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VANGUARD

Official Newsletter of the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College
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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S
DESK**
PAGE 2

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

**CANDIDATE
STATEMENTS**
STARTING ON PAGE 3

Why New Yorkers Should Vote 'No'
STARTING ON PAGE 6



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From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompfer

Over the past two and a half years, the AFA has built solid relationships with Nassau County and New York State public officials on both sides of the aisle. These public servants have consistently demonstrated their support for our efforts, and the college's efforts, to do more for the students who pass through our doors each day.

We, the AFA, do not endorse candidates running for elected office. We do take 500 (+ or - 50) word statements from candidates who have demonstrated their support for us and the college. Those statements have been published in this special election edition of the *Vanguard*. We have suggested to each candidate that they write on the following topics: their view of NCC, NCC adjuncts, education in general, and any other issues they want to speak about.

Please consider the content of each of the submissions as you determine the individuals for whom you will cast your vote on Tuesday, November 7th. I encourage you to send the letters of those you wish to support to family, friends, and acquaintances via copy and paste emails and/or through posts on social media such as Facebook.

Stefan Krompfer
President
Adjunct Faculty Association

JACK MARTINS (Candidate for County Executive)

Nothing affects building strong, secure families and creates upward mobility more than receiving a quality education. We're very fortunate to have Nassau Community College (NCC), an institution of higher learning known the high quality education it provides to a diverse population of student learners, right here in Nassau County. NCC is in a renaissance and the adjunct faculty has played a major role in this renaissance.

A community college needs to be many things to many people and serve a vast and varied population of students. NCC is doing this catering to its young students and also serving people who have been downsized and are looking for a new career path.

An institution of learning is only as strong as its educators. I appreciate the hard and steady work you as an adjunct educator does to ensure that each NCC student gets the access to the great education everyone should be afforded. You are a caring, nurturing, dedicated professional who teaches, remediates, counsels and/or advises students so they will become all that they are capable of becoming. For this I applaud you.

My relationship with NCC spans many years, and I have had many conversations with Stef to discuss the needs of NCC and the role NCC's adjuncts play in educating students. As Nassau County Executive I will continue those conversations.

We must always work toward keeping the cost to our students as low as possible, working with the administration to make sure that every child who chooses to attend community college has access to a high-quality education.

I believe Nassau County needs to commit to providing its fair share of the financial burden, working with the community to make sure the campus is properly maintained, restored and upgraded and to ensure there are opportunities for connecting people to enhanced transfer opportunities and well paid jobs through degree programs or and certificate programs.

As a State Senator, I worked to secure funding for NCC for infrastructure improvements and for construction of new buildings, and I also fought for enhanced state contributions to community colleges.

I am running for County Executive because I want to restore public trust in government, get Nassau out from under NIFA so that we can finally get back control of County finances and chart our own path forward.

I have executive experience having been the Mayor of Mineola, and legislative experience from three

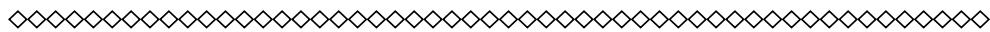
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terms in the State Senate. I understand how Nassau works, I understand how Albany works, and I am the best prepared to manage our \$3 billion budget and to get Nassau County back on the right track.

As Mayor of Mineola, I developed balanced, fiscally responsible budgets and debt management plans that substantially reduced Mineola's debt and returned the village to a sound financial footing. I also led the effort to create Mineola's award-winning master redevelopment plan that expanded the village's economic base through smart growth principles.

Because of my integrity and ability to lead Nassau forward I have earned the endorsements law enforcement and civil service unions, and the New York League of Conservation Voters. I am thankful and appreciative of these endorsements and pledge to support the principles these groups work to achieve.



