



COALITION FOR
ECONOMIC JUSTICE

237 Main Street, Suite 1200
Buffalo, NY 14203
Phone: (716) 892-5877

Voters Guide

2010 NY STATE SENATE CANDIDATES EDITION
Erie County Districts 58, 59, 60, and 61

November 2nd, 2010

Election Day — Polls Open at 6a.m.

Election Day — Polls close at 9p.m.

Cast an informed vote in the General Election on November 2nd

The Coalition for Economic Justice is a Buffalo based non-profit organization that runs local and statewide campaigns for quality jobs and greater accountability in economic development. As an extension of our issue work we engage in public education efforts and also register new voters, encourage occasional voters to become more active participants in our democracy, and provide all voters with information about where candidates stand on our issues. We are a non-partisan organization and do not endorse or oppose candidates but do seek to promote active, open public discussion on critical issues facing our community and the state of New York.

In a time of deep economic recession, escalating poverty and political turmoil, public discourse and sound leadership are more important than ever. To this extent, our Coalition is producing a voter guide, to ensure that Erie Country residents can make an educated choice when they enter the voting booth.

This voter guide lists candidates for State Senate races in the 58th, 59th, 60th, and 61st districts. Questionnaires were sent to those candidates in contested races. **Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates were given strict word limits.** Replies exceeding the word limit are indicated by slashes (///). Candidates were also asked to avoid references to their opponents. Some candidates did not respond to our request for information. For these candidates, only information from their official campaign websites was included.

58th District

Lower Buffalo, Cheektowaga, West Seneca,
City of Lackawanna, Hamburg, Eden

Question 1: In a time of economic crisis, sound political leadership is more important than ever. **What training and experiences qualify you for this office? (no more than 75 words)**

Question 2: A recent Quinnipiac University poll shows that four out of five state voters feel like NYS government is dysfunctional. This is the highest measure of public dissatisfaction in the survey's 20 year history. Over the last two years New Yorkers have witnessed scandals at the legislative and gubernatorial level, a deepening fiscal crisis, and serious power battles in the Senate. **What measures would you support to promote greater public accountability in state government and restore public trust? (no more than 150 words)**

Question 3: The State's two main engines of economic development, Industrial Development Agencies and Empire Zones, have come under increasing scrutiny in recent years, with changes to the Empire Zone program now imminent. **How should these programs be changed or overhauled to better target the state's economic development resources? (no more than 150 words)**

Question 4: According to the Department of Labor, over one-third of the workers in the Greater Buffalo area are earning annual salaries of less than \$26,000, with a great percentage of these workers earning less than \$20,000. The poverty crisis that our region is facing in both our urban and rural communities is in part a result of the prevalence of low-wage work in our local economy. **What policies or programs would you propose or support to ensure good jobs for Western New Yorkers? (no more than 150 words)**



New York State Senator

www.stachowski.org

Top Priorities for New York:

- UB2020
- Property Tax Cap
- Upstate Unity

Endorsements:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 97, International Association of Iron Workers Local No. 6, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local No. 7, United Steelworkers District 4, United Food & Commercial Workers, Local One The Town of Cheektowaga Captains and Lieutenants Association Cheektowaga Police PBA, AFSCME -- Local 650, The New York State Right to Life Committee, Communications Workers of America (CWA) -- Western New York Council, New York State Public Employees Federation AFL-CIO, AFSCME Council 35, UAW Region 9, New York State Nurses Association, Buffalo Teachers Federation, SEIU 32BJ, Buffalo Professional Firefighters Local 282, Democrats for Education Reform

Question 1: The CEJ is absolutely correct that "sound political leadership" is more important than ever. During my career in the Senate I have served as the Ranking Democrat on the Senate Labor Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. I am currently the Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business Committee. I have worked with Senate leadership on budget issues, most notably taking a leading role on the enactment of UB2020 legislation.

