Making Your Vote Count: Insist on the Protection of Our Region's Infrastructure

Everyone who has ever driven on a road, crossed a bridge or depended upon clean water is a member of a special interest group.

The Long Island Contractors' Association (LICA) reminds its members and voters throughout the region that this is not an “off” election year.

A week from today, the future of the region’s infrastructure will be decided by whom the voters choose to represent their towns and neighborhoods. Everyone who has ever driven on a road, crossed a bridge or depended upon clean water has a reason to vote on Election Day.

Taxpayers do not have to look very far to see what happens when elected officials do not support the role infrastructure plays in creating a viable economic future. A single politician can cause enormous harm to the economic fabric of our region and the viability of our region by neglecting to build the foundation upon which our economy, our jobs and our home values depend.

Does it matter if you vote this Election Day? Absolutely.

The officials who are elected to represent Long Island will be sworn into office with the understanding that they have been sent a message by the voters: invest in our infrastructure. It’s LICA’s intent that they hear that message loud and clear. Therefore, LICA is encouraging all its members, employees, family and friends to go to the polls.

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on Tuesday, November 8th and vote for pro-infrastructure candidates who will genuinely work for the future of Long Island. We have prepared this special edition of LICA’s Latest to help inform you about candidates running in what are expected to be the most competitive races in this region.

LICA’s Office of Public Affairs reached out to Long Island’s four major political county chairman’s offices and asked them to select up to three of their own candidates to profile, giving them the opportunity to directly address our members and provide a statement in their own words as to why they believe the working men and women of Long Island’s heavy construction public infrastructure industry should support their candidacies. Some of their statements have been edited for space requirements.

LICA suggested the candidates remain mindful that our members demand strong, forceful public officials who will produce real, not rhetorical, solutions to the challenges facing Long Island’s deteriorating infrastructure. They were also told that the chronic unemployment ravaging the construction industry will have a bearing on how their comments are viewed.

We hope this information is helpful. Please remember how important it is to vote on Tuesday, November 8th.

**SUFFOLK COUNTY**

**Suffolk County Executive**

**Steve Bellone (D), candidate for Suffolk County Executive**

Steve Bellone is the only candidate for County Executive with a proven record of investing in infrastructure and putting Long Island contractors to work, which is why he was described in the April 12 LICA e-newsletter as “a true ally to the heavy construction trades.”

Right now, Long Island’s heavy construction industry is hurting, enduring 30 percent unemployment. While this problem is driven by national factors, it is made worse locally because leaders lack either the political will or know-how to advance projects.

With the Wyandanch Rising project, Steve Bellone has proven he can unite a community behind great planning, work tirelessly to find the financing and see a project through to construction. Developing the Wyandanch sewer line will create immediate construction jobs and open the door to many more jobs because it will allow redevelopment of empty parking lots and dilapidated buildings. This is the leadership he will demonstrate as our next County Executive to get things done.

In Babylon, Steve has also proven that investing in infrastructure saves taxpayer money and improves quality of life. On his watch, pothole repair is down from five weeks to 48 hours. Going forward, he is leading the Connect Long Island effort which will make significant investments in improving our roads, mass transit and supporting Transit Oriented Development.

One of his immediate challenges will be to make sure the Suffolk County Public Works Department continues to play a vital role in investing in our community’s infrastructure and creating jobs. Steve understands that if we do not invest in infrastructure today, we will not be positioned for economic development and will create more expensive problems in the long run.

Steve Bellone understands the importance of infrastructure and he is willing to invest his political capital in advancing projects. And that creates jobs. Those are the traits we need in our next Suffolk County Executive.
Angie M. Carpenter (R), candidate for Suffolk County Executive

Angie M. Carpenter is a public servant whose impact resonates well beyond her role as Suffolk County Treasurer. Since being elected to the Suffolk County Legislature in 1993, she served on almost every legislative committee, where her leadership generated county-wide initiatives in public safety, education, economic development, consumer protection and cultural affairs.

Angie’s private sector experience is invaluable in budgetary, economic development and planning matters. She employed these skills to promote the construction of the $54 million-dollar Health and Technology building at the Suffolk Community College Western Campus.

