

12th Legislative District

In Suffolk County's 12th Legislative District, **The Smithtown News** endorses the incumbent John Kennedy, of Nesconset, for re-election.

Presently, as a result of his falling out with the Republican leadership, Mr. Kennedy is surrounded by weakness both on his legislative and campaign staff. It is a shortcoming he will have time to address once re-elected.

In this primary campaign, however, the challenger Vincent Trimarco, Jr. has not made a case to unseat the incumbent. The Smithtown Republican leadership and Mr. Trimarco contend they seek to deny the Republican incumbent the nomination because he voted against legislation restricting the whereabouts of pedophiles. The issue is nonsense. Mr. Kennedy abhors pedophiles, and his lone no vote on the legislation came because it was ineffectual.

While the pedophile legislation can be packaged into convincing political rhetoric, it's not enough. There is something more hidden behind the Republican leadership's effort to defeat Mr. Kennedy. The motivation of the Republicans is suspicious, and discomfoting, and should be rejected. Mr. Kennedy has earned the chance to seek re-election on the Republican line.