

Integrity Party Endorsements

(07/26/2007) The Integrity Party, a party advocating open government and transparency, recently endorsed a mix of Republican and Democratic candidates for its slate. The party will be backing Republican Town Councilwoman Linda Kabot for town supervisor, with Republican Councilwoman Nancy Graboski and Democratic newcomer Anna Throne-Holst as the two Town Board candidates. The party will support Andrea Schiavoni, the Democratic candidate for the town justice position, and Bruce King, who is the Democrats' pick for the receiver of taxes position.

Party officials announced their endorsements during a July 10 event at the Dinosaur Walk Museum in Riverhead. The Integrity Party does not have official party status, even though it has had a line on the ballot for the past three years.



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Candidates Head for a Primary

(07/19/2007) It looks as if Republican voters in East Hampton and Southampton Towns will be going to the polls on Primary Day this September.

Nancy Graboski, who is fighting to retain her seat as Southampton councilwoman, and Linda Kabot, a Southampton councilwoman looking to become town supervisor, ... succeeded in collecting more than enough signatures to force Republican primaries on Sept. 18. ...

"The people I spoke with were not concerned with specific issues" at this point, Ms. Graboski said Tuesday. They were more concerned with "getting our names on the ballot to let the people decide." As opposed to "business as usual, the same old thing, they were eager to have a say in the matter," she said. ... In Southampton, the Republicans passed over Ms. Graboski in favor of two other candidates — Daniel Russo and Jim Drew. More than 1,000 registered Republicans in Southampton signed her petition, which she plans to submit to the Board of Elections this afternoon.

She said yesterday that the response had been "overwhelming," both in the number of volunteers who carried petitions and in the support of those who signed them.

"It was all very positive. So many were shocked I hadn't been chosen. ...

"It's a game of precision. You need to be certain that the signer is a registered Republican in Southampton Town, otherwise it's challengeable," Ms. Graboski said.

If for some reason they don't make it, last week Ms. Graboski and Ms. Kabot also received the endorsement of the Integrity Party, a group formed in Riverhead in 2004 to endorse candidates across party lines. "This idea of a good old boys club where people do what they want" was something that has had seemed to bother town residents regardless of affiliation, Ms. Graboski said.

"The Integrity Party has formed a true coalition ticket," Ms. Graboski noted. Anna Throne-Holst, a Democrat from Sag Harbor, received the other endorsement for town councilwoman. Bruce King, a Democrat from Hampton Bays, was endorsed for tax receiver, and Andrea Schiavoni, a Democrat from Sag Harbor, for the fourth town justice position.

For that line on the ballot, anyone from any party can carry or sign a petition, as long as they have not signed another candidate's petition. The deadline for those is Aug. 12.



"Even Abraham Lincoln Had an Opponent"

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy finally has a re-election opponent.

The Integrity Party has named Peter Busacca, a home health care manager from Port Jefferson Station as its candidate. Busacca ran four years ago as a Republican candidate against Democratic Assemb. Steve Englebright of Setauket.

Busacca's name surfaced at an Integrity Party fundraiser last week, which raised \$6,000 at the Dinosaur Walk Museum in Riverhead. The minor party now has to gather 1,500 signatures on petitions to get Busacca on the ballot.

Party organizer Darren Johnson acknowledged that a race against Levy will be "almost insurmountable" because Levy has both both major parties as well as the Conservative and Independence lines. But, he added, the minor party could get as much as 8 percent "because people, even if they like Steve Levy, want to see competition. Even Abraham Lincoln had an opponent."

Said Levy: "It's everyone's American right to be in the political ring. I wish him luck."