

## Reed the best choice

**THE ISSUE** | The 29th Congressional District.  
**OUR OPINION** | Republican Tom Reed's business experience and conservative agenda earns him *The Leader's* endorsement.

If one thing is certain this election season, it's that the economy is weighing most heavily on the minds of voters. And candidates for all offices – local, state and federal – have pledged to help by spending and taxing less and nurturing business growth.

So the question to voters on Tuesday is: Who will be able to do what they say?

In the 29th Congressional race, we feel Republican Tom Reed is the best candidate to help put the economy – locally and nationally – back on track.

We are relying on Reed's business background and his consistent message of fiscal conservatism in supporting the former Corning mayor over Democrat Matt Zeller.

Reed, 38, has a successful law practice and deals with the challenges facing a small business on a daily basis. Some of those challenges are the direct result of Washington policies – taxes, health care costs, mandates and red tape – that Reed has said he will focus on if elected.

Throughout his 16-month campaign, Reed has preached fiscal conservatism, his concerns about overspending and mounting debt. Drawing on his experience as a small businessman and a family man, Reed has emphasized the need for Washington to live within its means and begin budgeted from the expense side of the ledger.

Reed has also been critical of the health care reform plan saying it does not address the chief problem: escalating costs. He's also railed against the bailout plans, saying no business is too big to fail. Those views accurately reflect those of a majority of residents in the district.

There is some warranted skepticism about Reed.

He has only slightly more experience in public office than Zeller, who has none. Reed served one term as a ceremonial mayor and twice voted to raise taxes, although they were used to cover mandated costs.

Reed further exposed himself to criticism by requesting \$5 million in stimulus money in early 2009 for the city and then calling the stimulus program "a slush fund" months later as a congressional candidate.

He was also knocked for accepting a state grant in May to rehabilitate newly purchased property in Bath and casting the lone dissenting vote in a city plan to purchase new buses with stimulus money.

Reed explained he soured on the stimulus program after its initial scope drifted from from the "shovel-ready" projects it was intended to bolster. Many have since agreed with that view and point to the rising debt as proof.

As for Zeller, 28, his decision to join the Army Reserves after college and shortly after 9/11 demonstrates his loyalty to country. By all accounts, his tour as a captain in Afghanistan and as CIA intelligence officer was impressive and reflected his capabilities and bravery.

However, many of his adult experiences are tied to the military, not to government or the private sector.

Zeller entered the race six months ago after U.S. Rep. Eric Massa resigned amid allegations of sexual misconduct. Since then, he's been a quick study and performed very well in the debates.

But Reed has a more diverse track record and is a better known commodity. The conservative economic agenda Reed subscribes to sounds like a better answer right now.

### COMMENTARY

#### If I were a betting man ...

It's time for the Happy Handicapper to weigh in on Tuesday's elections with a list of the best bets and the unofficial point spread. These picks are simply that and should not be mistaken for endorsements. Some of the tallies total less than 100 percent because of third party candidates.

■ **Governor** | Carl Paladino did more ruin to his campaign than Andrew Cuomo ever did. Between his e-mails, insults and whacked out ideas, Paladino's angered just about every group imaginable. On the other hand, Cuomo ran a sound campaign, stayed above the craziness and avoided the pitfalls.



Joe Dunning

This should be a runaway as many Republicans have already jumped ship.

**Cuomo, 63 percent; Paladino, 35 percent. (Best bet)**

■ **29th Congress** | Republican Tom Reed should benefit from a 16-month campaign whereas Democrat Matt Zeller got in the race much later after U.S. Rep. Eric Massa resigned in March. That extra time and more campaign money allowed Reed to run a stronger campaign.

But the debates helped Zeller who is finishing strong in the GOP-dominated district. If Zeller had national party backing and another few weeks, the outcome may be different.

**Reed, 52 percent; Zeller 47 percent.**

■ **U.S. Senate** | Democrats should sweep both Senate contests over unknown Republican candidates. Of note is that Sen. Chuck Schumer could become Senate Majority Leader if Harry Reid gets

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Zeller has earned votes

**TO THE EDITOR** | With just two days until Election Day, I encourage all the voters in our area to consider voting for Matt Zeller as our next Congressman. Some people want to know where Matt Zeller came from. I believe just as importantly, if not more so, where has he been and what does he represent?

