

A breath of fresh air is something I think we can all agree is needed in politics today. The fiasco up in Albany and a City Council that ended term limits over the will of the voters should be a wake-up call to everyone. Politics-as-usual is not acceptable, but what's the answer? Electing civic leaders rather than "politicians" will end politics-as-usual and bring innovative thinking, creative solutions and civility back into the process.

Civic leadership is about passion for people and community. It means fighting for your neighborhood and trying to make it a better place to live. It's about organizing a rally to help a community cause or attending a hearing and testifying on behalf of the community and its residents. Sure, it sounds corny, but without civic leaders, our communities would be worse off than they are today.

I have been a civic leader, fighting for our community for over 20 years and doing it all as a volunteer while working full-time. As president of Glen Oaks Village, New York's largest garden apartment co-op with 10,000 residents, a microcosm of the District, I have battled double-digit water rate increases, skyrocketing property taxes, a Buildings Department that has abdicated its role in protecting our neighborhoods from overdevelopment and an arrogant D.O.T. that systematically denies local communities four-way stop signs at dangerous intersections.

I am tired of constant political bickering and the identity politics game played by politicians who pit one group against another. This is divisive and hurts communities. Local issues are neither Democrat nor Republican. When problems are solved, everyone benefits. My candidacy transcends party labels.

As a lifelong Democrat, even the
Republicans have cross-endorsed me. When I
am elected, I walk into the City Council
representing all the people of our District.

Electing civic leaders would mean no
overturning of term limits, no Albany fiasco
and a return of ethics and integrity to the
political process. Civic leaders have their
priorities straight.

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