

ELECTION SPECIAL

Candidates for Kent Town Council

In the Kent Town Council race, three candidates are competing in the Republican primary and at least two candidates are competing in the Independence party primary. The Republican primary candidates are John A. Greene, Thomas F. Maxson, and Louis D. Tartaro. The Independence primary candidates are Jeff Green and Edward C. Durkee. Vote for two in each primary.



John A. Greene

AGE: 30
FAMILY: Married with a 3 year old daughter
PARTY: Republican
EDUCATION: Carmel Schools/ Boces
CAREER: Owner and operator of a local construction company. I work part time as a professional sporting guide in Dover Plains N.Y., and as a special effects designer at an apple orchard in Beekman N.Y. Past business experience includes a management position where I managed and trained a 43 person staff with annual sales in excess of 15 million dollars.

problem is this town does a tremendous amount of wasteful spending. The second problem is that we have almost NO commercial revenue. As I have stated in the past I will outwork and out perform ANY other candidate in this race to solve these problems and try to lower taxes.

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

Kent has an enormous amount of land that is forever protected from any development by virtue of the land owned by NYC, the largest property owner in town, along with the various town, county, and state parks. The rights of individual property owners are significantly protected already by existing state laws. We have to recognize that the amount of land that is still available for business development is very small and we have to find a way to encourage good light manufacturing and industrial use of the property

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

Kent is a beautiful town with an unlimited future but only if we make it so. I will become pessimistic if we do not change the direction of the political status quo that now makes the town infamous for being known as the town of can't!

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

The most important issue facing us is the economic crisis and its impact upon our citizenry and our town. More than ever, to control our tax rates, we must be fiscally responsible and vigilant, addressing the town's finances from both a cost and revenue perspective. We must control costs through consolidation of services and sharing services with other governmental entities. We must increase revenue to the town through the expansion of the tax base, focusing on the Route 52 corridor and the need to revitalize our main economic center. We need to balance smart development while maintaining our rural character.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

My key principles are honesty and public participation. Before we can move forward, we must honestly face our problems. The public needs to be engaged by the town board and used as the powerful resource it is, we have very talented people living in Kent, and when they get involved the town will benefit.

The biggest problem that Kent has faced is the board's refusal to be truly honest about our challenges. If we do not realize how badly the town mismanaged Kent Manor (losing millions in tax revenue) we will not be able to learn from our mistakes

To learn more visit: www.johngreene4kent.com

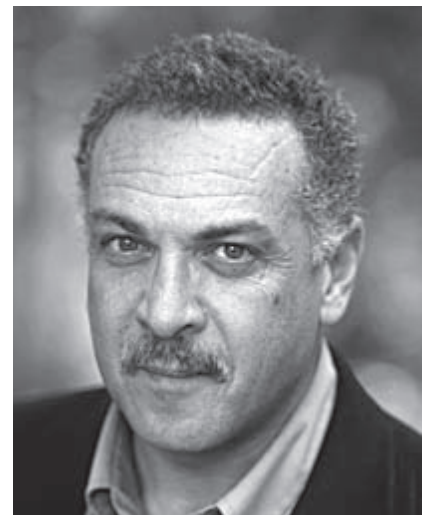
What is the most important issue facing Kent and how will you address it?

There are far too many abandoned retail buildings on Route 52 that have to be attended to so that new business can be brought into town. This is indicative of the biggest problem in Kent, the refusal of the town board to make proactive decisions instead of routinely accepting the status quo.

The Kent Manor debacle is a prime example of the board trying to run from a problem instead of accepting the legal reality and working to make something good come of it. Kent needs a government for the people and not for the politicians. Kent also needs to lead the way and not get dragged into its future.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

Since beginning my campaign I have spoken to literally thousands of people and the general opinion is the same: "Our taxes are too high." I believe that the first



Jeff Green

AGE: 51
PARTY: Endorsed by the New York State Independence Party, Democratic and Working Families
EDUCATION: Graduated East Meadow HS, East Meadow Long Island, NY
CAREER: Currently, a small business owner. Previous employment includes Client/Server Manager at Cr dit Lyonnais and a Corporate Trainer.

We first need to identify our needs as opposed to our wants. It's only then we can make real decisions about how our monies are spent. I am seeking a 5-7% (on average) across the board reduction in spending going forward and at the end of the fiscal year we'll know which departments can do with less and which cannot and make adjustments at that time. In the end, however, regardless of what some might say, in order to reduce taxes we will need to reduce services or combine them with other municipalities.

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

Property rights were defined in 1926 when the Supreme Court determined that zoning is not a taking under the Constitution. The town board sets land use rules and is responsible for balancing the needs of the community vs those of the individual. These are decisions we make as a community and that affect each and every one of us hopefully, equally. More

involvement in the process will effect better land use decisions.

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

It's going to take new leadership and the election of people not connected to the status quo in our town in order for the future to be any different from the past. This coming election will be a test of whether the residents of Kent are desiring of moving forward or if they're happy with the way things are. Their decision at the polls will dictate our future. Personally, I'm feeling that the community wants to move forward.