LAURA CURRAN (Candidate for County Executive)

Education is responsible for creating the next generation of thinkers, entrepreneurs, and leaders in our communities. It is crucial that all children get a quality education, regardless of their zip code, so they can reach their full potential. That's why I ran for the School Board in Baldwin - because I wanted to make sure my children got the best education possible. I saw first-hand what growing up with a quality education meant for kids as they took the next step to either find a job or pursue a secondary degree.

Prior to that, I had the unique opportunity to serve as an Adjunct Professor of Journalism at SUNY Purchase. In that role I saw from a different perspective just how valuable a secondary education can be. That's a big reason why I have been such an advocate for Nassau Community College. This institution offers an affordable way for students to get the additional education they seek, which will help them to get a good quality job or go on to higher learning.

Understanding first-hand the work done by the Adjunct Professors has increased my support and appreciation for their service. The more we can support them as elected officials and a community, the better they will be able to serve those who rely on NCC - that's good for all Nassau County residents as it will improve our workforce and therefore our economy.

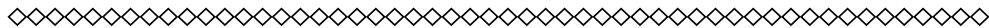
As a County Legislator, I was proud to push for and support funding for Nassau Community College because it is critical that our students and professors have the resources they need to be successful. As County Executive I will build on this success and do everything I can to support NCC. With a well-

...continued on page 5

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educated workforce, we can give way to new entrepreneurs and skilled workers, and help support the businesses already here. That's a win for our students and for all of Nassau County.

With our election quickly approaching on November 7th, I'd like you to know I will be your ally as County Executive, and I hope you will consider voting for me. Thank you!



MICHAEL SHERIDAN LD-15 (D, WFP, WEP)

Nassau County is extremely fortunate to have eight colleges and universities within its borders. Nassau Community College is essential to the continued growth of Nassau County. If we want our young people to make their lives and careers here in Nassau, we need to attract high-tech, high-paying industries here. NCC can and should be the bridge that connects their students and graduates with those jobs. As a member of the Legislature, I will make it a point to seek ways NCC and the County can partner on our "Smart Growth" agenda and the complete development of the Nassau Hub.

NCC had a reputation of being one of the top community colleges in the country. Unfortunately, in recent years, corrupt trustees, poor infrastructure maintenance, and issues with academic accreditation have been setbacks. These problems will soon be in the past.

Our full-time and adjunct professors have begun bringing back our good reputation and high standards. With a new legislative team and County Executive in place, I promise to place a high priority in helping market and grow the College as a beacon of opportunity. The first step will be to fix the neglected parking lots, modernize the campus, and make much-needed infrastructure upgrades and improvements.

I am a product of a strong union household. I am proud to have the support of seven labor unions for my campaign. I believe that all county contracts should be appropriately vetted and fairly negotiated in good faith. I will work to make sure that the Adjunct Faculty Association is treated equally in its negotiation process, as with NCCFT Local 3150, whose latest contract was passed by the Legislature unanimously with bipartisan support.

Adjunct faculty and NCC will have a strong partner and associate in the Legislature in regard to higher education.



Why New Yorkers Should Vote ‘No’: Basic Rights Could Be Put at Risk

By Karen Scharff

Citizen Action of New York, an organization I’m proud to help lead, has worked for decades to make our democracy more responsive to ordinary New Yorkers through improving voting rules and creating a campaign finance system based on small donors instead of big money. We see democracy reform as crucial to achieving economic, racial, and environmental justice reforms. With that history, you might expect us to support holding a constitutional convention. But we don’t.

We oppose it because of the way delegates would be elected if its voters approve a constitutional convention this Election Day, and the role large corporate interests would have in shaping those delegate elections.

Many New Yorkers are unaware of all the rights the State Constitution defends. In fact, it provides more important protections than the U.S. Constitution for New York residents, especially people of color and working class people who are often underrepresented. These rights include:

- Article II, which allows voters to identify themselves by signature at the polls (no ID required);
- Articles I and V, which protect workers from wage theft and hours exploitation, and defend workers’ rights to collectively bargain and receive benefits;
- Article XIV, which safeguards environmental regulations, including the “Forever Wild” clause that keeps the Adirondacks and Catskills protected from development;
- Article XI, which guarantees that every child in New York receives a sound basic education, and prohibits public funding for religious schools;
- And Article XVII, which states that the aid, care, and support of the needy are public concerns that will be provided by the State.

