

## Abbott announces candidacy for 13th District

City of Lockport Fifth Ward Alderman Richard E. Abbott has announced his candidacy for the 13th Niagara County legislative district seat.

Abbott was first elected as fifth ward alderman in 2016. At that time, the City of Lockport was on the verge of bankruptcy. Under his leadership, the city has returned from near fiscal insolvency to financial stability.

"During my tenure on the City Council, I have made it a priority to reign in government spending and hold the line on taxes," Abbott said.



Abbott

"As a result of responsible budgeting, the city has a healthy surplus. This allowed us to prevent a 2020 property tax increase despite deep cuts from New York state. Responsible budgeting and eliminating wasteful spending are the same values and priorities that I will bring to the Niagara County Legislature." The implementation of shared ser-

vices between various levels of government is a priority that Abbott will bring to the legislature.

"Redundant bureaucracy inevitably leads to higher taxes for city residents," Abbott said. "As a Niagara County legislator, I will implement shared services agreements between the city and county to increase government efficiency and decrease government spending. I will push for consolidated 911 services, which will deliver immediate cost savings to city residents while increasing the effectiveness of emergency services."

During his tenure on the City Council, Abbott has been at the forefront of improving quality of life issues in the city, along with attracting tourists to the area. He coordinated the effort to make the City of Lockport "Tree City USA" and brought the national "Great Race" event to the city in 2018.

"Attracting visitors to the city is of utmost importance so that our business community can capitalize on tourism," Abbott said. "As a Niagara County legislator, I will prioritize and organize community events to drive visitors to our great city."

Abbott has dedicated his professional life to enhancing the quality of life for the elderly and the intellectually disabled, having worked as a senior sanitarian with the Niagara County Department of Health, as well as for the New York State Department of Health, New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities, and as a safety coordinator for People Inc., until his retirement in 2020. Abbott is a lifelong resident of the City of Lockport, where he has raised his children: Heather, Corilyn, Devon and Connor.

## Bodewes running for Niagara County Legislature District 7

Retired carpenter and Wheatfield resident Daryl T. Bodewes is seeking to represent the constituents of District 7 in the Niagara County Legislature, which includes part of Wheatfield and North Tonawanda. Bodewes has been endorsed by the Niagara County Democratic Committee.

Bodewes worked as a union carpenter and council representative for Local 276 and the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters for 35 years. He served on the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (NCIDA) from 2018-20 and was vice president of the Niagara County Building and Construction Trades Council. Bodewes became a carpenter in 1985 and was elected as business representative in 1996. He was responsible for helping his union reach diversity goals by increasing



Bodewes

outreach and access to apprenticeship programs to more people in WNY.

Bodewes has lived in the Town of Wheatfield since 2004 with his wife Michelle. They have two children who both attend school in the Niagara Wheatfield School District.

Bodewes, a registered Democrat, will be pursuing public office for the first time. He said, "I am no career politician, or attempting to start a long career in politics. As a resident and father, I am simply fed up with the incompetence and overall lack of progress I'm seeing. I've worked in

the construction industry; Niagara County gets peanuts when it comes to development. It all goes to Erie County where state legislators have influence in Albany, and the business community perceives things to be less tumultuous and corrupt."

Bodewes said his candidacy would be focused on the practical issues facing residents like creating jobs, safer neighborhoods, and restoring public trust and accountability. He said he believes there are things the County Legislature can do right now that would immediately help. For example, "local labor hiring requirements could be enforced. Too many developers come to the county IDA asking for tax relief and agree to the local labor hiring requirements, but there is never any follow-up. I also believe, if we tied apprentice lan-

guage to county IDA deals, we would require our tax dollars go to projects that are helping train today's youth to be tomorrow's construction workers. Not everyone is cut out for college, and apprenticeship programs offer an alternative to a very good life."

According to Bodewes, one other specific safety issue that has led him to run is the intersection at Ward Road and Niagara Falls Boulevard.

"I have young kids and, like many others, I am very concerned nothing is being done," he said. "New York state has pushed back the start date for reconstruction year after year. They now say 2022, but who knows. This needs to be priority No. 1. As a construction representative, I have political allies that I can ask to push projects like this forward and, if I win, that is exactly what I will do. My

opponent has no such allies and has done nothing to help move the project along beside typical political and divisive rhetoric."

Other issues Bodewes plans to campaign on are: County IDA reform and wage theft. He said too many contractors are not playing by the rules in the construction industry. Bodewes said contractors do not pay the prevailing wages and some exploit illegal workers, pay cash and do not pay overtime as required by state law.

"This needs to stop today," he said and pointed to the Open Government ratings that placed the current Niagara County Legislature among the worst of all county legislatures in the state. "Things need to change, and we need to enforce the laws on the books so that all contractors and workers have a fair shot."