KEY PRINCIPLES: Perhaps Ray Kroc said best, "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence..." With that comes the responsibility of seeking public office with no more than altruism as the reason and the purpose. Too many people get into politics for the feeling of power. It's they who bring us down.

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

There's a distinct lack of trust in government, most of it well earned. Residents need to understand that they are the government and not those they've elected. One of my aims will be to return trust to the public by forcing open the curtain that often surrounds government making the process more transparent and open. I intend to do more to bring our town together, to build community so that we can work together resolving whatever problems do arise based on consensus as opposed to the partisan bickering that has pervaded local politics for as long as anyone can remember.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

By closely monitoring all aspects of our town government expenditures and insuring that all budgets are detailed, transparent, and reviewed for necessity. In addition, the town must actively pursue approaching all neighboring town-



Edward C. Durkee

AGE: 55
FAMILY INFO: My wife Ellen and I have 2 wonderful children, Lanie who is 9 and Porter who is going to be 7 next month. We live in Lake Carmel, a community that we were very fortunate to find when we moved here from NYC about 7 years ago.
PARTY AFFILIATION: I am registered as a Democrat and am, with Jeff Green, a nominee for Kent Town Council. In the upcoming primary elections I also have the endorsements of the Working Families and Independence Parties.
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: MBA, Advanced Strategy, Innovation and Information Technology, Theseus Institute, France; Masters of Arts and Religion, Yale University Divinity School; Certificate of Management, IBM Management Training Program, New York, NY; Certificate of Teaching, Elementary Art, Suffolk University, Boston, MA; BA, Hampshire College, Philosophy and Fine Arts, Amherst, MA
CAREER: Business Development Consultant-Tennis & Fitness Enterprises. Development Coordinator for Putnam County-AFS International Student Exchange Program; After School Enrichment Art Teacher-Pequenakonck Elementary School -North Salem. Board Member-Lake Carmel Park District Advisory Board; Consultant-AT&T Bell Labs/Consumer Laboratory, Children's Television Workshop/Sesame Street Workshop; Yale University Institute of Sacred Music; V.P., Operations & Technology Integration-Vencast, Inc.; V.P., Strategy Integration-Kantar Interactive; Founder & V.P.-Artfile Inc.; Professor (on-line) Business Strategy-American Military University; Technology Lecturer -Bank Street College of Education, Museum Leadership; Masters Program, Panelist Speaker-American Association of Museums; Lecturer Theseus - Institute, Sophia Antipolis, France; Keynote Speaker-Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum

ships concerning possible consolidation of services. While this will not bring immediate benefits it is crucial for the long term significant savings.

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

Individual property owners are rarely in direct conflict with open space advocates. Rather, those who wish to develop lands are the entities that bring pressure upon communities in ways that can disregard detrimental effects that development often brings to individual property owners. Open Space is one of many interests that a community must balance with its



Thomas F. Maxson

AGE: 53
FAMILY: Wife Robin, married 27 years; children Andrea and Ryan, both graduates of the Carmel School District from K-12; homeowners, taxpayers, and volunteers for the past 21 years
PARTY: Republican, Conservative, Responsible Leadership of Kent, & Independence (endorsed by the local Putnam County Independence Party Executive Committee)
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Arts Degree, SUNY Oneonta (Psychology/Business Economics); Master of Arts Degree, Business Administration, Adelphi University
CAREER: Retired, Verizon Corporation, 30 years experience in Management, Planning, Budgeting, Forecasting, Operations, Marketing, Product Development, Financial Results Tracking & Analysis; Current: Chairman, Highlands Preservation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting historic sites and surrounding open space for hiking, biking and hunting. Authored a book entitled *Mount Nimham: The Ridge of Patriots* to document its history and protect it for hikers, bikers and hunters. Proceeds are being donated to the Daniel Nimham Statue Fund; Volunteer Experience: Kent Master Plan Committee, Kent Recreation Department Master Plan Committee, Kent Conservation Advisory Committee, Kent Historical Society, Kent Rec. Coach, Chief Daniel Nimham Statue Committee, Kentwood Lake Property Owners' Association Former President

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

The most important issue facing us is the economic crisis and its impact upon our citizenry and our town. More than ever, to control our tax rates, we must be fiscally responsible and vigilant, addressing the town's finances from both a cost and revenue perspective. We must control costs through consolidation of services and sharing services with other governmental entities. We must increase revenue to the town through the expansion of the tax base, focusing on the Route 52 corridor and the need to revitalize our main economic center. We need to balance smart development while maintaining our rural character.

How will you be a steward of the taxpayer dollar?

I'm an ardent fiscal conservative, or as my family calls me, a "cheapskate!" But if elected, I'll be a cheapskate for the taxpayers, to make sure every dollar spent was a dollar that absolutely needed to be spent. We need to look at the departmental budgets from the bottom - up, and see where every dollar is going to make sure we're operating at peak efficiency. We also need to ensure that our town taxpayers are not subsidizing other towns, the County, the State, or New York City. Those entities must meet their responsibilities for their properties located within our town.

