

By Rick Talbot
Oneida

To The Editor:

Oops! Assemblyman (111th District) Bill Magee's mask fell off. Bill Magee's identity has always been that of the affable incumbent we send back to Albany time and time again, even as we wonder why nothing seems to change with state government.

But that identity shifted recently revealing a skillful incumbent, full of trickery honed by years of exposure to Albany politics. Specifically, Magee's effort failed when he attempted to use the courts to disenfranchise Independence Party voters from their candidate Rick Bargabos, who is running against him for Assembly, 111th District.

Magee attempted to use a stealth lawsuit to throw out Bargabos' Independence Party signatures but dropped the lawsuit when he was called out. Knowing further court action would reveal he failed to even notify Mr. Bargabos of the suit, Magee wisely dropped the suit.

Contrast that skirmish with Shawn Skeele being thrown off the Republican primary ballot because his petitions failed to state he was running as an Assembly candidate. Seems petitions are a major bone of contention even before we cast our ballots.

This fall's election should be fascinating! Will the voters truly seek change and unmask the incumbents by electing new candidates or will we once again repeat what we've done so many times in the past? What do you think?

Comments

The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of oneidadispatch.com.

Shawn Skeele wrote on Aug 18, 2010 8:36 AM:

" BOARD OF ELECTIONS VALIDATES SKEELE'S REPUBLICAN PETITIONS, BUT....

I commonly refer to Albany in need of more "Seeds of Common Sense". Friday, 8/6/10, in the Supreme Court of NYS was no exception. Let me summarize the lawsuit filed against the NYS Board of Elections and I by my opponent, Rick Bargabos.

He was challenging the description of the office on my petitions that I am running for and it causing confusion to the 806 petition signers, you the voter and the NYS Board of Elections. Obviously, the NYS Board of Elections, who validated my petitions, was not confused. If I was permitted time to get affidavits from the minimum number of signatures required, 500, stating my petition signers were not confused, I am confident I could have but was not even permitted the opportunity by the judge. With only 3 days notice of the court date, I had only 3 hours for one evening available to obtain 40 affidavits. Even those were dismissed as irrelevant. Other

recent case law was cited on the thinking that there was a “probability of confusion” as to the office the candidate was running for with other petitions being passed in the same district for other offices, and yet the court would not allow me to eliminate that “probability of confusion” with affidavits from my petition signers. This offer to obtain the affidavits stipulates agreeing that my description of the office I was running for was inadequate to begin with!

On my petition under the public office I am seeking, I wrote “NYS 111th Assembly District” stating the office, being the Assembly, and the district, being the 111th. Because I didn’t write, “Member of the NYS 111th Assembly District”, this somehow causes confusion as to the office I am running for and reason enough for my petitions to be invalidated by the Supreme Court of NYS though validated by the NYS Board of Elections. Pamphlets or my campaign card were handed out to every person who signed my petition with me stating who I was running against. For those reading this or keeping up with the campaign, did you honestly have any doubt as to the office I am seeking?

Just as courts have struck down propositions defying the people’s will who voted in favor of, so has our Supreme Court of NYS and Rick Bargabos defied the will of the people in the NYS 111th District who chose me to be on the Republican Ballot to primary him and give you another choice other than another career politician.

If I may paraphrase President Reagan, this has now become the issue of this election; whether we believe in our capacity for self government and to choose our candidates or whether we abandon the common sense American Revolution and confess that a little intellectual elite in a far distant capital can plan our lives better than we plan them ourselves and choose our candidates better than we can choose them ourselves also. Do not believe that society, the economy, business or the political process has become too complex to be managed by you and that government by an elite group is superior to government for, by and of the people. Without freedom of choice permitted, there is no freedom!

Let your hearts not be troubled though. Having been endorsed by the Conservative Party, I will be on the ballot for the Conservative Party line provided Conservative voters get out for the primary vote, 9/14, to insure I can be on the ballot for the general election, 11/2. With your vote on 9/14 and 11/2, you can invalidate Rick Bargabos and the Supreme Court of NYS in dictating to you who can be on the Republican Ballot and who cannot. Career politicians simply do not fear you at the polls. Until they do, nonsense like this will continue. Until they do, nothing will change. If fact, it will get worse.

I have given you some insight why not to vote for my opponent. Here are some reasons why you should vote for me: I believe in...

- 1)A State that is just for all, not free or favored for some
- 2)Free market solutions, not a socialist fusion
- 3)Cut spending, taxes and debt.....not deals
- 4)Private sector jobs over public sector jobs
- 5)Private sector profit over political profit for the career politician
- 6)Districts that make logical sense, not political sense
- 7)Term limits

8)Stiff consequences for legislators if unable to pass an on time balanced budget with no increases. Go to my website, www.skeeleforassembly.com to see my 2011 Balanced Budget Pledge specifying those consequences I will hold myself to even if others will not. It will make it easy for you to spot the true statesman vs. the career politician or one who is in it for the pay and benefits.

Appreciative of your vote 9/14 and 11/2,
Shawn Skeele
"Member of the" NYS 111th Assembly District Candidate
Endorsed by the Conservative Party "