

Campaign '97 Coverage

Democrats Seek to Unseat Incumbent Republicans in District 22 Legislative Race; Mrs. Whitman, Mr. McGreevey Face Off in Race for Governor

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

As the Republicans seek to retain control of the Governor's mansion and both houses of the State Legislature, locally, nine candidates are facing off in the races within the heavily Republican 22nd Legislative District. All of the nine Republican, Democratic and Conservative Senate and Assembly candidates to represent District No. 22 reside within the neighboring communities of Scotch Plains, Cranford, Westfield,

and Mountainside. District No. 22 encompasses 17 towns across Union, Somerset, Middlesex and Morris Counties, with most municipalities located in Union County.

The incumbent Republican team of Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco, Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger and Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine presents a formidable challenge to Democratic Senate hopeful Margaret Ault and Democratic Assembly candidates Andrew Baron and

Norman Albert. Senator DiFrancesco is seeking a sixth term, having first been elected to the Senate in 1979. A resident of Scotch Plains, the Senator has been selected as Senate President by his colleagues since 1992.

"I'm running again because I can still help the district and the state on a lot of issues that are coming up," said Senator DiFrancesco, who serves as Township Attorney in Scotch Plains.

are different from men's," Mrs. Ault said. "I want to be there for the ordinary American family."

Among her priorities are auto insurance rates and property taxes. "I don't like the fact that there is so much coming back onto the community to raise property taxes," said Mrs. Ault, a member of the Union County Democratic Committee.

Frank J. Festa, Jr. of Scotch Plains, a businessman, Conservative County Party Chairman, and former member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, represents the Conservatives on the ballot for state Senator.

Assemblyman Bagger, a former Westfield Mayor and Councilman,

has represented the 22nd District since January of 1992. Presently serving a second term as Majority Conference Leader, he is Vice Chairman of the Policy and Regulatory Oversight Committee, and a member of the Assembly Insurance Committee and Joint Committee on Public Schools.

"I've been recognized by the Garden State Coalition of Schools for my efforts to make sure that, as we try to improve education statewide, we don't adopt any policies that will penalize districts already successfully educating children in the name of trying to provide equity," said Assemblyman Bagger, who is employed as a corporate manager.

With regard to auto insurance, Mr. Bagger said he "has tried to be a voice of reason in what is often an irresponsible debate."

He added that, "If people want (auto insurance) rate increases stopped, we have to seriously discuss where costs can be taken out of the system."

The assemblyman has introduced legislation which calls for a medical professional rather than a legal arbitrator to review disputed accident claims.

He has also pledged to make the deregulation of the energy industry in New Jersey during the first six months of 1998 "a smooth transition, one that is environmentally appropriate and consumer friendly."

By his own admission, Mr. Baron has been the most "aggressive" of the Democratic challengers in his campaign for an Assembly seat. An attorney who makes his home in Scotch Plains, Mr. Baron is an adjunct faculty member at Union County College, and Assistant Union County Councilor.



Christine Todd Whitman*
Republican for Governor



Donald T. DiFrancesco*
Republican for Senate



Richard H. Bagger*
Republican for Assembly



Alan M. Augustine*
Republican for Assembly



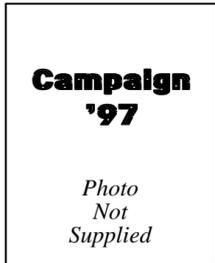
James E. McGreevey
Democrat for Governor



Margaret Ault
Democrat for Assembly



Andrew Baron
Democrat for Assembly



Norman Albert
Democrat for Assembly

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Photo Not Supplied

*Incumbent

Voters to Decide Fate Of Questions Tuesday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A-5

in 1989, and a \$350 million bond for water supply projects in 1981.

The current amendments will allow for two conditions: transfer of some money from the bond acts to the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (Trust), and the use of bond money for direct costs incurred by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in administering projects receiving loans from the bond act.

Public Question No. 2 allows an allocation of no more than \$5 million of the formerly approved \$50 million to the Trust.

The Trust is a state authority established in August of this year to issue bonds, provide loans and help fund local government wastewater/storm water projects and water supply projects. The money is available because the revolving fund was replenished as projects were completed and the loans repaid.

The third question allows the Trust to temporarily use up to \$50 million of payments on loans returned to the Water Supply Fund to support its projects. This question would also allow interest earned on invested money to be used to cover administrative costs.