## Caldwell launches bid for 15th District County Legislature seat

Derek Caldwell, a former aide to two state senators who now works in the aerospace and defense industries, announced he is seeking to represent Royalton, Hartland and Rapids in the Niagara County Legislature.

Caldwell, who has met with several top elected officials and Republican committee members in the towns of Royalton and Hartland, the Village of Middleport and the hamlet of Gasport over the past several weeks, said he believes the district needs "strong, independent and engaged representation" in county government.

"The values of Royalton and Hartland, the values of voters in Middleport and Gasport and Rapids – the great communities that make up the 15th District – are not being communicated on the floor of the County Legislature," Caldwell charged as he announced his bid.

He said, "In any organization, hiring one bad apple is a mistake. This is a pattern of either incompetence or disregard for the taxpayers footing the bill for a county government run by people hostile to their values. I'm running because enough is enough."

Caldwell called Niagara County government's personnel actions "sickening."

"I'm running because it's time that competent people start hiring other competent people to run our government," he said.

Caldwell, who worked for both State Sens. George Maziarz and Robert Ortt, said he hoped he could put that experience to work for county taxpayers, but believed his private sector experience was far more valuable.

"I've been working in the aerospace and defense industries, helping fabricate key components for space systems right here in Western New York," Caldwell said. "Aerospace is becoming a critical economic sector in the Buffalo-Niagara



Caldwell

Region, yet I never hear our county lawmakers outline a plan to bring high-tech jobs to Niagara County. The only jobs they seem focused on creating are new patronage jobs for questionable-but-connected people."

Caldwell said much of county government economic development efforts have been focused on giving tax breaks to Niagara Falls businesses.

"Niagara County is bigger than the City of Niagara Falls," he said. "I will

fight to ensure that the county government gives the same economic incentives to our communities in the east that they have given so willingly in the western end of the county."

Caldwell is engaged in the Royalton-Hartland-Middleport community, and is an ordained minister. A lifetime member of both the NRA and Gun Owners of America, Caldwell said one of his top priorities in county government will be ensuring the county's Pistol Permit Office and Sheriff's Office have adequate resources and personnel to quickly process permit applications and amendments.

"I applaud the responsible individuals who decide to protect their families, their homes, and their bodies," Caldwell said. "Government needs to spend their tax dollars to ensure their

needs are met, rather than hiring more political hacks."

Caldwell is seeking the Republican and Conservative lines on the November ballot. He previously served on the Royalton Republican Committee and was the former regional vice chair for the New York State Young Republicans. He was a guest at both the 2016 Republican National

Convention and President Donald Trump's 2017 inauguration.

"I'm going to hit the campaign trail, and every day I'm going to stand up for Middleport's middle-America values," Caldwell said. "It's time we brought them back to county government."

### STREAMING LIVE AT WXRL.COM



### "CLASSIC COUNTRY"

### 2021 RAMBLIN' LOU TOURS

- April 26-28 - Amish-Lancaster, PA - Queen Esther
- May 11-17 - Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry
- June 3-12 - **NEW** - Black Hills, SD - Mt. Rushmore - Notre Dame
- June 18 - **NEW** - Lucy Tour - Nat. Comedy Ctr/Museum/Lunch
- June 21-25 - **NEW** - Cape Cod/Martha's Vineyard
- July 6-9 - Frankenmuth/Mackinac Island/Casino
- July 12 - **NEW** - Dolly/Patsy/Loretta - Walters Ranch/lunch
- July 14 - Grand River Luncheon Cruise/Blaz. Fiddles
- July 21 - **NEW** - Presley/Perkins/Cash/Lewis - Walters Ranch/Lunch
- Aug. 2 - **NEW** - History of Country Music Show - Walters Ranch/Lunch
- Aug. 31 & Sept. 1 - **NEW** - Finger Lakes/Skaneateles/Belhurst Castle
- Sept. 8-12 - **NEW** - Montreal & Quebec City
- Sept. 14-16 - Ohio Amish/2 shows/Antiquing/Flea Mkt
- Sept. 28-Oct. 4 - Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry
- Oct. 14-23 - WXRL HAWAII CRUISE
- Nov. 8-10 - Amish Holiday-Lancaster, PA - "Queen Esther" & Christmas Show
- Nov. 14 - 21 - **NEW** - Caribbean Cruise
- Nov. 26-30 - Nashville Country Christmas - Opryland Hotel/Grand Ole Opry

For a FREE brochure, call (716) 681-1313 Mon-Fri: 10am-4pm

**WEBR AM 1440**

LISTEN AND WIN

**\$1,000 A Day Giveaway**

**WebrRadio.com**



This page is sponsored by

**Modern Disposal Services, Inc.**

**4746 Model City Road, Model City, NY - 754-8226**