

A Note from the Chairman

Recruiting good candidates for public office is tough. We have outstanding people in town positions, and our Democratic county legislator Chad Davis works tirelessly on our behalf. But in other legislative districts, the \$8,300 salary (no benefits) may not draw competent people to consider a job that averages 10 hours of work a week and requires campaigning every two years.

Beyond the county level the problem becomes much more serious.

State legislative districts are gerrymandered to favor incumbents, so a challenger starts way behind in party registrations, requiring aggressive TV advertising to catch up. Successful state legislative campaigns can cost \$500,000. Congressional campaigns have reached the \$2 million range.



The capable people we'd like to have representing us typically have careers already. To run for office, you have to put your life on hold for six months, raise astronomical sums of money, and still risk losing in November. Even if you win, you have to start right in fundraising and campaigning for the next election.

As a result, we risk turning politics into a hobby for the wealthy or a career for opportunists willing to represent wealthy interests. Both parties already find it difficult to recruit candidates to run against incumbents.

This is why I believe **public campaign financing** and **redistricting reform** are the two most important issues facing us, the keys to taking back our democracy. Every other issue we care about as Democrats will be better served by officials who represent us rather than their private sponsors.

Please join us, to engage with local politics, have fun, and maybe fill one of the vacancies on the town committee! Our meetings are usually the third Wednesday of the month, 7pm, upstairs at the Kirkland Town Library.

Email me (wthickstun@gmail.com) if you'd like to get meeting notices or ask about what's involved in being a committee member.

Meet our Town Candidates

Bob Meelan is running for re-election as Town Supervisor. He has headed the Kirkland town government for 6 years after having served as a Town Councilman for 8 years, and a Planning Board member for 4 years. Under Bob's leadership the town has maintained financial stability while moving ahead with necessary infrastructure needs: the Clark Mills and Clinton sewer systems, and bridges throughout the town. And, he's done this while employing an open, non-partisan approach. As he says, "my job is to take care of the 'house' [Kirkland]!"



Jon Scott is seeking re-election as Superintendent of Highways. In his two terms Jon has used innovative thinking and technology to help achieve higher efficiency and cost savings. Under his direction the Highway Department continues to deliver a high level of service, best demonstrated by the sustained efforts of department members in response to the widespread flooding throughout Kirkland this summer.

Sarah McCullough is seeking re-election as Receiver of Taxes. Sarah has brought a keen interest to her job, and we are fortunate to have such a capable young person willing to engage in public service. Sarah says that she has found it rewarding being able to assist people with a variety of property tax issues, and she looks forward to another term when she can meet more community members and make improvements to best serve the town.



Garry Colarusso brings a valuable depth of experience to his run for a seat on the Town Board. He regularly attends town and county meetings, and as the appointed chair of the town hydrofracking study group he has been instrumental in bringing Kirkland close to the adoption of zoning regulations to ban hydrofracking activities. He believes in local government that can directly address the needs of its residents, and he looks forward to the opportunities and challenges that face our town.



Jay Williams is running for another term as Town Justice. He says that "Town Court may be the only place people come in contact with our State's judicial system." He is "proud that we have made our court efficient and fair for anyone who appears, whether they are a defendant, victim, lawyer or litigant."

Meet our County Legislature Candidates

Chad Davis is running for re-election as County Legislator for District 14. In this newly reconfigured district Chad will represent parts of Kirkland and New Hartford. As County Legislator Chad has represented Kirkland with energy, hard work, and a grasp of difficult issues, and he has become a vocal leader in the Legislature's Democratic caucus. When asked to highlight an issue of concern on which he had an impact, Chad said: "I am very proud of the legislation that was passed in April, by a vote of 21 to 5, to ban shale gas extraction on County Lands, after the bill failed to get out of committee last year. I believe that the tide turned gradually as legislators learned more about the many negative consequences associated with the high volume shale gas extraction process. It was a good victory for all of us who believe in standing up to protect our precious environment."



Ed Stephenson is running for the County Legislature, District 2, which now includes part of Kirkland. Ed is a longtime Waterville resident who served as a County Legislator from 2000 through 2009 before his defeat in a very Republican district. He would like the opportunity to return to the Legislature with his considerable experience to serve the residents of Kirkland, Marshall, and Sangerfield. His background includes his years as a county legislator, Town of Marshall Supervisor, over 20 years as an educator, and manager of family-owned McLaughlin's and other area clothing stores.



Visit our website:

<http://kirklanddemocrats.org>

We are also on Facebook:

The Town of Kirkland Democratic Committee

A Year of Engagement 2012 - 2013

Elections

- A majority of our town, which has more registered Republicans than Democrats, voted to re-elect Barack Obama.
- The committee distributed election literature to 2500 households and made "Get Out The Vote" phone calls to support elections in 2012.
- We want every citizen to vote: during the Clinton Farmer's Market each summer, committee members and Democratic volunteers staff a table to register voters and provide absentee ballots and voting information.

Outreach

- In April, a packed house of engaged citizens viewed the anti-corruption documentary *PRICELESS\$* followed by a panel discussion about Fair Election Financing.
- We remain at the forefront of the local anti-hydrofracking movement: we passed resolutions--available on our website--asking both New York State and Kirkland to ban hydrofracking.
- As chair of the town committee charged with evaluating hydrofracking, candidate Garry Colarusso has helped to guide the town toward passing zoning changes to ban all fracking activities.
- Several committee members are participating in Kirkland in Transition, a new group discussing ways Kirkland can transition to a more resilient, sustainable community. If interested, contact Kathy Collett (859-0701).
- We partnered with the enthusiastic and engaged Hamilton College Democrats for many of our events.



Making a Visible Difference

- Every spring and fall, Democratic volunteers join us to clean up our adopted two-mile stretch of Route 12B.
- Every summer, the committee, joined by local Democratic candidates and led by Alice Root's crowd-pleasing Democratic Donkey Millie, marches in the Clinton Fourth of July parade.
- On September 7th, we will host the Tenth Annual Gathering on the Green, a fun and informal opportunity for you to hear from and engage with your local candidates.

Get Engaged, join us!

7 SEP	10th Annual Gathering on the Green 1-3 pm
25 OCT - 3 NOV	Get Out the Vote Town-Wide Candidate Literature Drop
5 NOV	General Election, 6 am – 9 pm Volunteers call Democratic voters
TBA	Highway clean-up

Redistricting Strikes Kirkland!

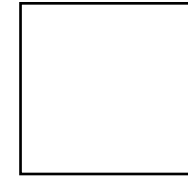
Kirkland is now part of State Senate District 53 represented by **Senator David Valesky**, a member of the Independent Democratic Caucus, who has visited Kirkland and participated in Democratic events during the past year.

Assembly District 117 is now represented by Republican **Ken Blankenbush** from Jefferson County.

Kirkland now falls into three newly reconfigured County Legislative districts:

Legislative District	Name	Voting District
2	Candidate Ed Stephenson	3 and 8
10	No Democratic Candidate	1 and 10
14	Incumbent Chad Davis	2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9

IN AUGUST WATCH FOR your yellow voter information postcard from the Board of Elections: check your voting district and location!



The Kirkland Democrat
Volume 4, Issue 1
August 2013

The Kirkland Democrats
P.O. Box 74
Clinton, NY 13323

Get Engaged!

Make a Difference!

Vote November 5th!