

ELECTION SPECIAL

Candidates for Southeast Town Board — Republican Primary

In Southeast, four Republican candidates are seeking two seats on the Town Board to replace Richard Honeck and Paul Johnson, who are retiring. Joe DePaola and Matthew Neuringer are also competing for the Independence Party nomination.

Candidates for Southeast Town Board in both the Republican and Independence Primaries

Joe DePaola

AGE: 29
FAMILY INFO.: Parents, Leonardo & Elaine, Sister, Elena
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican, Independence (Endorsed)
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: B.A., Political Science, The George Washington University; J.D., St. John's University School of Law
CAREER DESCRIPTION: I am an experienced attorney with a practice focused on commercial litigation and insurance coverage matters. Previously, I have served as a judicial extern to a Federal Judge and I have served as a SADA in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

take back our sidewalks by implementing a loitering affidavit program. Finally, we must attract new businesses to open their doors in Brewster and attract capital investment to redevelop the dilapidated housing stock.

How do you intend to balance the interests of open space advocates with the fundamental rights of individual property owners?

Maintaining Southeast's quaint, rural character while embracing present day needs is paramount. I will achieve balance between the two by implementing a new, coordinated master development plan that meets the demographic needs of our Town today and embraces smart growth that includes open space, parks and recreational use. I will do away with the old strategy of ad-hoc development that has not served us well and resulted in gridlock on Route 22.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Southeast, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each.

President Ronald Reagan said "America is too great for small dreams." This statement applies equally to the microcosm of America we call the Town of Southeast. I am eternally optimistic about the future of Southeast, its potential, and our ability to join as a community, identify our problems, and work together to solve them in a respectful, democratic manner. By uniting together as friends and neighbors, I am confident that Southeast's best days lay ahead of us.

What are your key principles?

I pride myself on direct, open and respectful communication, hard work, preparation, an unwavering commitment to law, order and safety in our Town, and fiscally conservative governance. These have been the bedrock principles of my campaign from day 1 and will continue to guide me when elected.



Elizabeth D. Hudak

AGE: 55
FAMILY INFO: Married to my husband, Kevin R. Hudak for 31 years, 24 of which were spent in Southeast. Two children, Kevin age 24 and Kyle age 16. Kyle is currently a junior at Brewster High School and in the Bears' Marching Band.
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Gorton High School, Yonkers NY; B.A. cum laude, Fordham University, 1976; Juris Doctor, Brooklyn Law School, 1979
CAREER DESCRIPTION: Private-practice attorney at law - Passed the New York State Bar Exam held in July, 1979 and admitted to the Bar of New York State in March, 1980.
ADDITIONAL POSITIONS: President of the Putnam County Bar Association, President of the Putnam County Legal Aid Society, Former Chairwoman and current Board member of Search for Change, a non-profit that interacts with mentally disabled residents in Putnam and Westchester, Founding Member of the Putnam County Youth Court, Founding Member of the Putnam County Mental Health Association; Member, Putnam County Bar Association Grievance Committee; Member, Board of Directors of Westchester-Putnam Legal Services, now known as Hudson Valley Legal Services

What is the most important issue facing Southeast and how will you address it?

Along with illegal immigration and accountability to Southeast's taxpayers, the most important issue facing Southeast is simply ending the dysfunction on the town board and making town government work for citizens again. As a family law attorney, I have dealt with big egos and tense situations and brought both sides together in compromise. I will do the same for Southeast, and push for real solutions beyond the political posturing and pandering. It's time to execute a compromise plan on illegal immigration that protects our children and our businesses and has quantifiable goals so the board and Southeast's voters can judge its success or failure.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

I will make town government accountable to the people again by tightening our budget, reducing frivolous spending and delivering real tax cuts. We can't just eliminate whole departments in the name of cutting the budget without the taxpayers having a say. I will bring citizens together at forums outside of scheduled town board meetings to determine which services and offices are most important and which can be downsized. With the consensus and mandate of the people, and not political agendas, I will cut our budget and eventually deliver substantial tax cuts. Not because it's a campaign promise, or my salary depends on it, but because it's best for our economy, small businesses and, most importantly, our families.

