2009 CANDIDATES’ FORUMS

Tuesday, October 20th
7:00-9:30pm
Candidates’ Debate:
City of Oneonta Mayor candidates
Statements by Oneonta City Judge candidates

Monday October 26th
7:00-9:30pm
Candidates’ Debate:
Oneonta Town Supervisor candidates
Oneonta Town Council candidates
Statements by Oneonta Town Justice candidates

Tuesday, October 27th
7:00-9:30pm
Candidates’ Debate:
Otsego County Board of Representatives candidates
Statements by Otsego County Treasurer candidates

Hosted by SUNY at Oneonta
Held in Craven Lounge in Morris Hall
Broadcast live by SUNY Oneonta Creative Media Services TV
View on Channel 23 and telephone questions.

League of Women Voters
of the Oneonta Area

Voters’ Guide
Fall 2009

Featuring Candidates for:
City of Oneonta Mayor
Oneonta Town Supervisor
Oneonta Town Council
Oneonta City and Town County Board
Oneonta City Judge
Oneonta Town Justice
Otsego County Treasurer

Election Day is
Tuesday, November 3rd
Polls are open from 6 AM to 9 PM
MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization whose purpose is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The LWV does not support or oppose candidates or political parties, but does support or oppose issues after study and member agreement.

NONPARTISAN POLICY

The League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area is a nonpartisan organization and as such does not support or oppose any political party or candidate for elective office.

Board members are encouraged to have party affiliations and to serve on appointed boards, commissions, and citizen advisory committees and to actively participate in the political life of the community, except that board members may not run for or serve in government office. Board members may not hold political party office where they are spokespersons for the party or in preeminent public view.

The President, Voter Service, Public Relations, Membership and Action Directors may not publicly support any political party or candidates for elective office.

League of Women Voters of the Oneonta Area
436-4050
www.lwvoneonta.org

League of Women Voters of NYS
www.lwvny.org

Otsego County Board of Elections
547-4247

Candidates for Oneonta Mayor

Name: Jason Corrigan
Address: 211 Main St.
Occupation: Community Organizer
Education: 4 years attending a SUNY college, pending graduation with BA in Communications, May 2010.

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

Since coming into Oneonta, I have only dedicated myself to improving other's quality of life. From raising over $50,000.00 for various breast cancer organizations, to overseeing and managing over 10,000 hours of community service within Oneonta, my experience solely comes from working directly with the community's members. In addition, my ideas and plans of action are what truly separate me from my opponents, and it is the potential and reasonableness within my platforms that make me the best qualified candidate. From a passenger train line to enacting a substantial green energy program, I have simply taken opportunity that already exists on a state and federal level, and have found ways to bring that opportunity into Oneonta.

There is currently over $9 billion available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, that is solely focused on developing new passenger rail lines to communities across the country, who resemble Oneonta in size and demographics. Last March, Governor David Paterson also announced a statewide comprehensive plan for developing new passenger rail service in upstate and central New York, with Oneonta falling directly into the plans. I have met Amtrak and the New York State Department of Transportation, and there is an interest from both parties to work with me in developing these plans, as there is a clear demand from members within central NY, along with residents within Manhattan and Long Island.
Through my initiative we have the opportunity to create a long-term base that will entice retail and outside industry into Oneonta. A passenger rail line will allow residents the ability to live in Oneonta and commute to the capital region for work. It will expand our tourist base and significantly develop our economy as a result. It will effectively market our community to the greater NY region while also providing a base for our arts and entertainment programs to thrive. It’s time we invest in ideas that make sense and provide real opportunity and stability for our community.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

My constituents are the residents of Oneonta, regardless of party affiliation, status, age, sexuality, or ability. This election has been plagued with candidates pandering to particular groups, specifically the city’s registered Democrats, and I believe that this action is detrimental to our overall development. If one is only concerned with gaining votes from the largest population to win, then they are not truly concerned with the entire community’s needs, even those who are not registered and have no influence on election day.

I look to provide a government that is completely upfront and honest with how your tax dollars are being spent. In addition, I believe that we have to stop paying for procedure and start paying for performance. We have paid a downtown developer over $400,000 in the last ten years, and we have very little to show for it. We continue to pass unlawful legislation that has cost the city tens of thousands of dollars in litigation. Since 2008 the city has been sued 8 times over zoning discrepancies and has lost each case, wasting your tax money over outdated and unlawful legislation. In addition, our most recent downtown development contract doesn’t contain any parameters for what is supposed to be accomplished; nor does it list any ramifications for what will happen if their obligations are not met to the fullest extent. And while the people have come to believe that it is only costing $45,000, the extent of the contract goes well into the $100,000 mark of your tax money.

