie County): *Seat previously held by Chris Jacobs (R)*

Occupation: NYS Assemblyman, Assembly District 149

Past Professional Experience: Neighborhood Legal Services; Legal Aid Bureau; Executive Director and General Counsel of BNSC

Education: B.A. SUNY Fredonia, J.D. Brooklyn Law School

Biography

Sean proudly grew up in Lackawanna, where he learned the value of hard work from his father who was a firefighter, and his mother who was a teacher. Western New York is his home, and Western New York values are a part of who he is. As a kid, Sean was taught if you worked hard you will be secure, you will have a place in the economy, and you can live the American dream. During his senior year in high school, that abruptly came to an end as Bethlehem Steel closed down. Thousands lost their jobs, and family, friends, and neighbors were all displaced in the economy. For generations, Western New York struggled to get back on its feet.

In the State Assembly, Sean is proud of the work he has done that has helped to transform the Western New York economy over the last decade. He learned the lessons of Bethlehem Steel and used those lessons to guide his work to help create progress for Buffalo and Western New York. As a State Senator, he will keep working to build on that progress to create a hometown resurgence for all. Today, he resides in the city of Buffalo with his wife Catherine Creighton and their two daughters. Sean is a graduate of SUNY College at Fredonia and Brooklyn Law School.

Sean's broad legal experience includes work for Neighborhood Legal Services, a private law practice collaboration with the Learning Disabilities Association of WNY, concentrating on the rights of disabled students, and the Legal Aide Bureau of Buffalo. His legal career highlights include a record award for a victim of housing discrimination, a successful challenge to a school district's denial of special education services to children enrolled in parochial schools, and an action to compel enforcement of Buffalo's Living Wage Ordinance.

In 2008, Sean began working with People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc. to create a non-profit development entity called the Buffalo Neighborhood Stabilization Company, Inc. (BNSC). Sean served as the Executive Director and General Counsel of BNSC and worked to create a redevelopment plan for a section of the West Side of Buffalo.

Sean has served on the board of directors and has provided legal representation and guidance to numerous non-profit organizations including Buffalo Niagara River Keeper, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Autistic Services Inc, Coalition for Economic Justice, and the City of Buffalo's Living Wage Commission.

As an Assemblyman, Sean has championed many different issues including creating a fair economy for all, lower taxes for middle-class families and small businesses, increased investment in education, waterfront development, neighborhood redevelopment, and clean air, water, and environmental protection.

Issues

- Economy: Bring good-paying jobs back to Western New York,
- Environment: Protect drinking water and invest in renewable energy
- Healthcare: Expand access to high-quality, affordable healthcare

Endorsements

- NYSNA
- NYLCV
- PBA of NYS
- Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul



Edward Rath (R)

61st Senate District (Genesee County and parts of Erie and Monroe Counties): *Seat currently held by Michael Ranzenhofer (R)*

Occupation: Vice President, VARO Technologies

Past Professional Experience: Erie County Legislator

Education: B.A. Syracuse University, MBA Canisius College

Biography

Public service has always been important to Ed Rath and his family. After being elected to the Erie County Legislature in 2007, Ed quickly distinguished himself as a passionate advocate for the community he represents.

As a legislator, Ed has built a reputation for putting taxpayers first and fiercely advocating for a stronger economy, government accountability and more affordable and safer communities.

Ed's leadership in the Legislature led to the creation of the County's Silver Alert Local Law, an Amber Alert for seniors that has since become a model program statewide. Ed has also been a longtime member of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee, where he is a champion for our first responders and has led efforts against cyberbullying. Ed has fought to make Erie County more affordable for families and authored legislation to create a Property Tax Stabilization Fund to protect homeowners and hold the line on property taxes.

In addition to his public service, Ed has remained active in the community. He continues to volunteer for organizations that provide assistance throughout the community including the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, Rotary International and the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Ed Rath is the leader our community needs in the State Senate. As the next Senator in the 61st District, Ed will stand up to downstate interest and fight for proposals that keep our community safe and make New York State more affordable for hardworking families and small businesses.

Ed knows this year's election was crucial to the future of our region and State. He's ran to provide the responsible, ethical leadership we're currently lacking in Albany. Ed will bring his passion for service to the New York State Senate and never stop working for you.

Issues

- Support Western New York: Stand up to downstate interests
- Public Safety: Repeal bail reform
- Ethics: Provide ethical leadership

Endorsements

- NFIB
- NRA