Voting "yes" would allow additional monetary resources to the DEP to facilitate the process and evaluation of projects seeking loans.

A "no" vote contends that these expenses are the ongoing responsibility of the DEP and should be funded through the annual budget and not with borrowed money.

Publicly, the League of Women Voters has opposed Public Questions No. 2 and No. 3 because of the second condition. The organization believes that services provided by the DEP should be funded through the annual appropri-

ation process and not with bond money. Until now, bond money has not been used for executive department expenses.

The League has stated, "We do not believe that it was the intent of citizens who approved the bonds to provide money for grants and loans to local government units for clean water projects. This provision is also a first and a precedent the League does not believe the citizens of New Jersey should approve."

Laurence M. Downes, Chairman of the Clean Water Coalition, based in Edison, disagreed with the League's position on questions No. 2 and 3.

"A 'yes' is imperative on both public questions," he stated.

Mr. Downes stressed that the authorization of these amendments will have an overwhelming impact on New Jersey's ability to increase and protect its supplies of clean water.

Because both questions are amendments and not new bonds, Mr. Downes added that the state will not be forced into further debt.

Also, the additional funds allocated to the state if questions No. 2 and No. 3 are passed, will be used for low-interest loans to finance water supply, storm water and combined sewer overflow projects and secure some \$28 million in matching federal funds that otherwise will be lost, Mr. Downes explained.

Philip Beachem, President of the New Jersey Alliance for Action, expressed support for Mr. Downes' stance, and said the questions already have received bi-partisan support.

"It's one issue everyone has come together on," he remarked.

By approving the questions, Mr. Beachem said, the state can be sure to have the funds needed for these important environmental issues that currently are receiving only sporadic funds.

Referring to his colleagues, Assemblymen Bagger and Augustine, he said, "As a team, we have a proven record of success and a sense of responsibility to the 22nd district that is second to none."

"It helps (voters) to have the Senate President, Majority Leader and a member of the Appropriations Committee in their district, to get things done and cut through the red tape on projects that are coming up, and to fight for state aid," he said.

Among the accomplishments cited by Senator DiFrancesco were the enactment of the 1996 Property Tax Deduction Act, enabling taxpayers to deduct property taxes on their state income tax.

He also pushed for the State Mandate/State Constitution Amendment which eliminates the practice of unfunded state mandates on local municipalities, counties and school boards, and saved more than 180,000 jobs at regional ports through the 1996 Dredging and Economic Development Bond Act.

His challenger, Mrs. Ault, is a retired teacher and a resident of Cranford. In her bid for a four-year Senate seat, Mrs. Ault expressed concern "with getting more Democrats, particularly women, in the Assembly."

"Women's approach to questions

GOP Incumbents Seek To Hold Freeholder Seats

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A-5

and Elizabeth, the county's \$21 million Pyramid Industrial Center in Elizabeth and \$4 million spent to rehabilitate freight rail lines in the county.

David Dearborn Jr., a Conservative of Roselle Park, describes himself as a handyman. He says he was asked to run by Scotch Plains resident and candidate for state Assembly Frank J. Festa, Jr., owner of a Fanwood waste disposal business. Mr. Festa ran as an independent candidate for Freeholder last year.

Another Conservative Party second time candidate from Union is Shawn P. Gianella. He is a self-employed business owner in restaurant supplies. He vowed to reduce the size of county government if elected.

Surrogate Race

The County Surrogate race pits 15-year incumbent Ann Conti, a Democrat from Mountainside, against Republican challenger Peter Lijoi from Summit. The five-year term as Surrogate includes the duties of probating wills and supervising guardianships, minors' trusts and uncontested wills.

Ms. Conti said, "It's a very good system that we have. It really works. I would do anything I can to keep it from changing."

Challenger Mr. Lijoi has said he wants the state to take on the burden of certain county Surrogate services while privatizing others.

"We should eliminate duplicate services," he said.

"Each taxpayer should pay the same amount," Mr. Lijoi added.

What has happened, for example, Mr. Lijoi said, is that older counties with urban areas carry more of the state's financial burden for jails.

Ms. Conti responded that, "The state system can be very costly. It would be a big mistake to move into that."

Ms. Conti said the Surrogate's office pulls in \$320,000 annually in revenue.

