

A STORY TO READ AND EDUCATE

Town of Islip Town Supervisor Race

Candidates:

Kenneth A. Colon: Democrat, Working Families

Angie M. Carpenter: Republican, **Conservative**

Town of Islip Town Clerk Race

Candidates:

Sarah M. Smith: Democratic

***Linda D. Vavricka: Republican, Conservative**

***Employment History**

- [State Sen. Alexis Weik \(R-NY\)](#) (Feb. 2022-) *Events Coordinator*
- [State Sen. Alexis Weik \(R-NY\)](#) (Feb. 2021-Feb. 2022) *Legislative Aide*
- [State Sen. Phil Boyle \(R-NY\)](#) (March 2020-Aug. 2020) *Administrative Assistant*
- [State Sen. Phil Boyle \(R-NY\)](#) (-Jan. 2020) *Administrative Assistant*

Town of Islip Receiver of Taxes Race

Candidates:

Laura M. Fablo: Democratic

Andy Wittman: Republican, **Conservative**

Town of Islip Town Council

Candidates: Third District

Christine Pellegrino: Democrat, Working Families

Michael J. McElwee Jr.: Republican, Working Families. (Lost his bar in Bay Shore for not paying taxes--- LILY FLANNAGINS). He is son in law to former Tom Barraga of West Islip.

Fourth District

Thomas E. Murray III: Democrat, Working Families
John M. Lorenzo: Republican, Conservative

John M. Lorenzo: Republican, Conservative-- **C - Member of State Committee, 2nd CD (Conservative Party) (Elect 12)**

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Lorenzo, John M	Conservative	393	■ 6.06%

**CONSERVATIVES BACK WHOM EVER
PROMISED A JOB AND POWER**

**Member of County Committee, Babylon ED# 61
(Conservative Party) (Elect 2)**

1 Election Districts  100.00%
2 Votes cast out of 18  11.11%

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Gargiulo, Jeanne	Conservative	2	■ 100.00%

**Member of County Committee, Babylon ED# 111
(Conservative Party) (Elect 2)**

1 Election Districts  100.00%
16 Votes cast out of 50  32.00%

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Gargiulo, Andrew T	Conservative	8	■ 50.00%

Member of County Committee, Brookhaven ED# 32 (Conservative Party) (Elect 2)

1 Election Districts

 100.00
%

10 Votes cast out of 38

 26.32%

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Torres, Michael E	Conservative	4	 40.00%

Michael Torres, the new chairman of the Suffolk County Conservative Party, is no stranger to political power .

Nov 6, 2014 — Prosecutors say **Michael Torres**, 41, had been convicted twice of misdemeanor charges, including a gambling arrest and a driving while ability ...

Judge Howard Heckman was cross-endorsed by the political parties.

Islip Conservative Party leader **Michael Torres** surrendered to the Suffolk County DA's office on a felony charge of concealing his criminal history

HOWARD HECKMAN – SUPREME COURT JUDGE – FATHER OF BETSY HECKMAN – **FATHER-IN-LAW OF MICHAEL TORRES CONSERVATIVE PARTY OFFICER** WHO WAS FIRED FROM HIS JOB ON THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ARRESTED AND CONVICTED OF FALSIFYING AN APPLICATION FOR A JOB IN THE TOWN OF ISLIP AND THEN- CLAIMS HE DID NOT KNOW THAT HE WAS CONVICTED? HIS WIFE BETSY HECKMAN IS A LAW CLERK TO CONSERVATIVE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JOHN COLLINS – MICHAEL TORRES WIFE IS A LAWYER AND HIS FATHER-IN-LAW IS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE HOWARD HECKMAN WHO RECEIVED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY MANY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER MICHAEL TORRES. HOW IS IT THAT MICHAEL TORRES DID NOT KNOW HE WAS CONVICTED?

Conservative leader Mike Torres, entangled in Islip dumping scandal, holds six-figure Suffolk job despite convictions

By SARAH ARMAGHAN AND SARAH

CRICHTON sarah.armaghan@newsday.com, sarah.crichton@newsday.com September 28, 2014

Islip's Conservative Party leader, entangled in the town's dumping scandal, has a gambling conviction that prevented him from being hired at the county sheriff's department, but not from getting a six-figure position at the Suffolk Board of Elections.


