

make a fine County Legislator. We hope he will retain his desire for public service. Clearly, he has been able to build an energetic and impressive campaign, articulating important issues and bringing many new, young professionals into the world of politics.

But even if not a team player with leadership, we would encourage Kennedy to be more in touch with his



GOP colleagues on the legislature. Kennedy's strong, though legalistic logic, and cite the hundreds and hundreds of votes,

For County Legislator (12thLD): John M. Kennedy, Jr.

Despite an overwhelming re-election victory just two years ago, John Kennedy this year became a second incumbent denied renomination by the Smithtown Republican Committee.

In response, Kennedy has claimed he was passed over because of his opposition to what he calls the excessive development that threatens our quality of life.

Kennedy committed himself to fight for his re-election at the very convention that rejected him. He gave statesmanlike address and hit the ground running, building a campaign platform from his efforts on a wide variety of issues directly affecting the local community.

Since succeeding Andrew Crecca in a special election in 2004, Kennedy has made outstanding use of his considerable education and experience. Keeping his promises, Kennedy has been remarkably successful in the environmental sphere, saving open space and spurring vital projects. His systems acumen helped him pass landmark legislation to computerize patient care processes for Suffolk vital fire and ambulance companies.

He has been the foremost local official in working to address flooding issues throughout the district, opposed the expansion of the Iroquois gas pipeline, sponsored legislation preserving more than 100 acres of environmentally sensitive land.

Kennedy has shown the best form of power of the incumbency: a record of accomplishment for the people he represents.

Kennedy's challenger, Vincent Trimarco, Jr., would by all accounts

cosponsorships, and appearances which reflect his true devotion to his constituency.

Although he will be on the Democratic and Working Families lines in November irrespective of Tuesday's results, we believe his Republican principles remain intact and will allow him to work as tirelessly as ever with both sides of the aisle.

***The Messenger endorses
John M. Kennedy, Jr.***

Republicans in Smithtown are faced with important choices for the future of their party. A clear disconnect between the Chairman and a large portion of the rank and file GOP still festers from two years ago when the battle for the Supervisor's seat was waged between Vecchio and Conway.

It was then that, for the first time in years, the Smithtown Republican Chairman and the Supervisor were on the same team.

This year, the GOP leadership has made what many observers say was a large – and unnecessary – gamble in rejecting two incumbent officeholders, each with successful re-election campaigns under their belts, in favor of first-time candidates.

Whether the gamble pays off and solidifies the party or blows up and enlarges the chasm may well be settled on Tuesday.

That is the message. ***This is The Messenger.***