"Locally, we can provide good service at low cost," she added, noting that she has added evening hours to the service.

Ms. Conti is a Seton Hall Law School, Newark, graduate with a former legal practice in estate, trust

and family law.

Mr. Lijoi graduated from Pace University School of Law in New York and through his private practice, currently represents the largest home builder in the state.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B-7

Greg McDermott

Candidate for Westfield Town Council, Ward 1

"As your elected representative, I will safeguard your tax dollars so they are spent on the services of most value to you...with the best results achieved for the dollars spent. I will seek new ways to enhance and improve our community that draw on our town's many existing resources, including its people."

Better Management of Downtown Parking

A plan to create new signage, evaluate parking space allocation and renew town parking ordinances.

Directory of Town Services

A publication that provides the information residents need to know about town services, boards, commissions and programs.

Town Beautification

A program to encourage local volunteers to work as partners with the town in improving their neighborhoods.

Greg McDermott

- Union County Improvement Authority, current vice-chair, former treasurer
- Westfield Revenue Expenditure Commission
- Westfield Soccer Association, Coach
- Lifelong resident with four children attending Westfield schools

Gregory S. McDermott for Westfield Town Council

Paid for by McDermott for Council
R. Mattes, Treasurer • 425 Birch Place, Westfield, NJ 07090

WE SUPPORT THE RE-ELECTION OF SURROGATE ANN CONTI

As attorneys in Union County, we support the re-election of Surrogate Ann Conti. Under her leadership, the office of Surrogate has been administered in a professional and efficient manner. Ann Conti, an attorney, has made competency and compassion the watchwords of her office. By expanding the hours and accessibility of her office, she has assisted the legal community in providing services to the residents of Union County.

We urge you to support the re-election of Ann Conti as Union County Surrogate.

Richard W. Bennett	Gerald T. Glennon	Frederic H. Pearson
Michael B. Blacker	Lawrence Goldman	Helene Portnoy
Grant W. Buttermore	Douglas W. Hansen	Robert F. Renaud
Gary A. Bundy	William R. Holzapfel	Theodore J. Romankow
Frank Capece	Christopher M. Howard	Gary E. Roth
Lewis Burton Coe	Thomas Jarolim	Anthony E. Russo
Carol Cohen	Kenneth S. Javerbaum	Julio Sanchez
Jeffrey M. Cohen	Gregory Juba	Luis R. Sanchez
Neil M. Cohen	Frederic S. Kessler	Manuel Sanchez
Ronald A. Cohen	Victor E. King	Joseph Santalguido
David V. Conti, Jr.	Victor R. King	Nicholas Scaturi
Daniel G. Covine	David J. Kinnear	Alan Schnirman
Kevin J. Daly	Edward J. Kologi	Terry M. Slipe
Jacqueline Drakeford	Richard H. Kress	Irving F. Sturm
Kathleen Estabrooks	Harold Krevsky	Robert F. Varady
Brian W. Fahey	James S. LaCorte	Charles N. Witnetsky
Stanley A. Fink	Abraham Londa	Leonard Wolkstein
Joseph J. Galfy, Jr.	Raymond S. Londa	Joel S. Ziegler
Israel Gazek	Felice Londa	John Goldsack

Paid for by Campaign to Re-elect Ann Conti, Surrogate, Stephen LaMont, Treas., 968 State Street Ave., Union, NJ 07083

A PLATFORM FOR PROGRESS with you in mind

- ☆ Improved services with lower property tax burden
- ☆ Long-term planning for roadway repair, repaving, curbing and sidewalk construction
- ☆ Improve pedestrian safety, athletic fields and clean up littered streets
- ☆ Strong support for a revitalized downtown business district

Qualified ...

- B.S. Degree in Business Administration, Seton Hall University
- Assistant Vice-President, Acordia Northeast (Corporate insurance and risk management)

Experienced ...

- Executive Council, Seton Hall University
- Westfield Solid Waste Advisory Commission
- American Cancer Society Fund-Raising Committee

Understanding...

- 5 year Westfield resident, along with his wife Alison and his 16 month old daughter Elizabeth
- 37 Years of life experience.

Democrat for 1st Ward Council

Marc McCabe

Paid for by Election Fund of Marc McCabe, Dennis McLaughlin, Treasurer