**Member of County Committee, Brookhaven ED# 62
(Conservative Party) (Elect 2)**

1 Election Districts  100.00%
0 Votes cast out of 56  0.00%

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Burke, James M	Conservative	0	0%
Burke, Maureen A	Conservative	0	0%

**C - Alt. Delegates to the 10th JD Convention, 6th AD
(Conservative Party) (Elect 1)**

64 Election Districts  100.00%
34 Votes cast out of 576  5.90%

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Wiggins, Anne	Conservative	19	 55.88%


There is an Ed Wiggins on a board for Islip Town

C - Alt. Delegates to the 10th JD Convention, 7th AD (Conservative Party) (Elect 3)

102 Election Districts

 100.00%

1,024 Votes cast out of 7,374

 13.89%

Candidate	Party	Votes	Share
Walsh, Patricia A	Conservative	251	 24.51%
Lorenzo, John M	Conservative	246	 24.02%
Duffy, Regina V	Conservative	240	 23.44%

Walsh, Patricia A -Islip deputy clerk, Ed Walsh's aunt

Lorenzo, John M- works for conservatives, running for Town Council

Duffy, Regina V- former Islip Town Clerk

CAMPAIGN FILER FOR CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Filer Overview

Filer ID	C02465
Filer Name	SUFFOLK COUNTY CONSERVATIVE CHAIRMANS CLUB H.K.
Treasurer Name	JOHN LORENZO
Street Address	176 Lorraine Circle West Sayville NY 11796
Filer Type	COMMITTEE
Status	ACTIVE
Committee Type	3H - CONSTITUTED COUNTY HOUSE KEEPING



SUFFOLK COUNTY CONSERVATIVE CHAIRMANS
CLUB H.K.

JOHN LORENZO

address: 176 Lorraine Circle,
West Sayville, NY 11796

SUFFOLK COUNTY CONSERVATIVE CHAIRMANS CLUB H.K. (Filer# C02465)
is a campaign finance filer registered with [New York State Board of Elections](#).

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**CONSERVATIVES BACK WHOM EVER
PROMISED A JOB AND POWER**

EDWARD WALSH

Republicans believe they can't win without the Conservative line,

BRUSHES THE LAW

Suffolk Conservative boss wields influence despite past troubles

Edward Walsh, the Conservative Party's Suffolk County chairman and a county correction lieutenant, has risen to positions of power and influence despite incidents that could have derailed his career.

Civil service and sheriff's records from Walsh's background check show in 1988 [he tested positive](#) for the barbiturate phenobarbital in a failed bid to work for the NYPD and was arrested in 1984 as a University of Maryland student and sentenced to 12 months' probation for a misdemeanor sex offense. Walsh did not disclose the Maryland arrest on his application, as is required.

Walsh was arrested again on a felony criminal mischief charge in 1989, less than a year before he applied to work for the sheriff's office. He ultimately pleaded guilty to a violation, according to the documents.

Two years ago, Suffolk County law enforcement officials raided a Medford business and [discovered illegal gambling](#), drugs and more than two dozen people, including Walsh. Although he was not among those arrested, Walsh's presence amid illegal activity sparked an investigation, the results of which have never been made public.

Now, Walsh, 48, is among the targets of a sheriff's investigation into whether correction department employees stole wages by padding their salaries with hours they never worked.

Edward Walsh's political machine influences judge picks

Suffolk Conservative Party chairman Edward Walsh leaves federal court in Central Islip, March 25, 2015. Credit: James Carbone

By **Sandra Peddie**Sandra.Peddie@newsday.com[@SandraPeddie](#) March 12, 2016

When 10 newly elected Suffolk judges were sworn in during a ceremony in January, there was just one man they all thanked — Conservative Party chairman Edward Walsh.

Conservative Party leader who is under a cloud speaks to the power of the political machine Walsh has built. New York's state election laws empower minor parties, which can make the critical difference in an election. Walsh leverages his control of the Conservative Party to secure patronage jobs and political contributions, and he makes no apologies for it.