As Suffolk County Executive, she will create a portfolio of Suffolk County assets, which includes land, buildings, public transportation, our community college and government services and pursue opportunities for public/private partnerships to properly use vacant land and buildings.

She will also develop and implement a Ten-Year Economic Development Plan for the County. This Plan will be the result of a collaborative effort with community groups, industry leaders, large and small businesses, concerned citizens and regional planners, and include:

- A regional approach for attracting new businesses to Suffolk County, and providing the infrastructure needed to support them.
- Specific community plans that support and encourage desirable and appropriately-placed small and local businesses, and maximizes access to the infrastructure.
- Long term planning to support and capitalize on Suffolk County’s changing demographics and to insure that the proper infrastructure is in place to support future growth.

In addition, she will work to remove the impediments businesses face when opening, operating, expanding, or relocating a business to Suffolk County and will reduce the cost of doing business with the County by:

- Streamlining and expediting the plan review and permitting processes. This is essential to the future growth of Suffolk County businesses which in turn create new jobs for our workforce.
- Eliminating or updating outdated and unnecessary permitting and inspection requirements.
- Consolidating and streamlining the County’s departments that are involved in economic development and planning.
- Reducing fees, rates and taxes in an effort to keep taxpayer dollars in the economy where it can create jobs.
**Town of Islip Supervisor**

**Incumbent Phil Nolan (D), Islip Town Supervisor**

In terms of making game changing investments in Suffolk County’s infrastructure, there are few more important priorities than re-electing Islip Town Supervisor Phil Nolan along with his team of Councilman Gene Parrington and council candidate Renee Ortiz.

Supervisor Nolan has a proven track record of investing in infrastructure and creating jobs. He instituted a “cutting red tape” committee made up of builders, developers and town officials to streamline town building codes and cut waiting time by 80 percent. He has an aggressive paving program that is improving Islip’s roads and putting people to work.

He seized an important opportunity to create local jobs by working with Sysco Corp to fast-track a new, $75 million, 400,000-square-foot refrigerated warehouse which will create hundreds of construction jobs and over 300 permanent jobs.

And right now, Supervisor Nolan is leading the effort to advance two major projects that will result in massive improvements to our region’s infrastructure and create thousands of construction jobs. He is working with Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko on the Ronkonkoma HUB/LI MacArthur Airport Corridor project – which will create the blueprint for a redeveloped transit oriented transportation hub. This project was tapped as a top priority of the Governor’s Long Island Regional Economic Council.

Supervisor Nolan also got the Heartland Town Square project moving after a decade of delay. On his watch, the first public hearing was held and the SEQRA process was initiated. Heartland will create at least an estimated 1,500 construction jobs annually throughout its 17-year build out and require major infrastructure improvements.

We are making so much progress on these two game changing infrastructure projects, let’s not make a change that will take them back to the drawing board. With you support for Supervisor Nolan and his team, we’ll continue to push forward and make a real investment in infrastructure.

**Suffolk County Legislator – District 7**

**Rob Calarco (D), candidate for Suffolk County’s 7th Legislative District**

One of the most important Legislative races is taking place in the 7th Legislative District in the southwest corner of the Town of Brookhaven where Rob Calarco is running to succeed his current boss, Legislator Jack Eddington.

First of all, this race is important because there are few better friends of infrastructure in Suffolk County than Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay and Rob Calarco will be a critical vote to support him.

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This race also features two candidates with very different views of the role of government and the importance of investing in our communities. Historically, there has been bipartisan support for investing in infrastructure to create jobs and create the conditions that allow for economic growth. Unfortunately, the tea party, which is embraced by Rob’s opponent, has shattered that bipartisan consensus.

Rob is going to lead the fight to improve our infrastructure and believes there is a real promise in East Patchogue. The recent expansion of the Patchogue sewer plant and work along East Main Street are opening up a golden opportunity to make a real investment in this community and emulate the success of Main Street in Patchogue.

Rob also supports the need to invest in infrastructure and will work to make sure that the Department of Public Works continues to play an important role putting people to work and improving our communities. He is opposed to the massive, blanket cuts which threaten to cripple the department.

