Tim Kennedy for N.Y. State Senator



BRINGING CHANGE TO ALBANY

Timothy M. Kennedy Erie County Legislator, 2nd District September 22, 2009

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY URGES CITIZENS TO VOTE!

Now that primary day is over, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss one of the most fundamental rights of American citizens, the right to vote. We have a general election coming up on November 3rd and while historically many more people show up to vote in a Presidential election year, I believe it is just as important to vote each and every time we are presented with this amazing and hard-won opportunity.

Unfortunately, it seems as if society has become complacent about the right to vote, especially my generation, given that many of us have not had to fight for this right. Older generations have indeed lived and died for this struggle, and it is not that long ago that women and minorities were denied this basic democratic right. In addition, if one turns their eyes to the rest of the world, the right to vote is still often only a privilege for a select few in many nations. In generations gone by, protesters marched in the streets of our cities demanding this right while our soldiers marched on foreign soil, spilling their blood to defend this right.

The United States of America would not be the great democratic nation it is today if our ancestors had not fought for and won this essential right. If for no other reason, we should vote to honor the memory of those who gave their lives so that we can walk to a polling place on November 3rd and let our voices be heard. Whether reform-minded, community oriented, or seeking change, voting is an exercise in the American way. No matter our political affiliation, we should all vote on November 3rd because we can.