"If people think I'm rough, I'm a bully because I'm fighting for my people, I'll get over it," Walsh said in a recent interview.

In 2004, New York City Civil Court judge Margarita Lopez Torres filed a lawsuit alleging that party leaders didn't renominate her because she refused to make patronage hires. She argued that her First Amendment rights were violated because the system denied her a realistic opportunity to participate in the party's nominating process.

Nonetheless, judges' family members often contribute to the Conservative Party.

Records show that Family Court Judge Bernard Cheng, a Conservative from Bayport who was elected in 2010, has contributed just \$155 to the Conservative Party since 2011. But his 80-year-old mother, Fun Y, a registered Conservative, has contributed \$17,153 to Conservatives since January 2011. She did not respond to a call for comment.

Supreme Court Justice Joseph Pastoressa, a Conservative from St. James, has made no contributions to his party. However, his wife, Marianne, has contributed at least \$3,335 to the Conservative Party and candidates since March 2011. She did not respond to a call for comment.

Contributions to the Conservative Party don't just come from Conservatives. Republicans and Democrats also give generously to the party.

(This vote was fixed from day one at the Board of Elections-FACT)

Democrat **Ukeiley** has contributed at least \$2,300 to the Conservative Party since 2011. Scully, his opponent, did give to individual Conservative candidates, but not the party.

Acting County Court Judge Jennifer Henry is a Republican, but she has donated more to Conservatives than to her own party. Since 2012, she has given at least \$4,100 to the Conservative Party, compared with \$2,500 to the Republican Party.

The judges all declined requests for comment.

Campaign contributions are not the only area where Walsh has succeeded as a party leader. Records show that he has been adept at getting Conservatives jobs in the Suffolk courts.

In Suffolk, 14 of 76 judges — or about 18 percent — are Conservatives. By comparison, just six of 88 judges — just about 7 percent — on the bench in Nassau are Conservatives.

Once elected, judges have few jobs to offer, but there is one plum — the job of law clerk — that is critically important to the judge and highly prized by lawyers. The law clerk does legal research, helps write decisions and deals with procedural matters. Many law clerks have gone on to become judges themselves.

Court directories and voter registration rolls show that at least 10 of 50 appointed law clerks in Suffolk — or 20 percent — are Conservatives. At least nine of those clerks are also Conservative committeemen. As lawyers, they are available to notarize petitions and advise on legal matters — an important asset for any political party.

“They’ll help party build,” Walsh said. “If there’s legal stuff going, they help volunteer.”

By comparison in Nassau, two of 61 appointed law clerks — or just 3 percent — are enrolled Conservatives. None appear to be committeemen.

Roger Bogsted, who was chairman of the Nassau Conservative Party for 10 years, said he never insisted on judges hiring party members as law clerks.

“If they’re comfortable with their law clerk, that’s fine,” he said. “I think it’s more important to have an individual, whether it be a law clerk or a secretary, that is answerable directly to the judge and not a political leader.”

Although it is not unusual for newly elected judges to thank the political leaders who helped get them to the bench, those political leaders are not usually facing federal charges of wire fraud and theft of government

funds. Prosecutors allege that Walsh, 50, collected more than \$80,000 by falsely claiming he was working at his job at the Suffolk County jail, when he actually was golfing, gambling or engaged in political activities. His trial is scheduled to begin Tuesday.

PRESS RELEASE

Ex-Suffolk County Conservative Party Chairman Edward Walsh, Jr., Sentenced To 24 Months For Fraud Scheme



Tuesday, June 20, 2017

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York

**Walsh Falsely Claimed to Work Hours for the Suffolk Co. Sheriff's
Office When He Was Playing Golf, Visiting Casinos, or Working
on Behalf of the Conservative Party**

Edward Walsh's brother helped bank get millions in Suffolk deposits, records show

February 2, 2015 By DAVID M. SCHWARTZ david.schwartz@newsday.com



Patrick Walsh, 40, leaves Federal Court in Central Islip after his brother, Edward Walsh, not pictured, was arraigned on charges of theft of government services on Jan. 7, 2015.