Question 2: After years of corruption and dysfunction in Albany, the New York State Senate took a major step forward in passing ethics reform that ends the era of secrecy and significantly raises the bar of disclosure and accountability for elected officials. The legislation -- which is the first time both houses of the Legislature passed ethics reform of this scope -- requires greater disclosure of outside sources of income for legislators, and activity of lobbyists, restores an independent lobbying commission, and empowers a bipartisan enforcement unit within the New York State Board of Elections to impose strict adherence to campaign finance laws. Additionally, the legislation revamps current ethics law by reinstating an independent state commission on lobbying and increasing disclosure requirements for lobbyists who have business relationships with public officials. Legislators would also be required to reveal in greater detail their sources of outside income. In addition, the Legislative Ethics Commission ///

Question 3: This year the State Legislature passed legislation creating the Excelsior Jobs Program, a targeted economic development initiative that creates jobs, attracts new businesses and encourages investment. Totaling a \$1.25 billion investment over 10 years, Excelsior provides tax credits to strategic industries, implements stringent accountability standards, and caps program spending to ensure the wisest investment of taxpayer dollars. We are building the foundation for smart and sustainable economic growth that will create the lasting jobs we need to get New Yorkers working again. The Excelsior program employs greater accountability and targeted investment to ensure businesses who receive benefits create jobs and public funds are spent wisely. The Excelsior Jobs Creation Program seeks to accomplish the lofty and extremely important goal of attracting new jobs to New York State, thereby correcting a shortfall of the previous program.

Question 4: Despite our region's low cost of living, it is important that WNYers earn reasonable salaries that allow them to maintain a happy and healthy quality of life. That's why I support development projects that we know will bring in high paying, high benefit jobs, like UB2020. UB2020 not only brings jobs directly to the university, but promises to create billions in economic activity, economic activity that will spur additional job creation outside UB. Many of these jobs will be in higher skill, higher wage areas as the school enters into new public-private partnerships.

Bill Stachowski (IND, WF)

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Tim Kennedy (DEM, CON)



Erie County Legislator

www.kennedyforchange.com

Top Priorities for New York:

- Create Jobs
- Clean-up Albany
- Cut taxes and wasteful spending

Endorsements:

Erie County Democratic Party, Erie County Independence Party, Erie County Conservative Party, Lackawanna Democratic Committee, West Seneca Democratic Committee, Amalgamated Transit Union Local No. 1342, AFSCME Council No. 35, 264, 650, 1095, 2651, BCTGM Local 802, Buffalo Building and Construction Trades, Buffalo Police Benevolent Association, Buffalo Teachers Federation, Citizen Action of New York, Communications Workers of America Local No. 1, Elevator Constructors Local No. 14, Empire State Pride Agenda, Erie County Police Benevolent Association, Heat and Frost Insulators, Local No. 4, Human Rights Campaign, IATSE Local No. 10, International Longshoreman's Association, Ironworkers Local No. 6, Laborers Local No. 210, Local 200 United Service Employees International Union, Operating Engineers Local No. 17, Painters & Glaziers District Council No. 4, Plasterers Local No. 9, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local No. 22, Service Employees International Union 1199, Service Employees International Union Local United 200, Sheet Metal Workers Local No. 71, Teamsters Local No. 264, Teamsters Local No. 375

Question 1: I joined the County Legislature during a period of vast economic uncertainty, and I was forced to deal with the red and green budget fiasco. Now, county government is moving in the right fiscal direction, but I am concerned about some of the cuts to vital services in the County Executive's 2011 budget. I've worked to ensure we sufficiently fund vital services in Erie County, while fighting to reduce the tax burden on county residents.

Question 2: Western New Yorkers are hungry for change in Albany. They are sick and tired of the corruption and dysfunction plaguing our Capitol. I'm going to clean up Albany, starting with the perks that Albany incumbents like Jack Quinn III have been taking advantage of as a part of the most dysfunctional state legislature in the entire nation. Hardworking Western New Yorkers have been forced to make sacrifices, while Albany incumbents continue to feast on the perks. In order to clean up Albany, we will also have to fight for real ethics reform and end pay-to-play politics. We need to stand behind initiatives like a state ethics commission and a comprehensive annual financial disclosure form to shed light on the outside dealings of state legislators. With public trust at an all time low, I have assured voters that I will fight to ensure hardworking Western New Yorkers are heard in Albany.

