

LeBow Wins-- Prospect Loses

By David Ambro

From Huntington to Riverhead, Suffolk County voters went to the polls on primary day, September 12, and ousted the incumbents.

Three long time incumbent on the 18-member Suffolk County Legislature, two Republicans and one Democrat, were denied nomination by registered voters of their respective parties.

The Democratic Party primary election battle was fought in Huntington between 10-year incumbent Legislator Wayne Prospect (D-Dix Hills) and challenger Susan LeBow of Dix Hills.

At a convention in June, the party leadership refused to designate Mr. Prospect, and instead selected Mrs. LeBow as the candidate in the 15th Legislative District, which covers part of East Northport, Commack, Dix Hills, and a small portion of Islip. Mr. Prospect circulated nominating petitions to force the nomination to a primary election. He lost on Primary day September 12.

Mrs. LeBow and the Suffolk County Democratic Committee waged an aggressive campaign, which paid off Tuesday. Of the 3,422 Democrats to vote in the primary, Mrs. LeBow received 1,834 and Mr. Prospect 1,588.

LeBow supporters gathered at Suffolk County headquarters in Patchogue and for an hour after the polls closed at 9 p.m. huddled around a computer monitor flashing primary result from the Board of Elections. During early returns, the lead changed hands a few times, but 91 percent of the vote counted Mrs. LeBow was comfortably ahead 1,640 to 1,388.

At about 10 p.m., Suffolk County Committee Chairman Dominic Baranello descended from his upstairs office and told the crowd that Mrs. LeBow had won the race.



Susan LeBow

"The Democratic Party in Suffolk County has created history. We have done so by showing that the designation of our party is not a right it is a privilege," said Mr. Baranello, who praised the primary voters of the 15th district. "They threw the rascal out." He introduced Mrs. LeBow and the crowd began to chant "We want Susan. We want Susan."

"I am totally overwhelmed," said Mrs. LeBow. "The people have spoken. They are tired of bad government. They are tired of free spending politicians."

Mrs. LeBow will now face Republican candidate Allan Binder and Conservative/Right To Life candidate Thomas Folan in the November 7 general election.

While Mr. Prospect was being knocked off the ballot for the first time in a decade, his long-time Republican ally County Legislator Gregory Blass



Dominic Baranello thanks supporters for LeBow victory.

(R-Jamesport), the presiding officer of the Suffolk legislature, was also being rejected by the voters. Challenger Michael Caracciolo received 2,881 votes, Mr. Blass had 2,584.

In nearby Smithtown, long time incumbent Michael D'Andre was edged in a close race by James MacCaron. Mr. McCarron has 1,292 votes and Mr. D'Andre 1,269.

THE DIX HILLIAN

THE DIX HILLIAN
Published Bi-Monthly

by

The Dix Hillian, Inc.
3 Executive Court
Dix Hills, N.Y. 11746
Telephone 499-8187

SHIRLEY LOPATIN WOLF
Publisher and Editorial Director

SEPTEMBER 20, 1989

VOLUME XII, NO. 12

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