(Credit: James Carbone)

Suffolk County government agencies deposited tens of millions of dollars with a New York City bank after it hired the brother of Suffolk Conservative Party chairman Edward Walsh as a consultant, county and bank records show.

Signature Bank held no county deposits as of the end of 2007, county records show. In February 2008, the bank hired Patrick Walsh, a former candidate for Suffolk County Legislature. In May, after a request by **(NOW ISLIP SUPERVISOR)** County Treasurer Angie Carpenter, the county legislature added the bank to a list of banks county agencies could use.

By December 2010 -- the month Patrick Walsh left Signature -- the Suffolk County treasurer had \$72 million on deposit with the bank, according to bank statements Newsday obtained from Suffolk County under the Freedom of Information Law.

The county clerk's office opened an account with Signature in March 2009, and by April 30 had \$10.17 million on deposit. The clerk had average monthly balances with Signature of between \$9.2 million and \$15 million between June 2009 and the end of 2010.

Some former Suffolk officials say the process of selecting banks can involve political favoritism of the sort that goes into filling some county jobs -- and that political connections can trump the best deal for taxpayers in terms of fees and interest rates.

Carpenter said she did not know that Patrick Walsh was connected to Signature and that he played no role in securing deposits from her office.

County Clerk Judith Pascale, who has been in office since 2006, said she was unaware of any connection between Signature and Patrick Walsh and that her office made decisions about where to deposit money based on the best deal for the county.

However, Steven Krauser, a former Signature Bank vice president who was Patrick Walsh's supervisor, said Walsh helped establish contact with Pascale's office. He said Patrick Walsh called James Malone -- then the Southampton Town Conservative chairman, whom Pascale had hired as her deputy in February 2008 -- and Malone set up a meeting between bank representatives and the office.

"From my perspective, the deal was fine," said Krauser, who left the bank in 2012 and works for a Queens credit union. Walsh "said he would be able to open up this door, that door, and he did." Krauser said Walsh was paid according to a formula based on the size of the deposits he secured. Walsh declined to say how he was paid.

'I made contacts on my own'

Patrick Walsh, 40, of Colchester, Connecticut, said in an interview that he helped bring in deposits for Signature Bank. His LinkedIn profile lists him as a senior consultant to the bank from February 2008 to December 2010 and says he "secured over 15 million in additional monthly deposits" for Signature.

Asked whether his brother's connections had helped him, Patrick Walsh said: "No. I don't believe so. I had connections -- I grew up on Long Island. I had connections of my own."

Walsh said he has been in sales for 20 years. "I made contacts on my own," he said. "It's me being the salesman. My brother had

nothing to do with it."

Asked about the deposits by specific Suffolk agencies, Patrick Walsh said, "I'm going to say no comment to everything else because I don't know what else I can say."

Edward Walsh, the Conservative Party chairman, was arrested Jan. 7 by federal agents and charged with collecting more than \$80,000 for working at the Suffolk County jail when he was golfing, gambling and engaged in political activities, according to the complaint. He has pleaded not guilty.

County Sheriff Vincent DeMarco, a Conservative Party member, is seeking to fire Edward Walsh from his job as a sheriff's lieutenant after investigating him for allegedly charging the county for time he didn't work. Walsh is fighting his termination.

DeMarco recalled speaking by phone with Patrick Walsh in 2009 after Walsh had reached out to him in a bid to get jail accounts for the bank.

DeMarco said he previously had ignored numerous phone calls from Patrick Walsh because they came from a number he didn't recognize. When he didn't return the calls, Edward Walsh asked DeMarco to call back his younger brother, DeMarco said.

DeMarco said he ultimately chose not to open accounts with Signature based on his staff's recommendations. The bank had no local branches where the sheriff's office could conveniently make deposits.

Also, "politically, the optics would've been horrible," DeMarco said. "The Conservative Party chair works for the sheriff's office, and the Conservative chair's brother works at the bank."

William Wexler, Edward Walsh's attorney, said his client had nothing to do with his brother's activities with Signature Bank. "His brother did what he did for the bank, and that was his job," Wexler said. He said he was unaware that Edward Walsh made calls to DeMarco about calling back his brother.

