

Introduction

This is the Second newsletter for 2012 and we hope that you find these newsletters informative.

Topics contained in this newsletter:

- **Blooming Grove Supervisor Proposition** to change the term from 2 years to 4 years.
- **Information on each candidate** running in local elections to represent the residents of Blooming Grove.

Past newsletters can be found on our website at <http://www.ocbgdems.com/Documents.html>.

Blooming Grove Supervisor Proposition

Should the Town Supervisor have a 2 or 4 year term?

The Blooming Grove Town Board has introduced a proposal to change the term for the Town supervisor from 2 years to 4 years. They say it is for administrative reasons and this way the supervisor would not have to run for reelection every two years and can concentrate on long term planning.

I would suggest that this needs to be explained because it makes no sense to me. In fact, I fail to see why the Town Supervisor is full time. We have an elected Town Clerk and Highway superintendent both of whom have 2-year terms. We have an elected Tax Collector who has a 4 year term and all of these elected positions have staff to help them do their jobs. None of these positions report to the Town Supervisor and with the exception of the budget, the town supervisor has no role in their responsibilities to the town. The Town Supervisor has a Comptroller who handles the finances, and I would expect that this person handles financial planning under the guidance of the Town Supervisor. The roads are managed by the Highway Superintendent; and the town buildings and property are managed by the Parks, Buildings and Grounds Department (aka DPW). I would expect that the infrastructure and equipment planning would be handled by the heads of those departments. We have a Master Plan that covers protecting our community for the future as we grow. So before we focus on changing the term of this office from 2 to 4 years, we need to justify why it is full time based on the current scope of responsibility.

If the town government is going to change, I would recommend we actually make meaningful changes. We

can start with implementing the NYS Efficiency and Effectiveness on Local Government recommendations and restructure our town government. This would mean we change the Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent to appointed/CSEA positions. This would reduce the town government's costs of supporting their elections and allow the Supervisor to restructure each position and adjust the staffing within those departments based on their new defined roles and responsibilities.

Then, we should change the Highway Superintendent's role to Commissioner of DPW and make him/her responsible for managing the town infrastructure. This would include being responsible for developing an infrastructure and equipment maintenance plan that would provide an outlook on "end of useful life" and permit the town to plan our future rather than letting it happen. The Town Supervisor's role would be to assess, approve and monitor the implementation of those plans.

I would suggest that the change from a 2 year term to a 4 year term for the Town Supervisor is not what is needed for this town. With the current state of the economy, we need change that will bring meaningful long term improvements and will also focus on reducing our taxes. Changing the term of office for the Town Supervisor from 2 to 4 years does not meet that test; In fact, I would say it creates more problems than it solves.

Submitted by Robert A. Fromaget

2012 Democratic Candidates

Sandra Sciortino, Esq. - Candidate for Supreme Court, Ninth Judicial District

Sandra Sciortino of **Blooming Grove** is running on the Democratic line for the Supreme Court in the Ninth Judicial District, which includes Orange County, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties.

Sandra has had a successful law practice in Goshen for over twenty years and has been *very active in our community while running a successful law practice*. Sandra has been a member of the *Blooming Grove Democratic Committee for the last 10 years* and is a past member and President of the Washingtonville School Board, the Children's Rights Society as well as the Orange County Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Sandra is a past President of the Orange County Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association of Orange and Sullivan County.

Blooming Grove Democratic Committee

P. O. Box 95, Blooming Grove, New York 10914

B.G. Democratic Committee meets 1st Wednesday of each month at 08:00 PM, Senior Center,
Website: www.ocbgdems.com, Phone #: 845-782-0622

Newsletter: October 2012

Volume 2012 No. 2

Sandra has worked hard for all of the citizens of Orange County and we are confident that she will continue working for us as a Supreme Court Justice in Orange County.

For more information please go to Sandra's website at <http://sandrasciortino2012.com/index.htm>

Sean Patrick Maloney, 18th Congressional District

Sean Patrick Maloney knows how to do what the Tea Party won't – create jobs, protect Medicare and strengthen the middle class.

Sean served as a senior advisor in President Bill Clinton's White House as part of a team that balanced the budget and paid down the debt, all while creating over eight hundred thousand jobs here in New York. When Sean left the White House, he built his own business from scratch. His high-tech startup created hundreds of good-paying, New York jobs. He then served as a senior staff member to two Democratic governors of New York, focusing on education and infrastructure projects.

Sean and his partner of over 20 years, Randy Florke, have 3 children together: Jesus, Daley, and Essie. He currently resides in Cold Spring, New York.

For more information please go to Sean's website at www.seanmaloney.com

Christopher Eachus, NYS 39th Senate District

New York's tax climate is once again ranked as the worst in the nation, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation in its annual ranking released just yesterday morning. That is a drop from 49th to 50th out of 50 from last year. 6 out of 10 residents like living in the Hudson Valley but 3 out of those 10 feel they need to leave New York State a.s.a.p. for financial reasons.

And yet we are told by Albany and our current legislators that they have done a great job for the citizens of this state. I believe that our State Senate is out of touch with us, the average working, middle-class person, struggling to survive here in the Hudson Valley. Change is needed and that is why I have decided to run for the NYS Senate, District #39. The 34 year incumbent who wanted to retire and is currently collecting his pension while collecting a full salary for the Senate seat has had every opportunity to put this state on 'the right track'. It is my intent on changing the current course for NYS and addressing the most important issues facing us today.

We must change the way education is funded by changing from the current property tax system to a fair and equitable system where everyone contributes. We must fight to bring jobs with fair and livable wages to this area. As a teacher for 36 years in the Hudson Valley, I have continually watched our most precious resource, our high school graduates; leave this area permanently to find living-wage jobs. The education of our children should not be used as a gambling chip every year and should be funded so that all receive a fair and equitable education. I am O. C. Legislator Chris Eachus, I am committed to continue fighting for you in Albany and I ask for your support to help bring about a "new energy" and real change in Albany.

For more information please go to Chris' website at www.christophereachus4nyssenate.com/

James Skoufis, NYS 99th Assembly District

James Skoufis is running for state Assembly because he feels that the time of politics as usual is over and the 99th Assembly district deserves a strong voice in Albany – he is that strong voice.

James believes that we need to protect the largest investment families make - their homes. The 99th Assembly district is a wonderful place to live and raise a family and James will work hard in Albany to make sure property taxes and state spending are kept down. Last year, James voted against a 2% property tax cap override in Woodbury and he will bring the same fiscal responsibility with him to Albany. Everyone has had to tighten their belts and do more with less; the state has the same responsibility.

As Councilman in Woodbury, James has an obligation to protect and preserve his community's quality of life and the investment his neighbors have made. And that is why James has a proven track record of standing up to the preferential treatment given to Kiryas Joel. James voted to sue KJ over the pipeline project after the county dropped their lawsuit. James also recently voted against KJ's attempt to annex land from Woodbury. As Assemblyman, James will be the first elected official in Albany who will not be afraid to stand up and demand that everyone play by the same rules and no municipality should have preferential treatment over another.

**Please remember to vote Row A on November 6, 2012.
We must to re-elect President Barack Obama, and Vice
President Joe Biden for another 4 years.**

"Let your voices be heard!" Vote!