

**CASTELLI LAUNCHES “FRONT PORCH”  
RE-ELECTION BID FOR ASSEMBLY**

*A taxpayer’s best friend: Castelli kicks off campaign for smaller government, lower taxes*

In February of this year, Assemblyman Robert J. Castelli (R, C – Golden’s Bridge) made history by winning the race for 89<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in a Special Election with unusually high turn out.

After almost four months in office, Castelli today announced from his front porch that he will be seeking a full two-year term with the backing of the Republican and Conservative parties.

“Today, I’m announcing that my grassroots campaign to clean up the abuse and dysfunction in Albany and restore fiscal sanity to our State will continue in earnest,” he said.

Having spent a lifetime in public service, first as a combat infantryman in Vietnam, then as a member of the State Police for twenty-one years and finally an educator and Professor of Criminal Justice, Castelli says he is eschewing traditional partisan campaign rallies in favor of what he calls a ‘front porch’ campaign of door to door voter outreach.

Castelli says his no-nonsense approach to governance and cutting spending call for more substance than pomp and circumstance, and he is bringing that message from his front porch to the voter’s front doors, who demand no less.

“In my short time in the New York State legislature, I have shown my willingness to work in a bipartisan fashion for the protection and economic growth of the citizens of my district and New York, and this is the message that I will bring to their homes,” he said.

Castelli says his campaign has already knocked on thousands of doors this summer as he continues to work towards a solution towards the State’s budget crisis, which is exacerbated by out of control unfunded mandates and sky-rocketing property taxes.

“From day one, I have put tax relief first and committed myself to being the taxpayer’s best friend. This campaign is a grassroots effort, and I will continue to fulfill my duties as a Member of the Assembly as I pursue my re-election campaign,” he said.

His short tenure in the Assembly has already marked him as one of the more effective legislators amidst Albany’s renowned climate of dysfunction. Two pieces of his legislation have passed both houses of the Legislature, and four of his bills were reporter from committee, including two statewide measures. Eighteen bills that he co-authored or co-sponsored have also passed the Assembly.

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“The trick is to get things done in spite of the bad system, rather than because of it,” Castelli said. “As I meet with my constituents in their homes, I think they are pleased to know that if anything, I am more acutely aware of what needs to be changed in Albany since I went up there four months ago, and continue to be committed to those changes.”

He has earned the designation “Hero of Reform” for his commitment to independent budgeting, fair and nonpartisan redistricting, and enacting the toughest ethics law in the nation, after signing four different reform pledges from the Westchester County Association’s Call to Action Campaign, the Business Council of Westchester’s Enough Already NY Campaign, Ed Koch’s New York Uprising Campaign, and Common Cause and the Brennan Center for Justice’s Pledge for Change.



Castelli said this commitment to making a difference is why the *New York Times* deemed him “the kind of outsider Albany needs.” He expects to announce additional endorsements in the upcoming weeks from various organizations in the 89<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which consists of the towns of Bedford, Lewisboro, Harrison, New Castle, North Castle, Mount Kisco, Pound Ridge, and portions of the City of White Plains.

“As someone who raised a family in Westchester, the owner of a small security consulting business, and as a veteran of local government for four years, I have a unique understanding to the challenges facing Westchester’s families, businesses, and municipalities and have been honored to serve as an Assemblyman for the 89<sup>th</sup> District. I’m also pleased to see that many of my core beliefs in smaller government are now being adopted by candidates across the State, including my prospective opponents,” he said.

The former Lewisboro Councilman distinguished himself in local government by keeping taxes low and as a leader in protecting the environment, yet he was considered an underdog in the February special election. He managed to win an impressive victory by a ten-point margin despite being outspent nearly two-to-one by his opponent. Since taking office, Castelli has quickly established a war chest for the November general election, raising triple the funds of his two prospective opponents, according to the State Board of Elections.

He says the central tenants of his campaign remain unchanged since February, and will remain the same despite whoever his opponent may be in the fall.

His platform is based on creating jobs by tackling New York’s hostile business climate and making Westchester a more affordable place to live and operate a business; enacting property tax reform by eliminating unfunded mandates, capping property taxes, freezing assessments for seniors, and creating a STAR circuit breaker to make the system more fair and equitable; achieving tax savings by “surgical” spending cuts to spend smarter,

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not harder; and cleaning up the corruption and waste in Albany by enacting the nation's toughest ethics laws, the lawmaker said.

"I am more committed than ever to reforming Albany," Castelli said. "The first New York State Constitutional Convention was held in White Plains in 1777. Our State last held a Constitutional Convention in 1967. We need reform minded legislators in both houses, on both sides of the aisle, willing to work together towards lower spending, smaller government, and the protection of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and our environment. For that reason I support a constitutional convention to bring about needed change."

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