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Tuesday, November 7, 2006

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Carlin, Hawk are responsible moderate, reliable representatives

To the Editor:

I was present Sunday at the candidate forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters, the local chapter of AARP, the local chapter of the NAACP and several other organizations. As Bill Felber wrote in his front-page article on Monday, "they bring sharply different legislative philosophies to the Capital."

Both of our current representatives are reliable, moderate and responsible people. They willingly listened when I contacted them to express my opinions on different issues. One issue that is particularly important is the tax burden all of

us have to shoulder. Manhattan has a high sales tax rate. Also, property taxes on all forms of real estate are about to jump dramatically. Even though we all would prefer to pay lower amounts, taxes are the price we pay to live in and enjoy a high quality community and this great state.

Sydney Carlin and Tom Hawk understand that everyone should contribute to the fiscal health of state and local governments. And financing public schools is a big part of the challenge. It is my opinion, and I have shared this with both of them, that the fairest way to structure the tax system is to raise one-third of all tax revenues from a sales tax, one-third from property taxes and one-third from income taxes. This system forces all households to contribute. Finally, businesses, not just residents, must share the burden. However, businesses usually can pass on the cost of taxes as business expenses. These are factored into the price of their products. Just read your cable TV bill to see an example. Please cast your vote for Rep. Sydney Carlin or Rep. Tom Hawk. They already know



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