

Campaign '97 Coverage

MS. CONTI CHALLENGED BY MR. LIJOI IN SURROGATE RACE

Republicans Seek to Hold Onto Seats on Freeholder Bd.; Democrats Look for 9-0 Majority for First Time Since '90

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
This year's Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders election hinges on whether three Republican incumbents will hold onto seats on the otherwise Democratically-controlled board.

is board Chairwoman. The Democrats last had a 9-0 advantage in 1990.
Republicans had a majority on the board from 1992 through 1996. Democrats regained control of the Freeholder board in last year's contest by picking up two seats and now have a 6-3 majority.

publican seats, thus creating a field of nine candidates.
The three incumbent Republican candidates, Edwin H. Force, Frank H. Lehr and Henry W. Kurz, have defended their roles as "watch dogs" on the board over what Freeholder Force has called "out of control spending" by Democrats.

lars were collected and held for jobs never filled under Republican Freeholders.
Others charge that former County Manager Ann M. Baran was "bought out" by Democratic Freeholders in favor of Democratic pick Michael LaPolla for the County Manager spot.

county, only to have Democrats spend \$20 million of it in this year's budget.
Despite a \$1.53 reduction per household in county taxes this year, the county budget rose \$7 million to a total of \$278 million, according to Freeholder Force.

decision later nixed state control over where communities may dispose of garbage — citing violations of Federal commerce laws — it struck a financial blow to the county incinerator.
The Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) is in negotiations with the builder of the facility, Ogden Martin Systems, on a possible 25-year lease agreement.



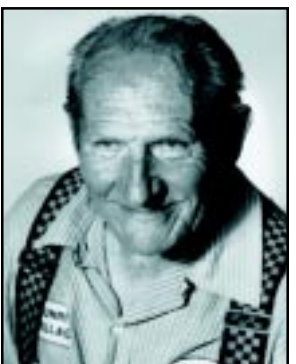
Edwin H. Force\*
Republican for Freeholder



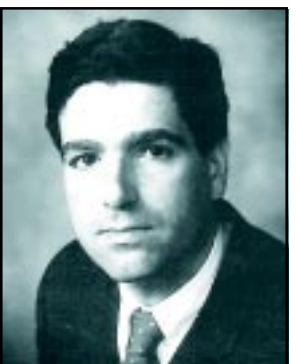
Henry W. Kurz\*
Republican for Freeholder



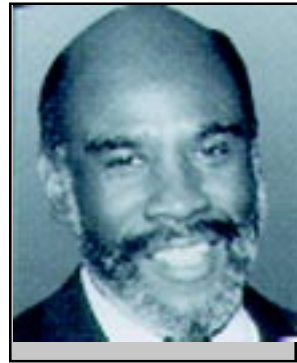
Frank H. Lehr\*
Republican for Freeholder



David Dearborn, Jr.
Independent for Freeholder



Peter Lijoi
Republican for Surrogate



Chester Holmes
Democrat for Freeholder



Alexander Mirabella
Democrat for Freeholder



Deborah Peer-Scanlon
Democrat for Freeholder



Shawn P. Gianella
Independent for Freeholder



Ann Conti\*
Democrat for Surrogate
\*Incumbent

When Democrats assailed Republican Freeholders for voting against the current budget, Mr. Force said, "They could have done better."
Democratic challengers also claim that the past Republican controlled Freeholder board led the county into costly construction of the Union County incinerator in Rahway.

He called Democrats on the board "forward thinking" in trying to improve the county's "quality of life" while noting the loss of the county's former manufacturing base.
Republican Freeholder Lehr has hailed economic progress for the county as a Republican achievement with the dredging of Port Newark

When a New Jersey Supreme Court

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Voters Asked to Decide Fate of Three Public Questions on Ballot

MARIA R. CICCARELLA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Election time is right around the corner. Yet, as voters devote much of their attention to county and gubernatorial races and debates, it is also important to become aware of the public questions which will appear on ballots come November 4.

be used to provide low interest loans to municipalities to assist with building demolition and disposal projects.
The Department of Community Affairs will establish procedures for review and approval of use of the bond money. Demolition projects that involve the disposal of an unsafe building, which poses an imminent and extreme hazard to the health and safety of the surrounding community, and includes plans for the erection of a new building, will have priority in receiving this bond.

This year, in addition to choosing from among the candidates for elected office on the local, county and state levels, voters will be asked to answer "yes" or "no" to three questions.
The first question is a \$20 million building demolition bond issue. The second and third are amendments to two previously approved bond issues. They are the Storm Water Management and Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Bond Act of 1989 and the Water Supply Bond Act of 1981.

According to the Union County League of Women Voters, a "yes" vote will help to ease the strain on the financial resources of older municipalities, where many of these deteriorating buildings exist. These structures may be unsafe for occupancy and may be potential sites for crime.
A "no" vote would keep New Jersey from plunging further into debt, which would be caused by granting such bonds, according to the League.

