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## Sierra Club endorses Assembly hopefuls

### Skartados, Cahill, Smith, Molinaro get thumbs-up

OCTOBER 23, 2008

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The Sierra Club has endorsed four candidates for the New York State Assembly in the mid-Hudson region.



The Sierra Club, founded in 1892, is the nation's oldest and largest environmental organization, with approximately 45,000 members in New York.

100th Assembly District: Milton farmer Frank Skartados, Democrat, was endorsed for his strong positions on renewable energy, local and organic farming, public transportation and sensitive land use planning, which protects open space and water resources and maintains the character of our local towns. Skartados has had a varied career as a farmer, an environmental studies teacher and owner of the Aegean Entertainment Complex in Poughkeepsie, where he has been heavily involved in rebuilding the downtown area.

101st Assembly District: Democratic incumbent Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, for his highly regarded leadership as chairman of the Assembly Committee on Energy, where he championed legislation to build a more sustainable energy future for New York, including net metering reforms, green-building initiatives, and energy-efficient building codes. He has been named "Legislator of the Year" by EPL/Environmental Advocates, which publishes the annual environmental voters' guide, on which Cahill has received perfect scores.

102nd Assembly District: Jonathan B. Smith, Democrat, is a community activist who is regarded for his work as chairman of the Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee and a founder of the group Stop the Sprawl. In addition to his work in land use planning, he is a major supporter of initiatives for investment in renewable energy, recycling and public transportation. Smith has also been endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters.

103rd Assembly District: Republican incumbent Marc Molinaro has a strong record of support for environmentally sound legislation. As a former mayor of Tivoli and a Dutchess County legislator, the assemblyman is widely recognized for his initiatives in land use planning to preserve farmlands, open space, wetlands and water resources. He is also a strong supporter of renewable energy initiatives. Molinaro has also been endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters.

"We are delighted to be able to endorse candidates with such excellent environmental credentials. Given the numerous threats facing our land and water resources, plus the growing effects of climate change, it is vital that we elect representatives who will guide us towards a future of sustainable energy and give top priority to protecting our natural resources," said Bibi Sandstrom, chairperson of the Mid-Hudson Group, Sierra Club.

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hydeparkny wrote:

Replying to Raffaela:



*Non profits do this all the time.... do you read, sir????*

And if groups want to tell their members about its preferred candidates or candidates want to tout those endorsements in their campaign material, that's fine. Endorsements are not news. Did I say that I disagree with Sierra Club ? You ASSume. Does "following the rules" make them special ? I was disputing SierraMarie's attempt to distinguish SC from SCF and I found FACTS to support my point. I don't like some of the people SC endorsed. Smith is a complete phony. I think it's hilarious that an environmental group endorses an incumbent weathervane Republican over a member of the Green Party in Red Hook. I don't know who are these "others" you imply aren't following rules. That's a silly argument anyway, as if by default I must be a supporter those rule breaking groups and that I'm somehow responsible for their improper behavior. Go away.

10/24/2008 2:05:08 PM

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Raffaela wrote:

Well, well, HP....when those you disagree with follow the rules, you have a beef. How 'bout all those others who ARE tax exempt???? Non profits do this all the time.... do you read, sir????

10/24/2008 10:54:51 AM

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hydeparkny wrote:

Give me a break. I love how progressives complain about entities they revile exploiting "loopholes" , creative use of LLCs and subsidiaries in their organizations, and interlocking directorships. The pot calling the kettle black. Current SC BOD members Fahn, Renstrom, Cox are former Trustees of SCF. SC President Chin sits on SCF board. SCF uses its tax exempt status to support SC. Nice.

From <http://www.sierraclubfoundation.org/foundation/inside/background.asp>  
The Sierra Club is the vehicle through which The Sierra Club Foundation generally fulfills its charitable mission."

The Foundation offers its services in receiving, administering, and disbursing funds for tax-exempt charitable, scientific, literary, and educational purposes both to the Sierra Club and to other . . .

While The Foundation is autonomous and is governed by its own Board of Trustees, it works closely with the Sierra Club in pursuing its program and goals.

10/23/2008 2:03:00 PM

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SierraMarie wrote:

The Sierra Club is a non-profit organization, but it is NOT tax-exempt. It's been endorsing candidates for many years. The Sierra Club Foundation IS tax-exempt, but its activities are quite restricted.

Believe me, the local group worked very hard to research these candidates' environmental platforms.

SierraMarie

10/23/2008 12:14:42 PM

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hydeparkny wrote:

A non-profit organization endorsing candidates for partisan political office. Isn't that precious ?

Like Stop the Sprawl, the non-partisan grassroots community organization that in 2005 endorsed the entire Democratic party slate for Hyde Park town board. Non-partisan. Yeah, right.

10/23/2008 9:16:15 AM

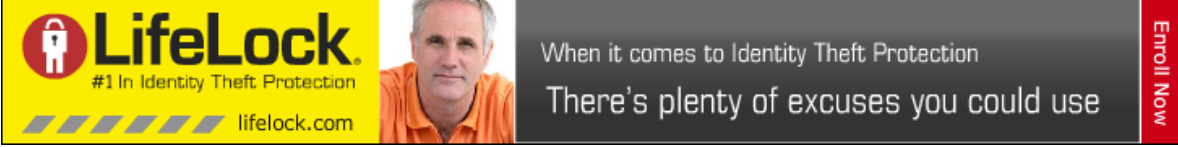
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