When it comes to the Suffolk County Legislature, the best investment of time and resources the infrastructure community can make is to support Rob Calarco. By helping elect a young, moderate leader who understands the importance of infrastructure, you will have a partner for years to come who will work alongside you to improve our community.

NASSAU COUNTY

Town of Hempstead Supervisor

Incumbent Kate Murray (R), Hempstead Town Supervisor

As a result of Kate Murray’s sound and sensible management practices, her township has been able to freeze town taxes for 2012 while moving ahead with a robust $50 million capital upgrade program. What’s more, Murray’s well run government has attracted real and meaningful commercial development at the same time as other municipalities are stagnating.

Hempstead Town’s $50 million capital upgrade program is funding roadway repaving projects, marine bulkhead reconstruction, infrastructure improvements and the construction of a recreation building for children with special needs. All of these projects will provide needed, well paying construction jobs.

Similarly, Hempstead Town is the exception to the rule when it comes to major private commercial development. While developers are wary of unstable governments, they consider America’s largest township the type of rock-solid development partner that is necessary to undertake sustainable construction projects. Equity One is replacing the former Avis rent-a-car world headquarters with a 315,000-square-foot project. The development features a $100 million direct economic investment and upgrades to Old Country Road, as well as internal parking and traffic pathways. Other major development projects are underway in West Hempstead, East Garden City, Westbury, North Valley Stream and beyond.

Recently, Hempstead Town approved a building development zone for the property surrounding the Nassau Coliseum. The zone provides for 5.5 million square feet of development, replete with a mandated system of complete streets. The proposed

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Lighthouse Project featured only local internal roadways. Any development that occurs at the site must comply with the town’s complete streets provisions, a major and important traffic management measure.

Supervisor Kate Murray is a smart and capable leader who is providing leadership, holding – the – line on taxes and stimulating the economy. At the same time, Kate is providing for real, meaningful construction jobs.

**Nassau County Legislator – District 7**

*Incumbent Legislator Howard J. Kopel (R)*

“Promises Made, Promises Kept”

Howard J. Kopel is seeking re-election as our Nassau County Legislator on the Republican, Independence, Conservative, and Tax Revolt party lines. Currently serving his first term, Howard's election in November 2009, which he won by an overwhelming margin, was a signal for change.

“Promises Made, Promises Kept” is the overall theme of Howard’s re-election campaign. Two years ago, Howard was elected by promising to freeze our out-of-control property assessments; conduct reassessments once every few years instead of annually; reduce the multi-million dollar County budget deficit; upgrade, enhance, and improve the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant after years of neglect; and repeal his predecessor’s unfair 2.5% tax on all forms of home energy. Each of Howard's promises to our community has been kept.

Under Howard's leadership, the Nassau County Legislature approved a “no tax increase” budget for all Nassau County taxpayers while also adding belt-tightening and commonsense fiscal measures for County departments.

County infrastructure also continues to be improved, as Howard has overseen installation of upgraded traffic control devices, paving of county roadways, and long-needed dredging of several county waterways throughout Legislative District 7.

Professionally, Howard is a self-proclaimed “recovering attorney.” He currently owns and operates a national title insurance and settlement service based in Valley Stream. A graduate of Brooklyn College, Howard earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science before graduating from Brooklyn Law School. Today, Howard is admitted to practice law in New York State and the United States Southern District of New York.

Howard has been married for almost four decades to his loving wife, Esther, and has four children and eight grandchildren. He is a congregant at several local synagogues, and a member of various local fraternal, service, and community organizations.
Adam Moser (D), candidate for Nassau County 7th Legislative District

I am the Democratic candidate for the 7th Legislative District of Nassau County. I am a resident of Hewlett, where I have raised three children in public school with my wife of 23 years. I served a six-year term as a District Court Judge from 1999 to 2005, and have since gone into private practice at my firm in Rockville Centre.