How will you address problems arising from illegal immigration in Southeast?

We must make Southeast as unattractive to illegal workers as possible. We need to take our street corners back by enforcing loitering laws and quality of life codes. I will work with the Village of Brewster P.D. to find the funding to increase foot patrols. A 24-hour anonymous hotline will help our code enforcement officers respond to suspected fraudulent rental registrations and illegal housing. I will demand public follow-ups on 100% of credible reports of illegal housing, hiring and overcrowding. We must enact more stringent regulations, and make non-compliance with employment, housing and consumer protection codes a misdemeanor violation of the law.

How do you intend to balance the interests of open space advocates with the fundamental rights of individual property owners?

New developments and commercial expansions must adhere to our standards as a community and highlight, not detract from, our region's beauty. Overall, we need to put smart growth policies into action, like working with the Village to revitalize Main Street as well as our Rte. 22 Town Centre. Open up the zoning



Robert S. Cullen

AGE: 42
FAMILY INFO.: Married to my wife, Elizabeth for 17 years, 2 children
 Madison age 9 and Emily age 7, both students in Brewster Central School District. Homeowner and taxpayer in town since 2002.
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Archbishop Stepinac HS. Iona College, BS 1996 Criminal Justice major.
CAREER DESCRIPTION: 21 year police officer, Town of Eastchester, currently a Sergeant for over 10 years, tour commander. Have been responsible for obtaining state grants for funding programs for the police department. Currently elected 1st VP, Eastchester PBA.

What is the most important issue facing Southeast and how will you address it?

Illegal immigration. Will look to expand the town's rental regulation law, by making violations of the current statute classified as a misdemeanor, a criminal offense. Currently, violation of the law is only a monetary fine, and not considered a criminal act. Liz Hudak and I also want to create a anonymous tip line so residents can report, anonymously, any alleged rental law violations, allowing further investigation by our code officers.

I will look to hire a part time office assistant to free up code inspectors from paperwork, so they can be out on the streets looking for violations. Currently a lot of their day is spent filling out forms and court informations, which could be handled by a part time office assistant.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

Southeast has the lowest town taxes of any Putnam County town. I will pledge to continue keeping it such. Keeping our Homestead option will keep the tax burden on commercial property owners, such as New York City, the largest taxpayer in Southeast. If my opponents have their way, Homestead will be eliminated, assessments will be performed by Putnam County, along with the tax receiving, and the tax burden will be equal between residential and commercial property owners. The average residential homeowner will see their taxes increased by over \$700.00. Elimination of the tax assessor and tax receiver, may save us 10%, or about \$60.00 a year, but this will cause the lose of homestead, and cost us all around \$700.00 more.

How will you address problems arising from illegal immigration in Southeast?

As someone with a strong law enforcement background, I will work with the Sheriff, State Police, DEP, village and MTA police to keep tent cities from appearing in our town. Having property owners keep a no-trespass affidavit on file with the town, will allow law enforcement to act quickly to prevent tent cities on private property, and not have to waste days and weeks trying to locate a property owner to get permission to remove illegal dwellers, like has happened in the past with property off of Starr Ridge Road. The town has to be pro-active, and not wait for a situation to arise to address it. How do you intend to balance the interests of open space advocates with the fundamental rights of individual property owners?

One of the reasons I moved here to Southeast is because of the rural nature

of our town. I believe the town's zoning laws and master plan give a balance of rural, residential, and commercial development. I am not against commercial growth, as long as the project fits into the above. I am against spot zoning, which allows a change or variance to allow a non conforming use of property, to benefit one applicant. With that said, having some commercial property is a benefit, because this allows Southeast to have the homestead option, which other towns do not have in Putnam County.

To what extent are you optimistic about the future of Southeast, and to what extent are you pessimistic? Describe each.

Optimistic: I love living in Southeast, and raising my family here. Our school system is top notch. If we have a town board that communicates with other layers of government, such as village government and works together, we can move our town forward. I would like to see the town seriously investigate the feasibility of a town pool, and a skateboard park for our youth. I believe this town will continue to be a great place to live if Liz and I win the election.

