



Linda A. Kabot

Proven Leadership You Can Count On!

Post Office Box 81, Quogue, NY 11959

Cell (631) 219-7218

Email: lindakabot@optonline.net

NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 3, 2019

KABOT BLOCKED FROM INDEPENDENCE PRIMARY AS WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

In a special proceeding brought by objector George Lynch, a member of the Southampton Town Democratic Committee, on May 2, the Supreme Court invalidated an Opportunity to Ballot Petition that Linda Kabot filed at the Suffolk County Board of Elections in an effort to run as a write-in candidate in the Independence Primary June 25 for the Independence endorsement for the post of Suffolk County Legislator, Legislative District #2.

Linda Kabot is the designated candidate for Suffolk County Legislator for the 2nd Legislative District on the Republican and Conservative lines for the November 5 General Election ballot. The incumbent is Bridget Fleming, who is designated on the Democratic, Working Families, and Independence lines.

Kabot's petition would have brought the vote to the people who are enrolled Independence to decide on the candidate designation on Primary Day, June 25 for the post of County Legislator, and Kabot's name would not appear on the Primary Ballot, but a write-in box would. There is an Independence Primary for the position of Southampton Town Supervisor and for the position of Southampton Town Receiver of Taxes, where Independence voters will be able to select their preferred candidate, with the winner selected on June 25 Primary Day ultimately having the Independence line on the November 5 General Election ballot.

"If the voters only knew that their right to choose is controlled by political bullies and self-serving forces using intimidation and obstruction," stated Kabot. "Democratic Party Operatives are attempting to block my efforts to let the people decide at the ballot box ... It is amazing to me that they are challenging voter signatures - It is not the Independence Party that is trying to litigate this write-in campaign off the ballot - it is the Southampton Town Democratic Party. In Supreme Court, they are also attempting to thwart a Democratic primary by a Town Council candidate whose Democratic petitions were deemed valid by the County Board of Elections. The Working Families Petition for this same Democratic Town Council challenger were also invalidated by objections filed by this political operative and his cronies who is hell-bent on controlling who runs for what, and on what party lines."

“I believe it is important for the people to decide on their representatives. It is unfair when so many voter signatures are submitted in support of placing certain names on the ballot and then a party leader does not authorize that person to run - the so-called “Wilson Pakula” authorization. And, in this case, we lose the ability to have a write-in opportunity on Primary Day due to duplicate signatures being allocated to only count for the first candidate that the voter signed for on a multi-candidate petition form, when that particular voter did not necessarily wish to endorse that particular candidate but supported the idea of ballot placement to provide choice to the voters. This objection process allowing for Democratic Party Leaders to lead the charge to object to another Party’s Petitions is wrong in my view and it’s contrary to the reform-minded, independent agenda that the Independence Party originally set forth as its objective as an alternative to the major political parties and the ideals of good government, free from corruption, ballot-rigging, deal-making, pay-to-play politics and self-interest of the political players involved,” commented Kabot.

“It is also disconcerting to see political operatives celebrate this as a sort of victory when they win in court to challenge voter signatures. The voter’s intent to allow for choice should be respected, not just another game of ‘inside baseball’ where political parties battle it out with objections at the Board of Elections and in the Supreme Court,” stated Kabot. “Unfortunately, when there is one-party rule, and in this case – it is the Democrats – there is a culture of arrogance and obstruction that sets in. This is political thievery and thuggery, and it is wrong, and voters need to remember this come Election Day – that it is the Democratic party that is repeatedly attempting to block the democratic process and exercise control over people’s right to choose their representatives.”

“I am proud to say that I personally carried approximately 160 signatures out of 172 signatures on the Independence petitions filed and met with those voters directly to hear their concerns. The incumbent did not campaign door-to-door and collect Independence signatures, this was accomplished by a team of notaries sent out by the Suffolk County Democratic Party, many from towns up-island and employed in county jobs, into the Hamptons with marching orders to come back with petitions filled with voter signatures. Several Independence voters told me directly that it was to the point of harassment how many ‘door-knockers’ had come around asking for their signatures. Thus, the intent from the get-go for the Democratic Party was full saturation to the extent possible, so as to guarantee that there will be duplicates for them to quibble about with objections to be filed in an attempt to invalidate other petitions for other candidates,” stated Kabot.

“I am honored to be on the November 5 General Election ballot on the Republican and Conservative lines and look forward to a vigorous issues-oriented campaign over the next 180 + days to Election Day. I urge voters to choose wisely who they believe will best represent them in the upcoming local elections for important County and Town positions.”