

Business group pushes for GOP control of State Senate

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ALBANY -- An upstate business group representing 70,000 employers today made clear its hope for the Republicans to take back control of the State Senate in the November elections. In the nine upstate races in which it made endorsements, Unshackle Upstate backed only Republicans.

"New York voters now know who the bad actors are and we must work hard to end their tenure in Albany," said Brian Sampson, the group's executive director.

"The quality, or more precisely the lacking quality, of leadership in the state Legislature has had a direct impact on the economy of upstate New York," added Andrew Rudnick, president of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

In the major local contest, the group backed Assemblyman Jack Quinn in his Senate race against Tim Kennedy for the Buffalo-area seat held for decades by Sen. William Stachowski. **Sandy Parker, president of the Rochester Business Alliance and one of the upstate group's founders, said state spending has risen 12 percent in the past two years with taxes and fees hiked by \$9 billion.**

"So voters going to the polls on Judgment Day must elect candidates who understand that and are willing to make some tough, but necessary choices," she said in a written statement this morning.

The group's endorsed list:

Senate:

- 45th District: Betty Little (R,C,I)
- 48th District: Patricia Ritchie (R,C, Taxpayers)
- 49th District: Andrew Russo (R,C, Taxpayers)
- 53rd District: Tom O'Mara (R,C)
- 57th District: Catharine M. Young (R,C,I)
- 58th District: Jack Quinn (R, Taxpayers)
- 59th District: Patrick Gallivan (R)
- 61st District: Michael Ranzenhofer (R,C,I)
- 62nd District: George D. Maziarz (R,C,I,WFP)

Assembly:

- 105th District: George Amedore (R,C,I)
- 108th District: Steve McLaughlin (R,C, Taxpayers)
- 112th District: Tony Jordan (R,C)
- 122nd District: Ken Blankenbush (R,C)
- 125th District: Tom Reynolds (R,C,I)
- 128th District: Robert Oaks (R,C)
- 129th District: Brian Kolb (R,I,C)

- 130th District: David Nachbar (D)
- 131st District: Kenneth Krause (R,I,C)
- 134th District: William Reilich (R,C,I)
- 138th District: John Ceretto (R,C,I, Taxpayers)
- 139th District: Stephen Hawley, (R,C,I)
- 142nd District: Jane Corwin (R,C,I)
- 144th District: Brian Biggie (R, Taxpayers)
- 146th District: Kevin Smardz (R,I, Taxpayers)

-- *Tom Precious*