

County races no challenge for many candidates

There are no challengers for county Executive Anthony Picente, Comptroller Joseph Timpano and District Attorney Scott McNamara.

And 12 of the 23 OneidaCounty legislators won't face a race this fall, either.



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Elizabeth Cooper Follow

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The petitions are in.

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And 12 of the 23 OneidaCounty legislators won't face a race this fall, either.

The only way a new challenger for those offices could emerge at this late date is if someone opts to run on an independent line without backing from any party.

Uncontested elections for major offices in the region are becoming more common.

"Generally across the state, this is common," said political watcher Gerald Benjamin of SUNY New Paltz. "That's often because people are entrenched, hard to oppose and races are costly. Sometimes it is just because there is a certain consensus that the person is performing well."

Despite the large number of incumbents on the slate, there will, however, be 11 races for seats on the Board of Legislators:

- Seven of the incumbents being challenged are Democrats and four are Republicans.
- Three Democrats — Rose Anne Convertino, William Hendricks and Minority Leader Frank Tallarino — are facing opponents from within their own party and will face a primary.
- Tallarino is challenged by two others, Democrat Barbara Calandra and Republican former Legislator Ron Townsend.
- Only one Republican, Majority Leader George Joseph, will face a primary from Peggy Bartels.

The current Board of Legislators has 13 Republicans and 10 Democrats, giving the Republicans the power to choose the board chairman.

Oneida County Democratic Party Chairman Mitch Ford said this could be the year the balance shifts.

"I feel we have some outstanding talent in the Democratic Party," Ford said. "We have a great list of candidates with lots of potential to win the majority and lead OneidaCounty in the coming years."

CountyRepublican Party Chairman Pete Sobel said Republicans are doing a good job in the majority and in the major elected offices they hold, and that's why they have fewer challengers.

"I think people see the good things that are happening in our county with Tony (Picente) at the helm," he said.

"Obviously, we have a lot of interest on the Republican side of people wanting to be on the Legislature," he said. "We are a strong group and we are doing good things."



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Whitesboro Village Park

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