We cannot allow our government to continue to make these type of back-door decisions that affect your quality of life. This is our community and we deserve to take back our control and our voice within city government.

Name: Erik Miller
Address: 64 Elm Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
Occupation: Executive Director, Otsego County Conservation Association; Elected Official: Third Ward Alderman, City of Oneonta
Education: Graduated Walton Central High School, Delaware County; SUNY- Delhi Associate of Science (AAS) Licensed Practical Nurse; SUNY - Oneonta, Bachelor of Science (BS), Georgraphy (Summa cum laude) Dual Concentration: Urban and Regional Planning/Geographic Information Systems

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

My strongest qualification is that I am the only candidate with government experience specific to the City of Oneonta and New York State. Not only do I run as sitting alderman, I was involved in city issues before I ever became a candidate for office. My familiarity with city government — and how it can benefit from state programs — will allow me to assume office with virtually no learning curve. I will be in a position to implement immediate, desirable change: greater efficiency, transparent government, fiscal responsibility.

We need to approach economic development comprehensively and nurture our existing businesses rather than micro-managing them. Recognizing that saving energy saves money, as chair of the Building and Technology Committee, I had our buildings and transportation system audited for energy use. This resulted in city savings of over $100,000. To improve employee morale and recognize contributions city workers have to offer, I began a reward program for valid cost-saving recommendations. Over twelve projects were identified and employees felt more empowered at City Hall. I also initiated a community garden program, so successful that its demand grew by more than 100%.
I’m connected to the community in a way that distinguishes me from my opponents. I made a conscious choice to raise my family in Oneonta. I have long been involved in activities related to the enrichment of life here such as the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway, playground construction projects for Oneonta City Schools, planting street trees, community clean-ups, and more.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

First, we must restore fiscal responsibility to our economic policies. We must spend money only as outlined and approved according to budget, through a transparent, public process, suspend poor management practices, keep a finger on the pulse of the City’s financial health, and create opportunities for success for existing businesses – the lifeblood of downtown revitalization!

With our financial house in order we can rebuild neighborhoods through public and private improvements. Planned infrastructure replacements, sidewalks, street trees, signage, “pocket parks” — all need attention. We must plan for improvements based on need, not politics – or risk falling into disrepair. This is not a short-term goal, but efforts must begin now to encourage reinvestment in our neighborhoods and maintenance of our properties — to bring back a sense of community that has been eroding. We must spur economic opportunity at each turn, creating a community where residents can live and work.

As Oneontans, we should look around us: We are surrounded by green hills, open space and natural resources we take for granted. One of this region’s greatest recreational resources, the Susquehanna River, runs through our back yard yet we fail to appreciate its beauty or its value to our City. Providing public access for recreation and a trail network for hiking, biking and cross-country skiing and canoeing is part of my economic development plan – a plan which will retain current residents and draw new ones to Oneonta.

My priorities as mayor? Fiscal responsibility, rebuilding neighborhoods and our downtown, and using our natural resources appropriately.

Name: Dick Miller  
Address: 55 Maple Street  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
Occupation: Retired, Consultant  
Education: B.A Middlebury College, 1965

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

After graduating from Middlebury College, I served as an Army officer in combat in Vietnam. Following that, I entered the business world advancing through a number of positions over a 17 year period, ultimately becoming Chief Executive Officer of a company which grew from less than $20 million dollars in sales to over $120 million dollars during the period. I was responsible for more than 1,000 employees in Rochester, NY, Newport News, VA, Charlotte, NC, and Atlanta, GA. During this time, I worked in the context of a privately owned company, ultimately as responsible to the Board of Directors of Bell Canada in Montreal.

Beginning in 1987, I served as Vice President for External Affairs and Senior Counsel to the President of the University of Rochester, and was promoted to the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. I then served as the Chief Operating officer of the State University of New York system with responsibility for the day-to-day operations of all 64 campuses. From 2003 to 2008 I served as President of Hartwick College. During my career, I have served on and chaired the boards of a number of not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, including two publicly traded companies. I have dealt effectively over this period with employees at all levels and of all cultural backgrounds. I have developed the ability to bring people together to work for the common good. I have financial experience and have a record of developing resources from public and private sources.
Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

1. We must face successfully the harsh financial realities of the day. Sales tax and state support revenues will decline. While striving to support existing services, we must increase our investment in maintaining our physical facilities. We will have to find ways to economize so that property taxes are not put under undue stress. This will require collegial effort by the Common Council, Mayor, and the City staff so that we can come together in determining responses to the challenge.