Matt Zeller was born and raised in Victor, N.Y. He was educated in Rochester schools and graduated from Hamilton College. After the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, Matt answered his country's call, was deployed and recently returned from the war in Afghanistan where he joined his comrades protecting our nation in the battle against terrorism. Matt is a former CIA agent.

Matt Zeller does not want insurance companies canceling our health insurance when we are being transported to the hospital or when we have babies born with abnormalities. He does not support tax breaks to corporations that ship jobs overseas. Instead, he wants to reward those companies that bring jobs back home. Matt is not in favor of drilling in the Marcellus Shale unless and until research and engineering have proven it can be done safely without any negative impact on our farmlands, roadways and water supplies. Matt will oppose any form of privatization of the social security funds our seniors worked most of their lives for. Gambling our financial security on Wall Street is not an option Matt will support.

I am convinced Matt Zeller's decisions as our Congressman will always reflect what he believes to be in the best interest of the American people rather than the party leadership or special interests.

Once again, Matt Zeller wants to serve his country. He wants to protect and represent or men and women in uniform, our national security, our civil rights, our workers' rights and our women's rights.

Matt Zeller has proven his love for our country. He earned and deserves our support Nov. 2.

**Betty Coccho**  
Corning

#### Zeller right on Social Security

**TO THE EDITOR** | I am a senior citizen enjoying the latter years of my life and look forward to enjoying many more. Like most seniors my age, a majority of my income comes from Social Security. Therefore, I am greatly concerned about the future and solvency of our Social Security program.

I have been watching with interest the respective positions of our congressional candidates. I am pleased both are opposed to the privatization of the Social Security funds. One candidate wants to put all options "on the table" for open and honest debate. The other candidate says he will propose alternatives to preserve the fund's solvency. Matt Zeller is opposed to increasing the retirement age, which would result in postponing the hiring of replacement workers, and he doesn't support the reduction of benefits. Under no circumstances does he support any debate on the privatization of SS nor will he opt to gamble away our funds

on Wall Street. Matt believes the system can be augmented by growing the economy, which creates jobs, meaning more people working and contributing to the fund.

I also appreciate Mr. Zeller's approval of removing the "donut hole" for seniors enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug program.

Thank you Matt Zeller, thank you for being concerned about our nation's seniors and your sincere desire to ensure we enjoy a longer and better quality of life.

**Virginia Barden**  
Corning

#### Friend sincerely wants to help

**TO THE EDITOR** | I am inspired to see young people like Chris Friend step forward and take responsibility for our state's future. He and his children are the generations who the Albany politicians are putting at the greatest risk. He is personally committed to stopping the madness and restoring financial responsibility to our broken state government.

When I have talked with Chris, I can tell that he is really concerned about what is happening and sincerely wants to be part of the solution. I have heard lots of career politicians talking up a good story about what they think people want to hear. I feel that Chris is for real and the type of person I want to have representing me in government.

**Bob Newlun**  
Horseheads

#### Mackesey for everyone

**TO THE EDITOR** | "The New York State Senate, one-half of the most dysfunctional legislature in the United States" – that's how a national magazine recently summed up the system where "the Albany handshake" in a back room keeps voters in the dark about their government. But voters in the 53rd District have a clear choice in this year's election for state Senate. They can promote a well-off attorney who has played the insiders' game in Albany, or they can vote for Pam Mackesey.

We have known Pam for years, as an organizer and advocate for working people. She listens. She's honest. She's passionate about making concrete steps to make people's lives better, and to safeguard our environment. As a public school teacher, during her six years on the Ithaca Common Council, and now as a leading member of the Tompkins County Legislature, she has shown she knows how to get things done. And she works hard to represent everyone, not just "the important people."

Send Pam Mackesey to the State Senate, and watch what happens next, right out in the open.

**Don Baier**  
Ellicott City, Md.

#### Hogue right the first time

**TO THE EDITOR** | On Sept. 18 in *The Leader* there was an article about our now former 3rd Ward Alderman Karen Hogue. Mrs. Hogue said in an article by Joe Dunning that she was resigning her seat in the Corning City Council and that she would like to see the woman she succeeded on the council return. She also said – and I quote –

"I know I'm crossing party lines and taking chances here, but Mrs. Lando is the most logical one."

She went on to say: "She represented the ward in the past and I would not have won had she run."