County selection process

Newsday requested bank account records from the four countywide elected officials who control significant deposits through their offices: the treasurer, clerk, sheriff and district attorney. According to the records, the sheriff's office has not made deposits with Signature Bank. The district attorney's office said it did not have records for past years but that none of its accounts are with Signature.

Under the current system in Suffolk, banks appeal to the treasurer's office to get on a list of financial institutions approved to accept county deposits. Every January, the treasurer submits a revised list to the county legislature, which typically approves it without debate. It is up to officials in the individual county agencies to determine where they will get the best deal on interest rates and fees. The county treasurer approves those requests. Carpenter said she insists at the least that the accounts don't charge fees to the county. She added, "I want to make sure there's at least some modicum of interest" paid to Suffolk.

Nassau County also uses a list of banks approved for deposits by its county legislature. Nassau Treasurer Beaumont Jefferson said his office must approve all accounts.

The Suffolk treasurer, the largest holder of county money, has more than 114 bank accounts with 11 banks. The money comes from sales tax, property tax, various county fees and bonds the county sells to raise money for construction projects.

Additionally, other county agencies and elected officials, such as the district attorney, sheriff, clerk and parks department, can choose banks from the approved list. There are 19 bank depositories on the list. By law, no bank can hold more than \$750 million in county money at any time.

The largest county accounts are with national banks. At the end of December, for instance, the Suffolk treasurer's office, which controls the bulk of the county's cash, had \$440 million with Capital One and \$243 million with JPMorgan Chase, according to the most recent figures available.

Smaller institutions such as Signature also hold tens of millions of dollars. Some of them have ties to political figures or former elected officials from Suffolk.

Former Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato has been a member of Signature's board of directors since July 2005. D'Amato did not respond to a request for comment. Former Democratic Lt. Gov. Alfred B. DelBello has been a bank director since January 2003.

Gold Coast Bank, of Islandia, added to the list of approved banks on the same day as Signature in May 2008, is privately held. Its chairman is John Tsunis, of Poquott, an attorney, real estate developer and hotel manager. His cousin George Tsunis, of Cold Spring Harbor, was nominated by President Barack Obama as ambassador to Norway, but the nomination was

dropped after his performance in his confirmation hearing last February.

Empire National Bank, of Islandia, was added to the approved list in August 2008 at Carpenter's request. Paul Tonna, a former Republican presiding officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, is on Empire's board of directors, though the treasurer's office had no deposits with the bank at the end of 2014.

Carpenter's office had \$33.4 million on deposit with Signature at the end of December, including money for capital projects and from the mortgage tax and the water protection fund.

Sealing the Signature deal

The treasurer began using Signature after the county legislature in May 2008 approved Carpenter's request to add the bank and Gold Coast to the approved county list. The legislative resolution,

which said Signature and Gold Coast had approached Carpenter, said that by using the banks, "Suffolk may take advantage of competitive interest rates in order to achieve the maximum interest earning for our public funds."

Carpenter, an Islip Republican who has run with Conservative Party support, said she had no idea the Walsh family had a connection with Signature Bank. "It's a shock, I had no clue," said Carpenter, who was appointed Thursday as Islip supervisor.

She said a Signature bank representative, Michael Doti, with whom she served on a Salvation Army committee for a golf fundraiser, asked her about getting the bank on the approved county list. A bank team followed up with a formal pitch, although Patrick Walsh was not involved in the effort, Krauser said.

Doti said he also didn't know Edward Walsh or Patrick Walsh and declined to comment further. Doti contributed \$835 to Carpenter's campaign account between July 2009 and July 2011, according to state Board of Election records.

Deputy Suffolk Clerk Chris Como said Malone, the deputy clerk, was part of a small team in the clerk's office that decided to approve the Signature account.

"It was a management decision," Como said.

Krauser said Patrick Walsh had set up a meeting between representatives of Signature Bank and the county clerk's office in early 2009. "He basically made an introduction," Krauser said of Walsh. "He called a friend of his, and we met."

The friend was Malone, Krauser said. At the time, Malone was a senior deputy county clerk overseeing the accounting department, which had day-to-day interactions with the bank.

