

# Queens Tribune

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## Pick Your Party

### To The Editor:

The Conservative Party of New York State is trying to hijack the Democratic Party in Northeast Queens. Recently three of my opponents in the race to succeed Councilman Tony Avella interviewed with the Conservative Party seeking that party's endorsement. The Conservative Party's ideology and values are contrary to the values of the Democratic Party. Yet two so-called Democrats in the District 19 race, Jerry Iannece and registered lobbyist Paul Vallone, recently attended

a Conservative Party Dinner and are said to be still pushing for that party's endorsement. As a true Democrat who believes in the progressive ideals and values of the Democratic Party, I believe there is no place in our party for the failed ideology and values of George W. Bush and Rush Limbaugh in my Democratic Party.

After eight years of the failed presidency of George W. Bush, our nation and the residents of District 19 soundly rejected the conservative ideology of George W. Bush and the Conservative Party. We said no to tax cuts for the rich, we said no to loosening regulations and allowing businesses such as Wall Street banks to regulate themselves, we said no to preemptive wars, we said no to torture, we said no to putting up barriers to women exercising their right to choose, we said no to subsidizing private schools at the expense of the students that attend public schools, we said no to the death penalty, we said no to arming our streets like the Wild West, we said no to anti-gay legislation and we said no to restrictions on stem cell research that may someday lead to discoveries that cure diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's Disease.

The Republican Party has chosen Dan Halloran as their candidate in the upcoming November 19 City Council general election. While I disagree with Dan on many issues, I respect the fact that he is forthright about his conservative philosophy. Unlike Iannece and Vallone, he is who he says he is. If Iannece and Vallone do not believe in the values of the Democratic Party they should not run as Democrats. Indeed, if Iannece or Vallone run on the Democratic and Conservative Party lines they will rob the voters of a choice and a debate between progressive or conservative ideologies. As a true progressive Democrat, I look forward to carrying the torch of Democratic Party and working towards making the middle class larger and stronger in our district and in our city.

**Steve Behar,  
Bayside**