2. Ultimately, for the City to off-set the decline of sales tax and state support revenues, it must generate greater economic activity. While we can rely on Otsego County Economic Development to generate effective programs to attract, retain, and grow businesses, we have within our own control the opportunity to improve downtown. Work that I have undertaken for the last several months has identified entrepreneurial business opportunities for retail growth in downtown Oneonta, which would make it a destination shopping center for people from as far away as Syracuse, Albany, Binghamton and Kingston. We must capitalize on this opportunity.

3. Oneonta is a community of diverse neighborhoods. Working within neighborhood boundaries, stronger alliances can be built among owner residents, renters, and those who own properties for investment purposes to strengthen the social fabric of our environment, as well as improving its physical appearance. This opportunity involves further integrating our college students into our neighborhoods and community.

Candidates for Oneonta Town Supervisor

Tony Natalini
284 State Hwy. 28 Oneonta
Chief Constable; Area Manager Hess Corp.
Nanticoke High School, Nanticoke, PA; Wilkes University

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?
I currently run a million dollar site. Responsible for hiring, payroll, ordering. The site runs at a profit. I will use this to run the Town and keep Taxes down.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.
1- against Town-City Merger.
2- Have the office of Supervisor Transparent for the entire town.
3- Improve Public Safety
• 28 years in private practice of law in Oneonta with Patricia Pantaleoni

• Experience in family law, real estate, wills, contracts, civil litigation and appeals

• Experience in Supreme Court, Surrogate’s Court, County Court, Family Court, town and village courts

• Prosecutor for 12 years (Assistant District Attorney and Oneonta City Prosecutor)

• Law Guardian in Otsego County for 27 years

• Coordinated Otsego County Child Sexual Abuse Task Force

• Presenter of domestic violence training for town and village justices

• Instructor in landlord-tenant law for attorneys

• Active in church and community

• Raised two children in Oneonta with her husband, Joe Bernier

Name: Michael Francis Getman
Address: 58 Union St. in Oneonta NY (home), 16 Dietz St. in Oneonta (work)
Occupation: Attorney and Prosecutor
Education:
- Center Street Elementary
- Oneonta Junior High School
- Oneonta Senior High School
- Colgate University
- Nova University Law School

Question: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

I have 23 years of experience practicing law in three different states. I have maintained my private practice of law in Oneonta since 1991 while also working as a law guardian, assistant public defender, assistant county attorney, assistant district attorney, chief assistant district attorney and city prosecutor. I have handled virtually every type of case which may come through Oneonta city court, either as a prosecutor or in my private practice. I have experience litigating felony jury trials, misdemeanor jury trials and civil jury trials, as well as many bench trials in the courts of Otsego, Delaware, Chenango and Schoharie counties. I taught several semesters of criminal law, criminal procedure and criminal justice at SUNY Oneonta. I taught several semesters of business law at the Utica School of Commerce and Hartwick College. I have served on the Fox Hospital Board of Directors for 15 years, the last year and a half as chairman of the board. I also serve as a trustee on the Dewar Foundation and the Riverside Cemetery Association. I have served on the Future for Oneonta Foundation, Oneonta YMCA and Hanford Mills Museum boards of directors. I am agency counsel for Opportunities for Otsego. Most significantly, I have received the public endorsement from the City of Oneonta Police Benevolent Association and the New York State Police Benevolent Association. I am proud of my service to the people of the city of Oneonta and believe firmly that I am ready to continue that record of service as Oneonta city court judge. Thank you for your support.
Richard Murphy
35 Ceperley Ave
Oneonta, New York 13820
Retired Speech Therapist; Otsego County Representative-Town of Oneonta
BA Speech and Hearing Disorders, SUNY Plattsburgh; MA Communication Disorders, College St. Rose

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

Following six years as Town Councilman, I was elected to the Otsego County Board of Representatives in 2007. Having worked with a cooperative Board at the Town level providing quality services within a fiscally responsible budget, I was able to make a smooth transition to County government.

My work on Public Works has enabled the Co. Rt. 8 project in the Town to near completion. This cooperative effort reduced costs to the Town and provided improved safety for motorists and pedestrians.

I advocated for environmental concerns to be included with the Solid Waste Committee. Now, important issues like gas drilling have a forum for discussion with the potential for resolutions being adopted by the full Board. This same Committee initiated the MOSA study that clearly outlines our solid waste options for the future.

My thorough and collaborative style has been recognized by the majority and I have been assigned as Chair of Intra Employee Relations and to the influential Administration Committee. It is here that we continue to seek ways to reduce spending and increase revenues to lessen the impact on the County during difficult economic times.