Now, this past Sunday there was a letter to the editor from Karen Hogue stating that she was misinterpreted and that she was going to back Mr. Reed, a man that may have been born in Corning but hasn't resided here for more than a year. Mrs. Hogue obviously caved in to the pressure put in her by the Republican Party. How can those quotes be interpreted as anything less than exactly what she said? Hilda Lando is the best choice!

The reason for this letter is to express my full backing for Hilda Lando for our 3rd Ward. She is proud to have been born and raised here and proud to have raised a family here. She loves this city enough to try and make it a better place for current and future residence. She is the best choice!

**Matt Stevens**  
Corning

#### Mackesey has eye for reform

**TO THE EDITOR** | Today, only 16 percent of New York's State senators are women. If Pam Mackesey is elected in District 53, she will be the first woman ever to represent the area in the Senate. If you want change in Albany, that could be reason enough! But there are many more reasons to elect Pam to this seat.

Pam's experience as a single mother and a teacher make her the perfect person to champion the needs of our working families and our schools. Her experience as a Tompkins County legislator gives her the knowledge to fight the root cause of high property taxes, that is, unfunded state mandates.

I've worked with Pam for years on the Tompkins County Legislature and I know first-hand how she gets things done. She has the determination to fight for what's right, from fairer taxes, to tougher environmental protections against gas drilling, to keeping downstate garbage trucks off our local roads.

Pam will go to Albany with fresh eyes and energy for real reform, compared to her opponent who is part of the Republican Assembly leadership. Pam has spent a lifetime fighting for a fairer New York and we need her in Albany to continue that fight.

**Martha Robertson**  
Chairperson  
Tompkins County  
Legislature

#### Palmesano gets things done

**TO THE EDITOR** | Phil Palmesano will make an excellent state assemblyman.

For over four years, I have been involved in a matter with the New York State Comptrollers' office which continued to drag on unresolved. In a recent phone call to that office, I was informed that my case was "long overdue" and that "if I did not hear anything in five months, call back."

I then decided to contact my local state senator's office, where I was assisted by Phil Palmesano. Phil was professional, attentive, and

competent. Phil made phone calls and followed up while keeping me updated. Perhaps most important, Phil was effective and got things done.

Unfortunately, as a resident of Elmira, I am unable to vote for Phil. Nevertheless, not only do I encourage Steuben and Yates county Republicans to vote for Phil for state assembly, I also encourage my fellow Democrats to cross party lines and vote for Phil Palmesano.

**Steve Elliott**  
Elmira

#### Bacalles backs Palmesano

**TO THE EDITOR** | It has been my pleasure to know Phil Palmesano both professionally and as a friend for 15 years. He worked in my office for nine of those years, and during the other six years, Phil worked for other area legislators. We all worked jointly on constituent issues. Phil truly exemplifies the term "public servant." He knows what it takes to bring all the players together to solve a problem. He isn't hung up on who gets credit as long as the job gets done and done well.

In my 29 years of public service, I've seen elected officials at all levels who are more concerned about their own careers than the problems of the people they serve. Phil is not that way. He is an honorable family man who grew up in our area and has chosen to stay here.

Phil has a common-sense approach to government. His learning curve as an assemblyman will be a short one yet he will now be putting his own personal touch to the job. I have every confidence that he will do a first rate job representing us.

I'm voting for Phil on Nov. 2, please join me.

**Jim Bacalles**  
Corning

#### Keep Scudder on high court

**TO THE EDITOR** | On Nov. 2 voters in Steuben, Yates, Livingston, Ontario, Monroe, Wayne, Seneca and Cayuga counties will select one person to serve as a Supreme Court justice in the Seventh Judicial District of New York state.

One candidate, Supreme Court Justice Henry J. Scudder was born and raised in the Seventh Judicial District, has worked in the district his entire career, served as first assistant district attorney in Steuben County, was twice elected as Steuben County Surrogate Court judge, has served as Supreme Court Judge for the last 14 years and is currently presiding justice of the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court.

His extensive knowledge of both criminal and civil law has earned him the respect of all members of the judicial system throughout New York state.

The other candidate has no judicial experience, is from Long Island and has never worked or lived in the district. Since he is not a resident of the district, he is not even eligible to vote for himself!

The choice is clear. Re-elect Supreme Court Justice Henry J. Scudder on Election Day.

**Raymond C. Dell**  
Steuben County  
Undersheriff