Question 3: We need to target investment in high-wage, high-tech industries in economically distressed areas to create family-sustaining jobs. With that said, as the current chairman of the Economic Development Committee in the Erie County Legislature and a member of the ECIDA, I understand first-hand the need for reform within Industrial Development Agencies. This begins and ends with accountability. We cannot afford to give away millions of dollars without demanding that the companies receiving this money provide measurable results in the form of good-paying jobs. If companies fail to live up to their end of the bargain, there needs to be ramifications. The same goes for the Empire Zone program, which is now being phased out and replaced with the Excelsior Program. In order to ensure that both of these programs are spending taxpayer's dollars wisely, we need additional accountability.

Question 4: Our region desperately needs good-paying jobs. Because of this, I have made job creation the focal point of my campaign. Once elected to the State Senate, I will have a small business specialist working out of my office. This specialist will work directly with business owners to help them cut through the bureaucracy and connect with the resources and tools they need to grow and hire more workers. This individual will help business owners develop strategies for strengthening their businesses. Poverty is a major issue in our region, as is the brain drain – only one in about every four students educated in Western New York stays here. To reverse these trends, we need to help build bridges between higher education and business – turning academic progress into economic progress. We also need to make UB 2020 a reality, while ensuring SUNY education is accessible for all students.

58th District

Lower Buffalo, Cheektowaga, West Seneca,
City of Lackawanna, Hamburg, Eden

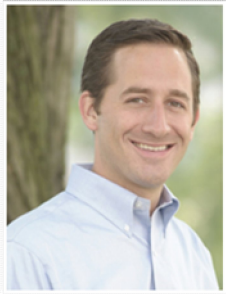
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Jack Quinn (REP)



quinnforny.com

Endorsements:

Top Priorities for New York:

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Question 1:

Question 2:

Question 3:

Question 4:

59th District

Lancaster, Alden, Elma, Marilla, Orchard Park, Aurora, Wales, Evans, Boston, Colden, Holland, Brant, North Collins, Collins, Concord, Sardinia, parts of Wyoming, Livingston and Ontario Counties

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Patrick Gallivan (REP,IND)



gallivanforsenate.com

Top Priorities for New York:

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Endorsements:

- Associated Builder and Contractors
- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
- Buffalo Professional Firefighters Association
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership
- Erie County Sherriff's Police Benevolent Association
- The Good Government Club of Western New York
- National Federation of Independent Businesses
- National Rifle Association
- New York State Police Investigators Association
- New York State Public Employees Federation
- New York State Troopers Police Benevolent Association
- New York Uprising
- Police Conference of New York
- Unshackle Upstate

Question 1:

Question 2:

Question 3:

Question 4:

59th District

Lancaster, Alden, Elma, Marilla, Orchard Park, Aurora, Wales, Evans, Boston, Colden, Holland, Brant, North Collins, Collins, Concord, Sardinia, parts of Wyoming, Livingston and Ontario Counties

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**Dry Cleaner/ Small Business
Owner**

dipietroforsenate.com

Top Priorities for New York:

- Cut Spending
- Shrink N.Y.S. Government
- Welfare to Workfare

Endorsements:

- WNY Tea Party Coalition
- Wyoming County Tea Party Patriots
- Ontario County Tea Party Patriots
- Primary Challenge of WNY
- Livingston County Tea Party
- Ontario County Conservative Party
- Friends of Knox Farm State Park
- Tim Cox of GOOOH

David DiPietro (TEA)

Question 1:

Question 2:

Question 3:

Question 4:

59th District

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Cynthia Appleton (D, WF)



www.appleton2010.org

Top Priorities for New York:

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Endorsements:

