

New medicine for Rhode Island politics

Doctors are running for public office

SEPTEMBER 14 PRIMARY IS CRUCIAL TEST FOR PHYSICIANS AND HEALTH CARE RELATED CANDIDATES

Physicians in some parts of Rhode Island are in for an unaccustomed treat as the 2004 political season enters the home stretch: they will have an opportunity to vote for new candidates who understand medicine and medical practice from the inside.

Six physicians, one social worker and a physician's spouse are running for elective office in Rhode Island this fall. These candidates are seeking seats in the Rhode Island House, the Rhode Island Senate and in the Town Councils of North Kingstown and Warwick.

Thus, several graduates of the Medical Society's first campaign school ("Getting Elected 101" held at RIMS in November 2003) are making their mark.

The three physician candidates for the House of Representatives face primary election contests on Tuesday, September 14.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RACES

David Ashley, MD Democrat House District 32 (North Kingstown)

David Ashley is a family physician with a practice at 1351 South County Trail in East Greenwich. He is running as a Democrat for an open seat in House District 32 (North Kingstown). Dr. Ashley faces Dale Grogan in the September 14 Democratic primary election. The winner of the primary election will take on Republican candidate Laurence Ehrhardt in the general elections on Nov 2.

Dr. Ashley earned his undergraduate and medical degrees at Brown University and did his residency in family medicine at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. He is the husband of Karen Blackmer, MD.

His campaign website is www.DocAshley.com. District 32 has been represented for the past 14 years by Melvoid Benson, who announced earlier this year that she would not run again.



David Ashley, MD



Joseph Spinale, DO



Nicholas Tsiongas, MD

Physicians running for political office FROM FRONT PAGE

Howard E. Schulman, MD Democrat

House of Representatives, District 3
Dr. Schulman is a general internist practicing at 176 Tollgate Road in Warwick. He is running as a Democrat for the House of Representatives in District 3, on Providence's East Side. His campaign website is www.GoTellHoward.com. He will face a 5-term incumbent, Edith Ajello, in the Democratic primary on September 14. The winner of the primary will face Republican Thomas Pizzuti on November 2.

Nick Tsiongas, MD, MPH Democrat

State Representative District 70
Dr. Tsiongas is an internist specializing in occupational medicine. He is running as a Democrat for the House of Representatives in District 70 (Portsmouth, Tiverton). In contrast to Drs. Schulman and Ashley, Dr. Tsiongas is not a new-comer to politics. He served four terms (1985 to 1993) in the House, representing the Mount Hope and Summit neighborhoods on the East Side of Providence. Former gubernatorial candidates Tony Pires and Sheldon Whitehouse participated in Dr. Tsiongas' campaign kick-off in Tiverton last June. Dr. Tsiongas faces Jay Edwards in the Democratic primary on September 14. The winner will face three-term incumbent Republican Joseph Amaral.

Barry Fain State Senate District 3

Barry Fain is a well-known community leader and a publisher of the *East Side Monthly*. He is the husband of Elaine Fain, MD. As the sole Independent candidate, Mr. Fain faces no primary on September 14. His opponent in the November election will be the winner of the Democratic primary between seven-term incumbent Rhoda Perry and her Democratic challenger Christopher Young. Well-wishers can contact the Fain Campaign by email at FainforSenate@aol.com. The campaign

website will be available at FainforSenate.org.

In addition,

Diane Giarrusso Republican

House Dist. 42 (Cranston, Johnston)
Diane Giarrusso is a clinical social worker. As the sole Republican candidate for the seat, she will face the winner of a three-way Democratic primary. The Democrats are two-term incumbent Mary Cerra and challengers Vincent Russo and Stephen Ucci.

Town Council races

Jonathan Bertman, MD Democrat

Town Council, North Kingstown
Dr. Bertman practices family medicine at 1111 Main Street in Hope Valley. He is running as a Democrat for Town Council in North Kingstown. He has no opponent in the September 14 primary and therefore definitely will be on the ballot in November. His campaign website is docbertman.com.

Joseph Spinale, DO Republican

Town Council, Warwick
Dr. Spinale is a cardiologist practicing at 400 Bald Hill Road. He is a Republican candidate for Town Council in Warwick. His campaign website is www.ward9gop.org.

Mark Schwager, MD Democrat

City Council, East Greenwich
Mark Schwager is an internist and president of the University Medical Group. He has a clinical practice in East Greenwich, where he has lived with his wife Patricia for ten years. They have three children at E. Greenwich High School. Dr. Schwager's campaign address is: mschwag@cox.net.



Jonathan Bertman, MD



Mark Schwager, MD



Diane Giarrusso



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