The experience I have gained, the respect I have earned from my peers and the expertise that continues to grow make me the best candidate for Otsego County Representative.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

The hiring of a County Manager, implementing MOSA study recommendations and environmental protection as it relates to gas drilling are three issues my constituency has prioritized.

I address these and all issues by collecting information from different sources in an effort to make an informed decision.

There are 62 Counties in New York State and Otsego is one of 13 that does not have professional management. A County Manager would be responsible for many duties that we currently assign to other departments. A $115,000,000 budget is better managed by a full time professional than 14 part time Representatives.

The MOSA study outlines our options. Following a post closure agreement with the other counties we can then begin using MOSA reserves to pay down the bonds. This, in turn, lowers the tipping fee and takes steps toward eliminating the guaranteed annual tonnage (GAT). Hauler fees are redirected to renovate transfer stations; we procure a new disposal agreement with no minimum guarantee and continue recycling in the current manner.

The gas extracted from our land is no more precious than our water quality. Exemptions for gas companies from Clean Air and Clean Water must be eliminated. We need to insist that the gas industry divulge chemicals used in the extraction process. DEC must mandate that chemicals used are benign to the environment. Proper disposal of solids and liquids must be strictly regulated. Soil and water samples must be taken at gas company expense during pre, on going and post drilling intervals. Bonds and or cash must be in place to repair roads following the extraction. Most importantly, the conversation among drillers, land owners, DEC and local governments must be on going.
Name: Janet Hurley-Quackenbush
Address: 3827 State Highway 23 West, Oneonta NY 13820
Occupation: Owner Special Touches Linen, Co-Owner Sunrise Specialty Catering, Town Board Member, Town of Oneonta
Education: BA Speech & Communications, SUNY Oneonta

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

As a business owner, I deliver a product on an agreed price. I have been doing for years what the county must do: deliver services on a fixed budget and at a price people can afford.

I have worked with budgets as a town council member and as a business owner and my experience working in both the private and public sectors will help the county identify priorities and develop and strategy and a budget to achieve them.

I know the Town of Oneonta, having served on the town board and worked with our residents for over ten years. I have handled personnel issues, managed parks projects and infrastructure needs.

My experience in the public and private sectors will bring new ideas and a fresh perspective to the county board.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

1. Property tax relief. As a council member, I worked on budgets that held the line on spending and reduced tax rates. We need to do the same at the county.
2. County budget reform. The county board hasn’t approved a budget in two years, opting for a default budget to kick in. This is a dereliction of our representative’s duty. We need a budget reform plan with real deadlines, collaborative decision-making, and accountability to ensure results.
3. Economic development. We need a fresh perspective and renewed energy in attracting business and industry, and greater shared commitment.

Candidates for Otsego County Board District 12

Name: Craig Gelbsman
Address: 1 Southview St.

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

I am an experienced and successful business owner in Otsego County/City of Oneonta for more than 20 years. I have had numerous dealings with the local government at both the county and city levels. With my business experience I have had to make many financial decisions that affect not only my family, but also my employees and customers. I will be able to use my business knowledge and make decisions that will be best for my constituents. I understand what it takes to be fiscally responsible. Moreover I was born, raised and am raising my own family in the City of Oneonta, so I care deeply about its future.

There are many issues that face Otsego County. My primary issue is to improve relations between the City of Oneonta and Otsego County. I don't believe that we have a good relationship, if any, between the City of Oneonta and the County. My first priority will be to congratulate the new Mayor and let him know I will do and help in anyway to build a strong city. Partnering between the City and County would allow us to leverage our combined size for increased purchasing power. Resources such as talents and expertise of personnel, expensive equipment could be shared to benefit both governments. I believe with a strong city of Oneonta we will have a strong County.
The issue of 'spending' in the county will be an issue that I look forward to tackling. With my business experience I understand what is required to make sound financial decisions. I will review the budget thoroughly throughout the year and be proactive with the new treasurer to see that my constituents' money is being spent wisely. My stance will be tough on those individuals who feel it is okay to just raise taxes to balance a budget.

One of the biggest issues facing the county is MOSA. MOSA has significant implications on finances and the future of Otsego County. The county has a major challenge in finding a long-term solution for waste management. We need a waste management plan that does not penalize positive actions now and in the future that increasing recycling efforts and reducing the waste stream. We can look to other successful programs as close as Delaware County to see what has worked for them.