One of my biggest concerns is revitalizing the Hub area around the existing Nassau Coliseum. This 77-acre expanse is languishing with little more than a parking lot and an aging sports arena to point to. With its location right next to Hofstra University and easy access via the Meadowbrook and Northern State Parkways, the site has enormous potential to become a powerhouse for jobs. Nassau County can provide tax incentives to attract start-ups and biotechnology companies, lured by Hofstra's new medical school, to the area. A new arena can be built, with commuter rail finally opening up the city to our Long Island market and reducing the traffic congestion. While I believe that much of the physical construction for these projects must be completed with private funds, I am highly supportive of public investment in the infrastructure surrounding these facilities, such as railways, highway expansion, and easement. The jobs created by this investment would be a tremendous boon to the struggling local construction industry, and would have a large multiplier effect in creating other jobs in the area. Furthermore, the permanent jobs created by this economic development will provide a boost to the residential contractors of Nassau County as more people move to homes in the area.

This has been done before. Long Island as we know it was built by massive public investment in infrastructure. The Northern State, Southern State, Meadowbrook, and Wantagh State Parkways as well as the Long Island Expressway were all built with public funds and were all the products of visionary leaders in government who saw the potential of Long Island and what it could mean to New York's future. Those investments in turn created the boom in suburban housing construction that was a cornerstone of Nassau County's prosperity. Political gridlock is no reason why we can’t get pavement rolling and asphalt crunching once again. We must act and invest in public infrastructure now.

Nassau County Legislator – District 14

Eva Pearson (D), candidate for Nassau County 14th Legislative District

I am a working mother and Nassau County native who will fight against the recent decline of the county by forcing government to operate correctly and efficiently, and increasing government accountability so taxpayers know where the County’s money is going.

As a legislator, I will promote economic development and investments in public infrastructure that help put people to work. Direct investment by the public and private sectors is the best way to decrease unemployment and increase economic activity. Cutting wasteful government spending and creating a more efficient county government structure not only helps close the budget deficit, but also frees up funds for direct investment into our County's infrastructure. Modifying restrictive and outdated zoning regulations and creating smart, targeted areas for growth are the first steps to restoring an environment that favors development and construction.
By pressuring the state and federal governments, and creating a smart county capital plan, we could be rebuilding our infrastructure. Right now we can begin construction on improvements to our roads and rails, invest in rebuilding our energy network, and improve our public facilities like government buildings, parks, and sewer systems. By finally implementing plans developed for the Nassau Hub and Belmont Park areas, and following the direction of the development market instead of fighting against it, we can put people to work building exciting new destinations that create long-term jobs.

I know how to fight for these necessities, and will not remain silent like the current legislative representation. I ask for your support so that I may help get Nassau County working for you again.

**Nassau County Legislator – District 18**

Robert Germino (R), candidate for Nassau County’s 18th Legislative District

Glen Cove resident Robert Germino is the Republican candidate for Nassau County Legislature District 18.

Germino is a former Captain in the United States Marine Corps.

Germino said his platform focuses on three major points: economic growth, efficient government and responsible spending.

Germino said his platform is to “be responsive to the needs of the local business owners who create jobs in our community; support initiatives that ‘right-size’ government such as the privatization of Long Island Bus; support budgets that do not exceed the current rate of inflation; ensure all county employees contribute to the cost of health care; and ensure that our local firefighters, police officers, and EMS have necessary, lifesaving equipment.”

Germino is running against Glen Cove City Councilwoman Delia DeRiggi-Whitton to succeed incumbent Diane Yatauro, D-Glen Cove.

Germino chided his opponent for raising tax rates 44 percent in just the three years she served on the Glen Cove city council. “That’s not a record that bodes well for the taxpayers of Nassau County,” Germino said.

“In Glen Cove, we learned that we cannot continue to borrow money for policies our city can’t afford. Moody’s Investors Service recently downgraded Glen Cove’s credit rating to ‘Baa3’ with a ‘negative outlook’ for our city’s financial future,” Germino said. “As a Nassau County Legislator, I will ensure that the County works within its means. It must never teeter on the brink of junk bond status as the City of Glen Cove.”

County Legislative District 18 includes Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Bayville, Locust Valley, Brookville, Glen Head, Greenvale, and Jericho.