Dave Whitcomb, Canandaigua City Council, Ward 1
Democracy for America (DFA)
Ellen Polimeni, Mayor of the City of Canandaigua
Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Committee (Eleanor's Legacy)
Erie County Democratic Committee
Genesee County Democratic Committee
Livingston County Democratic Committee
NARAL Pro-Choice New York has endorsed Cynthia Appleton
National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 3
New Democrats of WNY ("New Dems")
NY Uprising / former NYC Mayor Ed Koch
Robert Duffy, Mayor of Rochester and Lt. Governor nominee
SEIU Local 200 United
Stonewall Democrats of Western New York
Transport Workers Union of Greater New York Local 100
UAW Region 9
Western NY Council of the Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Women's Campaign Forum
The Women's TAP Fund
Working Families Party
Wyoming County Democratic Committee

Question 1:

Question 2:

Question 3:

Question 4:

60th District

Upper Buffalo, Western Tonawanda, Grand Island,
City of Niagara Falls

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Antoine Thompson (DEM, WF)



New York State Senator

www.senatorantoinethompson.com

Top Priorities for New York:

- Create opportunities for good paying, sustainable jobs
- Access to quality education
- Social, racial, economic, & environmental justice

Endorsements:

International Union of Operating Engineers--Locals 17, 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D, 17RA, & 17S, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1, Boilermakers Local 7, Buffalo & Erie County Central Labor Council, Niagara/Orleans Central Labor Council, AFSCME, Local 650, 64, 1095 & Council 35, Buffalo Professional Firefighters, Local 282, Elevator Construction Workers Union, NYS AFL CIO, United Auto Workers (UAW), Communications Workers of America (CWA), New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), Public Employees Federation (PEF), WNY Teamsters Joint Council No. 46, Buffalo Teachers Federation, New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), Bridge and Tunnel Benevolent Association, Freelancers Union, Iron Workers Local 9, SEIU 200, Buffalo Police Benevolent Association, Amalgamated Transit Union, Sierra Club, Niagara Group, Atlantic Chapter, Citizen Action of New York, Erie County Democratic Committee, Niagara Falls Democratic Committee, City of Tonawanda Democratic Party, Town of Grand Island Democratic Party, Working Families Party, Stonewall Democrats of WNY, Nosotros, Western New York Hispanics and Friends, Hispanic Alliance, League of Conservation Voters, Empire State Pride Agenda, Marriage Equality New York, Planned Parenthood Advocates of New York, NARAL, Pro Choice New York

Question 1: I have served as Masten District Council member in the City of Buffalo, and while there, authored provisions of the city's living ordinance. I served on worker's rights board, served in the State Senate since 2007, served as a member on the Citizen Action board working toward progressive issues am a member of several community, political and advocacy organizations, which give me a broad base of understanding of the issues important to the residents of the 60th Senatorial District.

Question 2: I support public financing of elections in order to provide transparency and accountability in government and would continue to meet with my constituents about their concerns and issues, host town halls in my district and work with my colleagues to put forth meaningful reforms and legislation for the people of NY.

Question 3: I sponsored IDA reform bill in the NYS Senate, which ensures that when tax dollars are spent for the purpose of economic development, good paying, sustainable jobs are created to provide long-lasting economic vitality.

Question 4: I support the living wage and prevailing wage standards and have vocalized my support for these standards be in place for any work in Buffalo, especially when public dollars are used to support the project. I firmly believe that living wages foster self-sufficiency and therefore create sustainable and financially stable communities.

60th District

Upper Buffalo, Western Tonawanda, Grand Island,
City of Niagara Falls

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Attorney- Grisanti and Grisanti Law Offices

www.grisantiforsenate.com

Top Priorities for New York:

- Fiscal Responsibility to NY State
- Jobs/ UB 2020
- Lower Taxes



Endorsements:

Erie and Niagara County Republican, Conservative and Independent Parties
Erie and Niagara County Building Trades Council
Asbestos Workers - Local 4
Boilermakers - Local 7
Bricklayers - Local 3
Cement Masons - Local 111
Electrical Workers - Local 237
Empire State Regional Council of Carpenters -Local 289
Ironworkers - Local 9
Operating Engineers - Local 463
Operating Engineers Surveyors - Local 463 D
Painters & Glaziers District Council
Plasters - Local 9
Plumbers & Steamfitters - Local 22
Roofers - Local 74
Sheetmetal Workers - Local 71
Sprinklerfitters - Local 669
Teamsters - Local 449
Buffalo Niagara Realty
The Police Conference of New York
Good Government Club

Question 1: Small business owner, an attorney who represents people, trained listener and problem solver Mark has an outside perspective to the economic crisis, active in the community.