Name: Catherine M. Rothenberger
Address: 17 Linden Avenue
Oneonta, NY 13820
Occupation: Otsego County Representative
Bookkeeper, part-time business
Education: B.A. - Business Management
Hartwick College

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

My experience as a representative for Otsego County for the past fourteen years has given me a firsthand view of the services provided to our residents. I understand the need to assure that we spend taxpayer dollars in a way that is cost effective yet gives us the most comprehensive services possible.

More importantly, my experiences as a parent have given me insight to the needs of families, parents and children. Recognizing that respect, responsibility and sincerity are key values to nurture, I have been a strong advocate for improving the quality of life for our families. By creating economic opportunities and providing effective human services, we can help foster an environment in which individuals and families can prosper.

In order to achieve this vision, I will continue to focus my attention on and support for the Department of Social Services, both Mental and Public Health, Office of the Aging, Planning and Economic Development.

Question 2: Describe the three issues that you feel are a priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

The three issues are: Hiring a County Manager, Focusing on Economic/Downtown Development and Supporting the Social Services/Programs.

County Manager: My opinion on the county manager position has not changed. I stated in 1995, “I am convinced more than ever that we need a full time County Manager. A county manager would be better able to monitor and maintain the county’s departments. The county manager would ensure that these departments are run more efficiently, which would save tax dollars and enable the Representatives to concentrate on policy and planning.” I will continue to point out the advantages of having a County Manager, through cost savings and opportunities to reduce our property taxes, and will work to enlist the support of my fellow board members to put this position in the 2010 budget.
Economic Development: Strategic planning and effective use of resources is crucial to strengthening our economy and fortifying the future for our existing businesses and property owners. To that end, I will continue to support the private/public partnership between the City and the County to attract financial investors, encouraging downtown growth while creating stability in property taxes. A vibrant downtown enhances our revenue and strengthens our population base.

Social Services/Programs: Otsego County delivers many health and human services to individuals from infancy through adulthood. I will continue to support programs that enable our elderly to stay in their homes, that create safe healthy environments for our children, and that provide those experiencing hard times to receive respectful assistance while giving them the tools to enhance their ability to return to self-reliance.

Candidates for Otsego County Board District 13

Name: Scott D. Harrington
Address: 180 River Street, Oneonta NY
Occupation: Constable for the Town of Oneonta, County Representative for Otsego County - District 13 (5th and 6th Wards of the City of Oneonta)
Education: AAS in Criminal Justice, BS in Strategic Leadership with a minor in Criminal Justice

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

In my first term on the board I have worked to help make the board a more professional board and have also worked to put an end to the problems created by the previous boards actions and inactions. I have worked hard to keep taxes low. I have worked to take the "O" out of MOSA by being involved in the process to get us out of the contract as soon as possible. I have also worked hard on projects to help save money for the county and held meetings to look in consolidating services with in the county. I have been (and continue to be) involved in the improvement of the aging and failing communications system. With my law enforcement back ground as well as my degree in strategic leadership I feel that I have a foundation to help improve the way the county runs and improve our public safety.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

With our current economic situation we have to keep taxes low, we have to look into ways of savings money and still work on consolidating some of services. Such things to look into would be a central billing system, as well as a central purchasing department. We also have to keep the heat up on MOSA to get ready to end the contract early and also be ready for the end of the contract. We have made great strides in obtaining this. Also we have to get the communications system fixed as we have to be able to get the first responders out to the scene when someone calls 911. We have been looking into having other counties as well as other agencies assist us with tower placement as some counties and agencies would like to rent
tower space from us which will also provide an additional source of income to the county. We also have put in for grants to help with a fiberoptic project to help bring access to Internet in outlying areas to help draw businesses into our area. Also with gas drilling we have to make sure that we have laws in place to help protect our roads, and more important out water resources. We need to take the lead in this as towns and villages are looking to us for help and guidance.

Name: Linda Rowinski
Address: 1 Scrambling Ave., Oneonta
Occupation: Office Manager – Oneonta Abstract Corporation
Education: SUNY Oneonta – B.A., M.S.Ed.

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

As a 30-year Oneonta resident, SUNY Oneonta graduate and local professional, I’ve become quite familiar with the concerns of my fellow citizens. I have raised my children in Oneonta and am determined to see that my county continues to be a family-friendly environment. I recognize the need to attract and keep young families in this area and am ready to do all in my power as a County Representative to make that happen. In addition to my involvement with the local community, I can also bring to the position skills I have learned in the field of mediation. If elected, I will use this experience to help Board members and department managers work together and openly discuss issues, evaluate alternatives and negotiate solutions.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

Budgetary issues are no doubt the most challenging at any level of government. As a responsible elected official, I will work cooperatively with my colleagues and with county officials to pass a budget that can provide the services our citizens need while minimizing expenses.

