

# Editorial

## Cast Your Vote, Make Yourself Heard

By the time our next edition hits the streets, a new president will have been elected. This means we have one last opportunity—the issue you now peruse—to urge all of our readers who are able to do so to vote next Tuesday.

We have endorsed a candidate for president, and we stand by that endorsement, but we think that what really matters here is that whoever takes the inaugural oath of office on the steps of the Capitol in January should stand before the nation and the world as the duly elected choice of the people. That means the responsibility for choosing our government lies with us, the enfranchised voters of the borough of Queens, the city and state of New York and the United States of America. All registered voters should make

every effort to get to the polls, which are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Those who cannot get to the polls in this and subsequent elections should avail themselves of the absentee ballot process, created especially to ensure that all eligible voters can select the candidate of their choice, whether they can physically come to their polling place or not.

Voting in next week's election matters for other reasons as well. In one area of Northwest Queens, for example, an assemblymember, a state senator and a congressman are running for re-election on the same ballot as the presidential candidates. In other neighborhoods across the borough the situation is the same. The president, whatever his party affiliation, is the captain of the ship of state, but local, state and congress-

sional elected representatives pass the bills and the budgets that directly affect the lives of the people in their districts. These are the people who are especially and personally responsive and responsible to the electorate they serve. Only well-informed, conscientious voters are truly able to put them in office.

Every vote counts and every race is important. If you are registered to vote in this election, please do. If you are not, there is no better time than the present to begin preparing to vote in the next one. The democratic process depends on all of us. For whom you vote is important, but the act of voting matters even more. Uphold democracy and the country where it flourishes most. Vote.



### Letters to the Editor

#### Be Wary Of Change

To The Editor:

As an Independent, I am bothered to see the Democrats blame the Bush Administration for our current economic problems. Two prior Democratic Administrations initiated and promoted unsound and loose economic policies. Currently, the Democrats control Congress and the committees, and they share responsibility for what transpires in this country.

In 1977 [President] Jimmy Carter's Administration enacted the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), which forced banks to make loans to low-income borrowers. In 1999 the Clinton [Presidential] Administration pressured Fannie Mae, the nation's largest underwriter of home mortgages, to change its credit requirements on mortgage loans it purchased from banks and other lenders. Fannie Mae succumbed to the pressure and diluted its credit requirements. Banks then changed their loan requirements, including no down payments, and made home loans to low-income people whose credit would not normally be good enough to qualify for loans.

The seeds were planted for the current economic problems many years ago, and

nurtured through a number of administrations and legislative bodies to our current situation. Can we expect more of the same if Obama is elected, and he, along with a rubber stamp Democratic Congress, allows the proliferation of liberal economic policies?

Over the passage of time the world has taught us to be wary of change and all the mesmerizing promises made by political candidates.

Donald A. Moskowitz  
(Political Independent)  
Londonderry, New Hampshire

#### Vote 'Yes' For Vets

To The Editor:

On Tuesday—November 4, 2008—General Election Day—there will be an amendment to Article 5, Section 6 of the constitution of New York state in relation to additional civil service credit for members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

The proposed amendment would eliminate the requirement that veterans who were disabled in the actual performance of duty in any war be receiving disability payments from the United States Veterans Administration in order to qualify for additional points on a civil service examination for appointment or promotion. Under the proposed amendment, the disability must only be certified to exist by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

The proposed amendment would also update "United States Veterans Administration" to "United States Department of Veterans Affairs" to reflect current federal government structure.

The American Legion, Department of New York strongly supports this amendment and urges the voters of New York State to vote YES on this much needed benefit for our veterans.

Richard M. Pedro  
New York State Adjutant (CEO)  
The American Legion  
Department of New York  
Albany

#### Need Four More Years

To The Editor:

I would like to state that I am against Term Limits and have voted against this legislation twice. It is because it takes away my right as a New York City citizen to vote for my candidate. Let us understand that you cannot vote for a candidate of your choice if he or she [is] Term Limited from the ballot. Prior to Term Limits I exercised my Term Limits choice by not re-electing a candidate. I encourage the councilmembers to vote to extend the terms of the current elected officials and our Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg from an [eight]-year term to a 12-year term.

The tragic sad event of 9/11/01 was unexpected and we [in] New York City fortunately recovered. Our current financial crisis, we know, [is] unlike September 11, 2001, this is why it is imperative that we give our current Mayor [Michael] Bloomberg with his expertise an opportunity to represent us and bring us through this financial turmoil by giving him [four] more years.

Sincerely,  
Maria A. Thomson  
Woodhaven

#### NYC Needs Bloomberg

To The Editor:

If ever New York City needed a skilled hand at the helm to steer our city out of the economic disaster in which our country and our city finds itself [it] is right now.

I for one would like to see Michael Bloomberg serve a third term as Mayor. He has done a difficult but admirable job of restoring some of the charisma and magnetism which was once thought to be an irrevocable character of New York City...and without the braggadocio and self aggrandizing reminiscent of some of our past Mayors.

There are detractors who object to his big picture of our city. They feel that their particular individual concerns have not been adequately addressed. There are a lot of particular individual concerns to be

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