Question 2: Albany needs transparency and politicians needs to be held accountable. Additionally, there should be term limits so we do not have career politicians who become out of touch with there constituents.

Question 3: The Economic problems that we are experiencing here in the Buffalo/Niagara falls are second to none in the state. With an all time low in the economy, and with an all time high in state spending in Albany, the 60th district seems to have been no less than financially abandoned. With a few changes we can reverse this gross overspending, and bring money back to our area once again. Concentrate more on our local economy and REALLY promote jobs, and less on what seems to be never ending cash flow – downstate.

Question 4: To ensure and support good jobs for WNY, we need to bring jobs to Buffalo and not down-state. For example UB 2020 would have brought tons of Jobs to Buffalo. Additionally, I propose turning the N.F. airport into a major northeast cargo.shipping hub for distribution of goods and services by air and land has been an issue at the. The Buffalo Niagara International Airport can handle international and domestic air cargo through any of its five cargo airlines, including Airborne Express, United Parcel Service, Menlo Forwarding, FedEx, and Superior Cargo Services. Let's use that to our advantage.

Mark Grisanti (REP,CON)

61st District

Tonawanda, Amherst, Clarence, Newstead,
parts of Wyoming County

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Michael H. Ranzenhofer (REP,IND,CON)



[www.nysenate.gov/senator/
michael-h-ranzenhofer](http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/michael-h-ranzenhofer)

Endorsements:

Top Priorities for New York:

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Question 2:

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Marc Coppola (DEM)



**Executive of the NYS
Division of Parole**
www.marccoppolaforsenate.com

Top Priorities for New York:

- On-Time Budget
- End Fusion Voting
- Help Create Jobs

Endorsements:

WNY Area Labor Federation AFL-CIO
WNY CAP Council Region 9 UAW
District Council #4 Painters and Allied Trades Union
WNY Council of CWA
Local Union 97 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
New York State
AFSCME Council 35
WNY Teamsters Joint Council No. 46
NARAL Pro-Choice NY
NYS AFL-CIO
Cement Masons Local 111
Elevator Constructors Local 14
CSEA Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO
Laborers Local 210
International Union of Operating Engineers Local #17
UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 22
IATSE Local 121

Question 1: I am a former elected official: City of Buffalo Common Council and NYS Senator. I have a B.S. in Political Science, an A.S. in Public Administration, and 6 credits to date for a M.A. in Social Policy. I also stay very active in the political and governmental area, especially due to my current job as Special Assistant/Director of Legislative Affairs for the Chair of the New York State Division of Parole.

Question 2: Appropriately funding the Board of Elections and the Ethics commission to investigate and prosecute candidates, elected officials, and legislative staff for any violations of campaign finance laws or ethics laws; Create a Constitutional Budget Deadline, not one that is flexible but one that is mandatory or the Governor's budget is enacted by default; Ending the practice of fusion voting where candidates can run on multi party lines, thus cutting down on the political corruption that comes from it; no disclosure exemptions for legislators or their staffs.

Question 3: I wouldn't be totally honest if I said I had the answer. However, we should start by holding businesses accountable to the conditions they agree to. We also need to make any incentive programs less cumbersome, more transparent, and consistent from region to region. Additionally, mergers of agency functions or entire agencies themselves must be on the table.

Question 4: This is a tough question and even the greatest economists have debated it for years: how can government best aid the economy, if it should at all? I wish I had the answer but I'll start with the answer to question 3.