The promise of fortune has come to Otsego County, according to proponents of natural gas drilling. As a 24-year veteran in the real estate/title insurance industry, I fully understand that there are consequences to accompany the benefits. Gas drilling will affect everyone in the county. We must leave no stone unturned as we examine the process. I will advocate strongly to minimize environmental impact while protecting the rights of taxpayers to reap the benefits of land ownership.

As a county, we need to look forward: How will we handle the post-MOSA years? Will our technological decisions be obsolete before they are implemented? What is the best way to handle the day-to-day crises that arise in any organization? We need a County Manager with the foresight and expertise to make decisions or advise the Board as necessary. I would support hiring a full-time manager who can be accessible to solve problems before they turn into major issues. A County Manager would be a resource to the county, eliminating the need to assign so many of our projects to outside agents. In the long run, an investment in a competent manager will save taxpayers money as our county government becomes more efficient.
John Frisch

Address: 112 Crestview Lane, West Oneonta, NY
Occupation: Account Executive, Hometown Oneonta
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree/Communications/SUNY College at Oneonta

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

Having been involved with communications and marketing for most of my professional career, I feel that my experience in this field will be helpful in listening to the concerns of my constituency. I have lived in Oneonta since 1981. During this time, I have been on the Board for Literacy Volunteers and served as president for several years. I was also Board president for United Way and a member of the school board for St. Mary’s School. These experiences have prepared me to handle the position of Town Councilman and help move the Town of Oneonta into the future.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

1. Taxes - The subject of taxes always seems to come up when I talk to residents of the Town. My goal is to keep taxes down; I intend to work carefully to continue to provide services the Town needs as efficiently as possible without raising taxes.

2. Cell Tower - Another concern I hear is about cell service in the Town. It is important to have cell service you can rely on without having dropped calls. I would like to explore what options are available to us so that no matter where you are in the Town, you will have service for your cell phone.

3. Communications – I would like to make it easier for residents to find out what is going on with the town, how certain issues are being handled, and how residents can voice concerns. I would propose adding to the current town website by adding to the “News” page and keeping it updated.

Scott Gravelin

Address: 1372 County Highway 48
Occupation: Self-employed owner of Scott’s Towing and West Side Storage
Education: Oneonta High School grad class of “75”

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

I have lived in Oneonta almost 52 years. I was on the School Board for 4 years. I am a fiscal conservative and can save this town tax dollars.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

1. Keep the Town of Oneonta separate from the city.

2. Make it easier for business to do what they need to succeed.

Name: William Mirabito
Address: 188 Highland Terrace
West Oneonta NY 13861
Occupation: Insurance Broker
Education: Graduate Sidney Central School
           Graduate LeMoyne College

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?
The qualification I have which make me the best candidate for Town Board come down to experience. I have served on the Town Board for two years and have an intimate knowledge of how it runs. In addition, I have over 25 years of experience running a private business. Being self-employed, I know how to budget and control expenses. I also consider myself to be an expert in marketing strategies, something the town can use.
I am very active in the community. I am a former member of the Oneonta City School District Board of Education, former President of the Oneonta YMCA, and a former Board Member of United Methodist Homes. I have also served on foundations at both SUCO and Springbrook.
This background and experience in both the private and public sectors make me the best candidate for Town Board.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.
The three issues that top the list of priorities facing the town are:
1. Lower revenue collections due to the weak economy. To deal with this we must “hold the line”; or reduce expenditures. This is crucial since we must have a balanced budget... and I will not support raising taxes.
2. Infrastructure needs. This is tricky in a tight budget time. Grants and more efficient use of tax dollars should be utilized. Serving on the Highway Water & Sewer Committee, I have seen the need for this to be a high priority. Marie Lusins was great at grant writing and will be highly missed. We must pressure our state and federal leaders to be sure they secure our share of stimulus money.
3. Increased police protection is needed. In the past few months, there has been an uptick in both home and business burglaries. Our Town Constables do not have the money nor the background needed to turn this around. Greater communication and increased cooperation with the State Policy is needed. Since we have a State Policy station located within the town, a closer relationship should be a priority.
I served thirty years as a dedicated employee of the United States Postal Service in Oneonta. Throughout my career, I volunteered for various activities including two annual food drives for the past twenty years. I have made many positive connections to community members both in the city and town of Oneonta.

