ROCKLAND SHIELDS HOLDS CANDIDATES' FORUM

BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter

Many people have said that this election is the most important in American History. They have said it is a choice between crazy and common sense. Between Socialism and Capitalism. Whatever your outlook on this, the Rockland County Shields held a forum to give the candidates for Congress and all of the state and town offices a chance to give a portion of the electorate the chance to hear what they have done and are going to do for them and the communities in the county.

To make it a fair choice of which party got to speak first, there was a coin toss. The Republicans won the toss but chose to go second. I am going to make this a video essay. This way the readers can hear directly from the candidates clearer than if I was to transcribe and write what they said.

The first position presented was the 38th State Senate District. Joe Rand, the Democrat was not present at the time, so Senator Bill Weber went first. Rand did show up about 20 minutes later and got his chance to make his points.

https://youtu.be/XnPPH8HBUhc - Senator Bill Weber

https://youtu.be/ccNaio317Vw - Joe Rand

The control of Congress is on the line and Cait Conley and Congressman Mike Lawler have been slugging it out in their commercials and at events like this.

https://youtu.be/lrC_nEYujAQ - Cait Conley

https://youtu.be/ca-r1tz0DUg - Mike Lawler

The Democrats have a super majority in the New York State Legislature. Republicans like Brett Yagel wants to be a part of getting rid of that super majority. He and incumbent Assemblyman Pat Carroll faced off on the issues facing the constituents of the 96th District and the county.

https://youtu.be/haZJnOnxlQM - Pat Carroll

https://youtu.be/GW0u9tkcx2E - Brett Yagel

Aron Weider defeated incumbent 97th District Assemblyman John McGowan to make it to the Assembly. He is being challenged by Rob Bonomolo for his seat. This has also been a contentious race.

https://youtu.be/RSnCEOCSqx4 - Aron Weider

https://youtu.be/IuYTNBOgsuw - Rob Bonolomo

As he puts it, "I am your favorite Assemblyman." Karl Brabenec is running unopposed, but he still wanted to speak to the assembled group.

https://youtu.be/U8h6WziY0Io - Karl Brabenec

Chris Eachus is running for reelection to continue representing the 99th Assembly District. Richard Vargas wants to unseat him and go to Albany to represent this district.

https://youtu.be/xLCkenwrME4 - Chris Eachus

https://youtu.be/bToF76iYzao - Richard Vargas

When the individual state and federal candidates were finished giving their speeches, in order to save time and not have to stay there until midnight, the chairs of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party introduced and explained the positions of the people running on the town level for various positions including town councils, highway department and town clerk.

https://youtu.be/6IsHGTZEdSw - Democratic Town Candidates

https://youtu.be/gYmoIiqkaMU - Republican Town Candidates

Now it is up to the constituents to decide which of the candidates they want to represent them in the various levels of government.