Pessimistic: I am not happy with the direction our town board is going. Town government should be about providing basic services, plowing and paving our roads, having the garbage picked-up, not political agendas. You want to have the best people for the job, not political cronies appointed to fill boards.

What are your key principles?

I believe I am honest. I believe in the golden rule, and always try to treat people with respect. I will work for the best interest of the town residents, and I believe that through communication the town can move forward.

Liz and I never ran for office before, and decided to step forward because we did not like the direction our town was heading. We feel we have a vested interest in the community, due to our property ownership and combined 30 years living here. We have children in the public schools, life experience, and feel that we are the best choice for town board.

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Matthew E. Neuringer

ing down on contractors/landlords who are hiring and housing illegally, cleaning up Village and Town sidewalks and attracting new capital investment to Main Street.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

In order to be a true steward of the taxpayer's dollar, a fundamental shift in thinking must occur within our Town government. For too long this Town has thought of tax receipts as "the Town's money." That is a fatally flawed perception. Tax receipts belong to the tax paying residents and are merely held by the Town, in trust, for the taxpayers benefit. I have fully embraced this concept by proposing a transparent, detailed plan to cut over \$1 million from the Town Budget by reducing our addiction to spending on professional fees and eliminating redundant bureaucracy. I will take those savings and return them directly to the taxpayer.

How will you address problems arising from illegal immigration in Southeast?

AGE: 22
FAMILY INFO: Parents; Lorraine & Matt (Step-father) & Scott & Victoria (Step-Mother) Two Younger brothers; Nicholas & Anthony
PARTY AFFILIATION: Republican & Independence (Endorsed)
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Carmel High School (Ram to Bear) & Fordham University Bachelors Degree
CAREER DESCRIPTION: Profession: Asset Manager & Associate
 • Real World Experience: Responsible for the management of portfolios valued at \$116 million and helped create new jobs in a struggling economy.
 • Dynamic Financial Capability: Worked on structuring of highly complex acquisitions; helping entrepreneurs and small business owners to succeed.
 • Former Legislative Director for New York State Assemblyman Greg Ball
 • Led the drafting and introduction of dozens of statewide initiatives to tackle illegal immigration, fight taxes and eliminate municipal corruption.
 • Worked with municipalities and legislative budget office to secure tens of thousands of dollars in grants to non-profits and community groups in Southeast, and beyond
 • Spearheaded appropriations & policy for municipalities requests for local legislation
 • Worked with 9-11 families and other immigration experts to craft legislation allowing Brewster and Putnam County law enforcement to be able to expeditiously set up deportation proceedings for illegal alien criminals.

To address the problems arising from illegal immigration in Southeast we must attack root causes. The Town and Village's lack of code enforcement with regards to illegal hiring and illegal housing has allowed illegal immigrants to live here prof-

itably. Through increased enforcement and increased penalties for violators I will eliminate opportunity for anyone to live cheaply in an illegal rental unit and to be hired illegally, thus destroying the ability of anyone to live in Brewster and profit from

breaking the law. We must also take back our sidewalks by implementing a loitering affidavit program. Finally, we must attract new businesses to open their doors in Brewster and attract capital investment to redevelop the dilapidated housing stock.

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What are your key principles?

Principal #1: How will my actions and decisions reflect upon my family, my church and as an elected official my town. Principal #2: Openness and Honesty are imperative in having a strong working relationship with the residents of Southeast and has been the guiding force of my campaign for two years. Principal #3: Character of Accountability; getting involved in government was a goal to hold not only myself accountable for my decisions and actions but those who have gotten away with too much for too long. The era of excuses and finger pointing will come to an end on election day September 15th.



What is the most important issue facing Southeast and how will you address it?

The most important issues facing our Town are the culture of crime, illegal hiring and housing, the dilapidated housing stock and the resulting degradation of the Village of Brewster. Revitalizing and redeveloping Brewster is imperative to improving Town morale, increasing property values, maximizing commercial growth and increasing safety across our Town. I will implement a four-step plan that includes consolidating the Village government, crack-