

News

More names surface as possible candidates for vacant House seat

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By Freeman staff
and Mid-Hudson News Network

GREENPORT — Kirsten Gillibrand's appointment to the U.S. Senate hasn't even taken effect yet, but the list of people who may be interested in filling her seat in New York's 20th Congressional District is growing quickly.

The latest names to be added: Dutchess County Legislator **Joel Tyner**, a Democrat; Democrat **Carol A. Schrager** of Hunter, a lawyer; and independent **Michael S. Pollok** of Red Hook, also a lawyer.

Tyner, who lives in Clinton, said a number of people contacted him on Friday urging him to throw his hat in the ring, "so I am."

"It won't be easy, but we can do this," Tyner said.

Gillibrand, a Columbia County Democrat who just began her second term in the House, was appointed on Friday by New York Gov. David Paterson to fill the state's vacant seat in the U.S. Senate. The seat became available when Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton resigned to become President Barack Obama's secretary of state.

Schrager, in a prepared statement, said the 20th Congressional District — which stretches from Northern Dutchess to the Adirondacks and includes all of Greene and Columbia counties — "needs and deserves a powerful voice in Washington ... who will fight for our working families and small businesses to create jobs, to develop our economy and to provide a better future for our children."

Schrager is a graduate of Hunter-Tannersville High School, received her law degree from Harvard and founded her own law firm 25 years ago.

Pollock, who lives and practices law in Red Hook, said in a prepared statement on Saturday, that he will run as an independent "on a political platform to keep families in their homes and create jobs."

State Assemblyman Marc Molinaro, R-Tivoli, said he, like Tyner, was approached by people who want him to run, "but I am really enjoying serving the people of this (103rd Assembly) district and really am focused on trying to cut taxes and reduce the cost of living" for local residents and those across the state.

Several potential successors to Gillibrand were identified on Friday.

Among the Democrats who may run for the seat are **Larry Bulman**, the Saratoga County Democratic chairman; **Mike Richter**, a former goalie for the New York Rangers hockey team; **Benita Zahn**, a news anchor and reporter at WNYT-TV 13 in Albany; **Valerie Keehn**, the mayor of Saratoga Springs; and **Joanne Yepsen**, a Saratoga County Board of Supervisors member from Saratoga Springs.

On the Republican side, names that were mentioned on Friday included **Alexander "Sandy" Treadwell**, a former New York GOP chairman and secretary of state who lost to Gillibrand in the November 2008 election; **James Tedisco**, the state Assembly minority leader; state Sen. **Betty Little** of Queensbury; **John Faso** of Columbia County, a former state Assembly minority leader and the 2006 GOP candidate for governor; and **Richard C. Wager** of Dutchess County, a former aide to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

State Assemblyman **Tim Gordon**, and independent from Bethlehem, also is interested in the seat, according to a published report.

A date for the special election to fill the 20th Congressional District seat has not been set, but it is expected to be within about two months.

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