Through my experiences, hard work, and dedication, I am well prepared to serve as Justice for the town of Oneonta. As Town Justice of Oneonta, I will continue to serve the greater Oneonta community that I love.

Name: Andrew (Andy) Liddle
Address: 211 County Highway 58, Oneonta, NY 13820
Occupation: Retired
Education: Graduated Syracuse University NYS College of Forestry, NYS Police Academy, Hartwick College - Business Law, United States Air Force Air University, United States Air Force Regional Staff College

Question: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

- I was a **NYS Trooper Sergeant**, Accident Investigation/Reconstruction Specialist, prosecuted my own cases in court and instructor at the NYS Police Academy (7 years).

- I was a **Special Investigator for the Attica Commission** where I determined facts and circumstances surrounding the Attica prison riot. I authored the report of the Commission which formulated conclusions for recommendations based on the testimony of participants. This was a 2 year project.

- I was a **paralegal/legal assistant** for 16 years where I conducted investigations, prepared witnesses for trial, assisted in jury selection and have testified as an expert witness.

- At Hartwick College I **supervised security** for the college, prepared disciplinary cases involving student’s behavior and investigated personnel complaints. (11 years)

- **At Hartwick College** I supervised security for the college, prepared disciplinary cases involving student’s behavior and investigated personnel complaints. (11 years)

- As **Deputy Inspector General** for NYS I investigated fraud, abuse and corruption in nine (9) State Agencies; prepared cases for prosecution and disciplinary action involving state employees for 3 years.

- **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation** Assistant Commissioner for Public Safety, I supervised and directed the Environmental Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers statewide; participated in investigations involving the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) for Attorney General’s Office (3 years)

In summary I have been directly involved with and have the knowledge of the process and procedures of criminal, civil and environmental actions. I know first hand the entire process from the arrest to the investigation to the prosecution. A majority of my career has been directly involved with the criminal justice system.
Name: Bruce A. Smith  
Address: Town of Oneonta, New York  
Occupation: Independent Insurance Adjuster, Southern New York Claim Service, Oneonta, NY  
Education: State University College at Canton; National Foundation School, Chicago, IL; Freeman's Business School, Syracuse, NY

Question: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

Experience: Oneonta Town Justice for 3 terms (12 years) and currently certified Town Justice by New York State.
As Town Justice for the Town of Oneonta for the past 12 years I have made important decisions affecting the lives of our neighbors in this community. Town court is the court that is closest to the citizens.
I have conducted hearings for civil actions, including summary proceedings (landlord/tenant disputes). Town court also presides over criminal cases of differing severity, including misdemeanors and violations. We arraign defendants on felony charges and conduct felony hearings. Lastly, we hear vehicle and traffic law violations.
I have presided over family offense proceedings such as disorderly conduct, harassment and menacing. I issue temporary orders of protection and conduct actions for family court when they are not in session. Town court is also required to keep records of proceedings and submit to an annual audit of our fines and surcharges.
I have made myself available to the police agencies, public defender's office and the district attorney. I am self-employed as an independent insurance adjuster and I bring a strong business background with me.
I have been a town justice for three terms and have completed all required education and all additional continuing education requirements for this office. I am a member of the Otsego County Magistrate's Association and the New York State Magistrate's Association.
Some of the additional duties I have performed as a town justice are to conduct marriage ceremonies and swear in elected public officials.

Candidates for Otsego County Treasurer

Name: Dan Crowell  
Address: 3608 County Hwy 35  
Roseboom, NY 13450  
Occupation: Economist, Finance and Accounting Software Executive  
Education: High School: Cooperstown Central School, 1994  
College: B.A. Gettysburg College, 1998  
Fellowship: Fulbright Scholar, Economic Development, 1999  
Graduate: M.Sc. London School of Economics, 2003

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

✓ Six years of comprehensive experience working with the exact same kind of financial software that Otsego County uses to manage its accounting and budgeting.
✓ Extensive training and practical experience in public and private financial planning, economic analysis, and sustainable business
✓ Proven ability to attract significant investment to local enterprises
✓ Commitment to my community as a firefighter, food bank volunteer and consistent participant in local non-profit activities.
✓ Practitioner and published author on community development through public/private partnership.
✓ Commitment to my community as a firefighter, food bank volunteer and consistent participant in local non-profit activities.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

I. Informed Budgeting and Financial Planning Process
With a budget of $112 million for 2009, Otsego County is an entity of significant size and complexity. While we rely on a part-time Board of Representatives to decide how our limited resources are to be allocated to maximal positive effect, the documentation provided by the Treasurer during the budgeting process does not contain any robust trend analysis, any effort at projections beyond the short-term, nor many of the other fundamental tools considered among the best practices for public or private financial planning.

