



Candidate Survey 105th Assembly District Race

Mark W. Blanchfield

Please state your support or non-support for the following:

- The Administration's position on continuing the Iraq War** -
- Single Payer Health Insurance or Alternative Universal Access** -
- Paper-ballot/Optical Scan PBOS voting machines for NYS** -
- Campaign Finance Reform (including the "clean money initiative")** -

Comment:

I plan to bring the same form of progressive leadership to the Assembly as I have brought to the Schenectady City Council, where I have served since 2002. In that regard, I plan to reduce reliance on local property taxes and sales taxes in favor of more progressive sources of revenue, such as income tax surcharges on those making \$1 million or more per year. On a local level, I demonstrated how Schenectady's taxpayers have been shortchanged in the distribution of state aid to municipalities. By making our case to state leaders, we have increased Schenectady's allocation of such aid, which is largely paid for by state income taxes. This has allowed us to reduce city property taxes for the last two years, and I would like to make sure other communities in the 105th can experience a similar shift away from regressive taxation.

I would also like to continue my efforts to promote the health and safety of our children. I have sponsored legislation banning smoking at certain city playgrounds, and developed relationships with non-profits and private individuals to make sure there are recreational opportunities at our city pools. While some look at government as a "zero-sum game", I am well aware that in an age of shrinking resources a cooperative approach is required so we have the resources we need to assist those who most need the help of government.