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

Through our work on the Town's revised Master Plan, we have struck a critical balance between smart development and the preservation of our rural character. Anyone driving down Route 52 sees the abandoned buildings and properties which need to be part of a revitalization process, creating a true downtown area which Kent hasn't seen since the early 1900s. Our plan calls for attracting retailers and professional services into that area, which is our true economic corridor. Meanwhile, we need to promote our great natural and historic resources to enhance the value of those properties, making our town an even more attractive place for people to live in. As we increase our town's value, we'll create more demand for existing housing. And because the revised Master Plan eliminates the possibility of future mega-residential developments, we will help protect and enhance our existing property values by avoiding an oversupply of housing in our town.

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

I'm extremely optimistic about the future of Kent. Our town and its people have a long history of overcoming obstacles like the economic crisis we're currently facing. For example, in the

Louis D. Tartaro

AGE: 61
FAMILY: Married wife Barbara 38 years; Two girls, Christie Tartaro and Terri Ann Barrett; Grandchildren Jack and Emily Barrett
PARTY: Republican, Responsible Leadership of Kent, *Independence (endorsed); *endorsed by the Putnam County Independence Committee and intend to once again appear on the ballot as an Independence candidate via opportunity to ballot.
EDUCATION: BA Iona College History 1969; MS St. John's University Secondary Education 1970
CAREER: Teacher NYC Board of Education 1969-2005 retired; Kent Town Councilman & Deputy Supervisor; 2002-05, 2008-Present; Putnam County Legislator 1988-89; Member of Kent Comprehensive Master Plan Committee 2007-08; Chairman of Kent Recreation Master Plan Committee 2009-Town Board Liaison & Volunteer; Kent Recycling Town Board Liaison & Staff Advisor to the Kent C.A.C.; Board of Directors, Lake Association of Kent (LAKE); Charter Member Plan Kent; Executive Board Member South Lake Residents Association; V.P. Putnam County Federation of Sportsmen; V.P. Kent Rod & Gun Club; Coach Girls Basketball Kent Recreation League

recyclables which saved the Lake Carmel Sanitation district over \$30,000 last year.

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

As chairman of Putnam's Physical Services Committee I facilitated the adoption of Putnam's Open Space Plan. Numerous parcels of environmentally sensitive lands were placed in the Open Space bank including Telegraph Hill - above the Lake Carmel Firehouse and the parcel on Route 52 north of the Kent Town Center. However in the past 10 years the City of New York has purchased thousands of acres which complimented N.Y. State properties already preserved as Open Space. In my opinion - with the exception of select individual parcels - the preservation of Open Space is no longer an issue in Kent.

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

I'm optimistic that we finally have a real opportunity to revitalize the route 52 corridor. The only way to significantly reduce Kent's residential property tax burden is to bring new business, professional

to live in Putnam and Westchester counties. With its unique combination of beauty, relative affordability, and proximity to nearby urban economic centers, Kent's future holds a huge potential where all of these benefits can be sustained and enhanced provided our present course of action points us in the right direction. However, in the short term, Kent faces, like all the rest of our area, a very difficult series of choices as the national economic downturn continues to severely affect our town. As of this week there were over 700 foreclosure or pre-foreclosure

early 1900s, when our primary industry, agriculture, went into an economic depression, the people of Kent recognized that our great natural beauty represented a huge untapped resource. They then created the weekend and vacation lake communities, like Lake Carmel, which helped revitalize our local economy. We must learn from the past and focus on smart development to expand our tax base and promotion of our vast open space and historic resources, such as our proposed Cross-Kent Greenway Heritage Trail Network.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

First and foremost, I'm an ardent fiscal conservative, and I believe in protecting taxpayer resources through vigilant and aggressive control of our town's cost of operations. I believe in smart development to grow our local economy through the revitalization of the Route 52 corridor, where it makes sense to attract retailers and professional services. I believe in protecting our open space and historic resources, for both the enjoyment they provide to our own residents and potential tourists, and because our property values are enhanced when the overall perception of the town is enhanced. Finally, I'm a good listener, and a consensus builder, to resolve our toughest issues.

services, and light industry into the town. The recently developed Master Plan along with the creation of the new Industrial, Office, Commercial (IOC) Zone will serve as a blueprint for Kent's economic future. Additionally through Putnam's Main Street Grant program we are working with businesses to develop niche marketing to improve route 52.

I'm pessimistic that any improvements are still a few years away due to the current fiscal crisis.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

The guiding principle that best defines my career and accomplishments is "service to the best of my ability". The fact that I have been selected to serve as Deputy Supervisor for 6 years is a direct result of the effort I put in behind the scenes. Additionally, my commitment to the environment, first as a volunteer and later as an elected official is well documented. Putnam's Lake Management Fund, the first program to receive state funding for Lake Management along with the geothermal system which currently heats and cools the Kent Town Center were a direct result of my efforts.

listed in area. Our county and thus our town have been doubly hit because of the dependency on sales taxes. If we do not address this issue within the near term we all stand to lose as we struggle to hold down taxes and bring sustainable growth.

KEY PRINCIPLES:
 These are pretty simple. Honesty. Open and transparent Government. Keep an open mind for new solutions and listen to other's ideas. Be a problem solver not a problem maker.

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