I look forward to establishing periodic reporting that includes analysis of 10 year historical trends as well as 2-5 year projections, all across the multiple dimensions of county fiscal activity. The perspective this will provide will enable us to make better decisions from the short to the long-term. Furthermore, these will be presented in formats that are understandable and informative to a broad audience, filling the current information void our elected leaders face and further engaging the public in the process.

II. Broader Financial Advisory Support
As the chief financial officer of the county, the Treasurer should be a significant contributor to understanding the financial implications of extra-budgetary issues:
- Perform due diligence to any successor model to MOSA for our waste management.
- Work with state/federal representatives to ensure appropriated funds meet our needs.

My experience in not only accounting, but also economic analysis and financial modeling gives me a unique capacity to fill these needs.

- Contribute transparent and objective analysis on both the potential positive and negative implications of issues such as gas drilling and weighing Otsego Manor options.

My experience in not only accounting, but also economic analysis and financial modeling gives me a unique capacity to fill these needs.

III. Engagement in Sustainable Economic Development
Otsego County is blessed with a diversified economic base, great natural beauty and an active civic society. But we must continue to strive to maintain and even enhance those assets. As a county-wide elected public servant, I think the Treasurer can play a positive supporting role to our area’s entrepreneurs and community organizations in a way that preserves our landscape and communities.

The Treasurer’s primary responsibilities are to maintain accurate and auditable financial records and to drive the budgeting process. In addition, as Treasurer I would work to keep existing public and private organizations informed about our municipal financial outlook in order to support local businesses, civic groups and their shared goals. By managing the county’s financial business with a long term view, I hope to enhance the economic climate of our whole community.

Name: Edward Keator, Jr (Ed Keator)
Address: 3304 St Hwy 23; West Oneonta, NY 13861
Occupation: Accountant & Small Business Owner
Education: State University of New York at Oneonta, Bachelor of Science in Business Economics

Question 1: What qualifications and/or experiences make you the best candidate for this position?

For almost three decades I have worked as a financial professional. Since graduating from SUNY Oneonta with a degree in Business Economics I have worked in both the public and private sectors as an accountant. I have owned my own business and worked with many small businesses in Otsego County and I know how important fiscally sound government is to our businesses and taxpayers.

I’ve worked as an accountant in Otsego County and I have seen first-hand how the Treasurer’s Office can be made more helpful to businesses and taxpayers by making county government more responsible, efficient, and accountable.
I will work closely with our County Board and Department Heads to make sure we communicate clearly, understand the issues, and give the taxpayers of Otsego County the very best value for their money. I believe that I have the skills and experience to make sure that the hardworking people of Otsego County know their tax dollars are being managed wisely. And I will use my years of experience and vast knowledge to serve the people of this County and to be your fiscal watch dog.

Question 2: Describe the 3 issues you feel are of priority to your constituency and how you would address them.

County Budget
I believe it is a major role and responsibility of our County Treasurer to manage our county budget. My years of financial experience coupled with my strong knowledge base of the Otsego County budget process gives me a clear advantage to be able to oversee our budget, plan responsibly and protect our taxpayers by avoiding wasteful spending.

Improve Relationships
I will work to build a sound working relationship with our Board of Representatives and County Department Heads to ensure that they have the confidence and trust in me to handle the budget process and manage complex tax issues. I will also return respect and appreciation to the Office of Treasurer and make the people of this County proud.

Efficiency
It is my vision to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the County Treasurer’s Office by streamlining existing processes and seeing that all office personnel are utilized in the best manner. I will create an atmosphere that is focused on customer service and being user-friendly. I will work with all citizens, committees, and departments within the county to make the County Treasurer’s Office a better experience for everyone.

POLLING SITES

City of Oneonta
Ward 1 – Foothills Performing Arts Center – 24 Market St.
Ward 2 – Foothills Performing Arts Center – 24 Market St.
Ward 3 – St. James’ Episcopal Church - 305 Main St.
Ward 4 – St. James’ Episcopal Church - 305 Main St.
Ward 5 – Foothills Performing Arts Center – 24 Market St.
Ward 6 – Foothills Performing Arts Center – 24 Market St.
Ward 7 – St. James Episcopal Church – 305 Main St.
Ward 8 – Foothills Performing Arts Center -24 Market St.

Town of Oneonta
District 1 – Town Hall in West Oneonta
District 2 – Fox Care Center – Rt. 7
District 3 – Town Hall in West Oneonta
District 4 – Town Hall In West Oneonta

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