Malone, who did not return calls for comment, left the clerk's office in January 2014, the same month his term on the Southampton Town Council ended. Malone served as town Conservative chairman from 2008 to 2014. He works as a law clerk to State Supreme Court Justice William Condon, a Conservative Party member.

Signature spokeswoman Susan Lewis confirmed that Walsh was a consultant to the bank. She said Signature could not comment on specific client relationships or employees.

Signature, which was established in May 2001 and headquartered in Manhattan, held \$22.6 billion in deposits in the fourth quarter of 2014, according to the bank. Lewis said that unlike other institutions, Signature does not advertise for depositors and relies on "teams" of employees and consultants to secure deposits.

"It's just relationship-based banking," Lewis said. "Serving municipalities . . . [is] a standard component of the bank's business and client mix."

Debate on bank choices

Paul Sabatino, a former chief deputy county executive and legislative legal counsel, said that after the financial crisis of 2008, the county should stick with larger banks.

"If anything, there's more reason to be sticking with larger banks, not looking for no-name banks," he said. "The designation of banks to hold taxpayer dollars shouldn't revolve around personalities."

Besides DiNapoli, former Suffolk Comptroller Joseph Sawicki last year recommended that the county go out to bid for its largest bank accounts to try to secure the best interest rates.

Carpenter and Como defended not issuing formal requests for proposals for its bank accounts, saying it allows them to move money around more nimbly.

"We shop for banking on an almost continuous basis," Como said.

"But we're not that attractive a customer" he said, "because the level of the account fluctuates so much and often involves multiple transactions."

Como defended Signature's service to the county clerk's office.

"Since we came on with Signature, we've had an excellent working relationship with them. They have one of our better interest rates,"

Como said. Signature paid 0.6 percent interest in 2014, while Bridgehampton National Bank paid 0.08 percent, according to bank records. Other accounts controlled by the clerk's office paid no interest.

Carpenter said, "I like the flexibility of being able to make sure at every point in time we're able to get the best bang for the buck for taxpayers."

Krauser said Signature turned down some deals Walsh brought in but said he couldn't recall specifics. "We determined whether we could do business -- some we said no to, some we said yes to," said Krauser, who left the bank in 2012 and now works at Melrose Credit Union, based in Briarwood, Queens.

Krauser said that at the time Walsh left Signature in 2010, he wasn't bringing in many deals that interested the bank. "We severed the relationship when the pipeline sort of dried up," Krauser said.

Walsh called it a mutual parting of the ways. "It was time to move on, for other opportunities," he said.

He added: "Whatever deal was done with Signature Bank, it was the best rate for the county. That's why the county picked them."

TIMELINE

- * **February 2008:** Signature Bank hires Patrick Walsh as a consultant. He is paid based on deposits he can secure.
- * **May 2008:** Suffolk County Legislature adds Signature Bank to a list of banks approved to accept deposits from county agencies and officers.
- * **December 2008:** Suffolk County treasurer's office has \$3.47 million on deposit with Signature.
- * **March 2009:** County clerk's office opens an account with Signature.
- * **June 2009:** Clerk's office has an average of \$9.2 million with Signature during the month.
- * **December 2009:** Treasurer's office has \$63 million with Signature.
- * **December 2010:** Walsh leaves Signature. Treasurer has \$72 million on deposit with the bank.

Signature Bank was made a depository for Islip Town
by Angie Carpenter now!
Town Board meeting 6/14/2022

By Newsday Staff Updated March 13, 2023 8:10 pm

New York State stepped in to take over New York City-based Signature Bank, which in turn is now being run by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

This story was reported by John Asbury, Robert Brodsky, Vera Chinese, Scott Eidler, Jonathan LaMantia, James T. Madore and Ken Schachter. It was written by Brodsky.

The takeover Sunday of Signature Bank of New York, with offices across Long Island, by state and federal regulators was "not a bailout" but a necessary step to protect deposit holders and project calm in the banking sector, Gov. Kathy Hochul said Monday.

The Manhattan-based lender, which had assets of \$110.36 billion and deposits of \$88.59 billion as of Dec. 31, saw a rapid increase Friday of withdrawals following the Friday failure of Silicon Valley Bank in California, state officials said during a news conference in Manhattan.