Our State Constitution has been a foundation for our state’s progressive values. Take, for example, Article XVII, one of the many crucial Articles at risk for compromise or outright elimination. It is the greatest protection that low- and middle-income New Yorkers have to keep them out of poverty. As programs and supports for so many people continue to be threatened at the Federal level, we cannot afford to put it at risk.

Giant corporations, charter schools, and the super-rich have their eyes on a convention. They see it as their chance to use their money and power to undercut the rights and values enshrined in our Constitution. Here’s a taste of what it could look like: groups will campaign to make stricter voter ID laws; lobbyists will work to delegitimize workers’ rights and reduce environmental standards and protections; supporters of privately run charter schools will look for a chance to take more funding and resources away from our kids’ public schools.

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Given the big-money campaign finance landscape after the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, the vast resources these groups have at their disposal would allow them to throw millions of dollars behind electing the delegates of their choosing.

While a convention sounds great in theory, the fact is that rich and powerful individuals and their lobbyists would dominate the process and use their money to elect the vast majority of delegates. Delegates would be elected through State Senate districts, which are designed to guarantee that the big money interests who currently control the State Senate remain in control. That's the same State Senate that has blocked major pieces of legislation designed to strengthen our democracy and put working families first.

Consider, for example, that at the last constitutional convention, in 1967, Assembly Speaker Anthony J. Travia was its president and New York City Mayor Robert F. Wagner the first vice president. Moreover, the majority of delegates were holders of political office either by election or appointment. Given the gravity of constitutional change, and the enormous stakes for the competing interests involved, it's reasonable to anticipate that, if approved, the convention would be even more intensely political than the day-to-day operations of the state's notoriously dysfunctional Legislature.

This becomes especially problematic since the entire Constitution would be up for grabs and, therefore, in the sights of monied interests. The potential for unanticipated mischief and even radical change is sufficiently real, that opposition to holding a convention transcends traditional political loyalties. Because of the way delegates would be elected if it voters approve a constitutional convention this Election Day, and the role large corporate interests would have in shaping those delegate elections and the convention that would follow. There is too much at stake in our Constitution to risk a convention controlled by real estate developers, hedge fund managers, and other big money donors and the convention that would follow (1).

In addition to the obvious rights at risk, past constitutional conventions have proven to be ineffective and full of uncertainties. There are no limits on the duration of a convention, no rules on what can be changed, and we don't know who the delegates will be or who their paid staff will be. If a convention is approved, we'll be left with far more questions than answers.

We don't need to risk our rights to make important changes to our Constitution. There's already a strong process for amending the Constitution that is effective and doesn't risk endangering critical protections. It's a process that has worked over 200 times, including seven times over the last five years.

Nearly 150 organizations and groups across the political spectrum have spoken out to oppose a constitutional convention, including Citizen Action of New York, the New York ACLU, Planned Parenthood Empire State Acts,

...continued on page 8

...continued from page 7

Environmental Advocates of New York, and the Sierra Club.

New York is recognized as a national leader on important issues, and the values upheld in our founding document reflect that. A constitutional convention would open the entire document up for revision – not just select parts. That’s why I’m urging New Yorkers to vote “no” this November.

Karen Scharff is executive director of Citizen Action of New York.

Note: A constitutional convention would carry a high price tag for taxpayers, with estimates varying wildly from \$50 million to \$350 million. And, of course, it could all be for naught if the document proposed is ultimately rejected by voters.

(1) Excerpt from “Likely Delegates” – By Daniel Leddy For the Staten Island Advance

