

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**Democratic Election Commissioner Norman P. Green @ 716-499-9628**

MAYVILLE—The fight over who controls the Chautauqua County Conservative Party continued this week as petitions covering three hundred thirty nine party county committee spots were filed by factions presumably supporting dueling Conservative County Chairs Robert S. Jones of Ellery and Jan Potter of Jamestown.

Chautauqua County is made up of 124 election districts spread out over twenty-seven towns and two cities. County Conservative Party rules allow for two registered Conservative party members to represent each county election district for two year terms which will expire September 14, 2010. .

Two years ago, two factions of the county Conservative body registered slates of officers with the Chautauqua County and New York State Board of Elections stating that both Jones and Potter were chairs of the local county party. The matter was never resolved and both chairs continued to be recognized by election officials during the two year period.

Registered Conservatives will have the opportunity, election district by election district, to now choose between nearly two hundred contested candidates in more than fifty county election districts. The remaining election districts will not be represented or just one or two Conservative county committee filings were received.

The Conservative Party is one of five recognized political parties in New York State. Others currently are Democratic, Republican, Working Families and Independence. A party becomes an official state party by receiving or continuing to receive at least fifty thousand votes for the party's endorsed candidate in the once every four year gubernatorial elections.

Rarely does the Conservative party elect one of its own registered party members, but is a coveted second fusion endorsement for Republicans and a few Democrats.

Conservative petitions this year were circulated mainly by just a few individual Conservatives including Potter and Christina Jones of Jamestown backing Potter for re-election, and Robert Jones, Anna Wilcox of Arkwright, Pat Lucariello of Ellery, and Roger Gloss of Arkwright backing Jones for re-election.

Other county Conservatives circulating petitions this year on a limited basis were, Brenda Wehrenberg of Jamestown, Melvin McGinnis of Carroll, Bronwyn Goot of Stockton, Maureen Stahley of Ellery, Michael Gregory of Poland, Dayle Keefer of Ellicott, Cameron Monroe of Westfield and Frank Quagliana III of Westfield.

Also extremely active in the Conservative Party circulating war were Republican operatives Larry Wilcox of Arkwright in support of Jones and County Legislature Clerk Jim Caflisch of French Creek in support of Potter. Both circulated as New York State notaries for the opposing factions. While registered Conservatives simply witness signatures, the two Republican registered notaries had to take personal oaths from each signer attesting to their identity.

Following last week's filings, Lucariello and Wilcox additionally sought out a number of supporters of Potter notarizing declinations of county committee nominations. Potter and Jones have each filed General Objections to petitions filed by numerous candidates, with specifics to follow.

"It's a mess," said Democratic Election Commissioner Norman P. Green. "I most object to the involvement of Republican operatives Wilcox and Caflsich. It's one thing to act as a notary for the petition of an endorsed Conservative candidate, but it's wrong for these two to immerse themselves in Conservative Party business."