Questions will appear on the ballot first in the form of a formal question, followed by and clarified in an interpretive statement.
Public Question No. 1, titled "Urban and Rural Centers Unsafe Building Demolition Bond Act," addresses unsightly buildings and structures which may exist in urban and rural centers, and which may be hazardous to the community.

On the Public Question No. 3, voters are being asked to decide if an amendment and supplement to the Water Supply Bond Act of 1981 should be granted.
Voters approved a \$50 million bond for storm water management and combined sewer overflow abatement

This first question asks voters to authorize the state to issue bonds in the amount \$20 million for the purpose of financing the demolition and disposal of unsafe buildings.
If approved, the \$20 million will

Freeholder board eliminated the Public Safety Director and Deputy County Manager positions — and other department heads — for a savings in the county budget.
"Now, they hire five people to replace one," Mr. Force said of Democratic Freeholders.
Democratic challenger Alexander Mirabella, a former Roselle Park Councilman, claims county tax dol-

Peer-Scanlon claims that Mrs. Baran was not "forced out" but took another job. Mrs. Peer-Scanlon, who chairs the Finance Committee of Union's Board of Education with a \$50 million budget, said, "I certainly don't support buy-outs."
Republican incumbent Mr. Lehr, a former Summit Mayor, has said Republican Freeholders saved \$35 million over the last three years for the

COUNCILMAN NEIL SULLIVAN

10 Reasons Why You Should Re-Elect Neil Sullivan

Leadership on Issues Which Make a Difference in Our Lives

- 10. Effective Leadership - Planning for The Future
9. Effective Leadership - Revitalizing Our Downtown
8. Protecting our Quality of Life - Preserving our Trees
7. Effective Leadership - The Safety of Our Children
6. Effective Leadership - Honest & Prudent Budgets
5. Protecting our Quality of Life - Limiting Cell Towers
4. Dedicated & Responsive - Improving our Public Services
Leaves - Neil Sullivan helped institute a new leaf pick-up program in 1996 which resulted in the best leaf collection in memory and saved taxpayers over \$50,000.
Roads - The town has a comprehensive pavement management system which has evaluated every mile of Westfield's roads, and prioritized reconstruction and resurfacing. We have already invested over \$2 million in our roads in recent years, with over 70% spent on "South side" projects.
Sewers - Neil Sullivan has ensured that we keep our sewers working properly. Using cameras and other devices, all of our sewer lines are being inspected, and recommendations for repair will be made in the next capital budget. We have the second lowest sewer costs in the state thanks to effective and efficient management. Our public services are an important function of our town government and we must do them well.
3. Dedicated & Responsive - Your Government Must Treat You Like a Valued Customer
Town government should treat every citizen like its most valued customer - because you are. We must measure our success in two ways: (1) by how well we listen and respond to the needs and desires of our community, and (2) by how well we satisfy the expectations of our citizens not only in providing value for the taxes you pay, but in how well we keep those taxes down.
2. Protecting our Quality of Life Preserving Established Neighborhoods
Neil Sullivan has fought to protect Third Ward neighborhoods, and will continue to work to protect the quality of life which makes our community a special place to live. Also, the town will soon be required to update its "Mount Laurel" housing plan. Through his experience, and proven record in zoning and planning, there is no one better suited to protect the interests of our Third Ward neighborhoods than Neil Sullivan.
1. Effective Leadership Preparing for the Next Century
As a town, we face many challenges in the years ahead. It is often too tempting to office-seekers to make promises based only on the next election, to tell people whatever it takes to get elected - even if it's not true. I don't do that. I tell you what I have done - and specifically what I will do if you re-elect me. I promise that I will serve in the next two years the same way I have served as your councilman - honestly, with respect, with caring, and with vision.



For the full list of 10 Reasons Why You Should Re-Elect Neil Sullivan Your Councilman
3rd Ward Republican
Call me at home 232-0168 Or Visit www.goleader.com/nsullivan
ELECT THE BEST

Cartoon titled 'Am Conti For Surrogate' featuring Ann Conti and various community members expressing support and concerns.



JANIS FRIED WEINSTEIN

Republican For 4th Ward Town Council

- Lifelong Resident of the 4th Ward
• Former Member, Westfield Town Council
• Commissioner, Westfield Recreation Board
• Member, Executive Committee, Westfield Historical Society
• Past Co-Chair, United Fund of Westfield Business Committee
• Past President of McKinley School PTO
• Married with 2 Children Attending Westfield Schools

"Elected officials must be responsive to the needs and concerns of the community. We must recognize the importance of fiscal responsibility. We must provide our residents with the highest level of town services and public safety. As your representative, I will work hard to address these issues by being an open-minded and objective voice on the Council."

YOUR Vote Counts! Please Vote on November 4th

Paid for by Friends of Janis Weinstein, Michael Fox, Treasurer 105 Elm Street, Westfield, NJ 07090