



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Rick Lazio 1,2

Andrew Cuomo 1,3

Republican Candidates in November 2

Voternet-work.com 2

Democratic Candidates in November 3

canivote.org 3

A Brief History of Health Coverage in the U.S. 4

Immunization Advice for Adults 4



## 2010 is an Important Election Year

With the state budget being over two months late, the role of governor is crucial to New York State. This issue of *Legislation Matters* gives you, the voter, information concerning the two major party gubernatorial candidates, Republican Rick Lazio and Democrat Andrew Cuomo.

### Republican Candidate: RICK LAZIO

Rick Lazio was born in West Islip, New York on March 13, 1958 the son of two World War II veterans, Olive and the late Anthony Lazio.

After graduation from West Islip High School, Rick earned a degree in political science from Vassar College and a law degree from the American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. During law school, Rick met his wife, the former Patricia Moriarty, who was working at the George Washington University Hospital

while pursuing her degrees in nursing.



Returning home after law school, Rick entered public service as a prosecutor in the Suffolk County District Attorney's office. Working in the District Court Bureau, Special

Investigations and Forfeiture Unit, and Rackets Bureau, he prosecuted the full range of criminal cases including accused rapists, organized crime, and corruption.

In 1989 Rick was elected to the Suffolk County Legislature. Despite heavy pressure to support a proposed tax increase early in his tenure, Rick voted against the bill. Rick has consistently opposed tax increases at every level of government that he has served throughout his legislative career.

*Continued page 2*

### Democratic Candidate: ANDREW CUOMO

Throughout his life, Andrew Cuomo has been a forceful voice for change in New York. His lifelong commitment to hard work, public service, and the people he serves has led to Andrew's recognition as a true innovator and a principled and determined leader.

His leadership as Attorney General has led to numerous industry-wide investigations -- exposing corrupt practices within both Albany and the private sector. He has been tenacious and unwavering in bringing

widespread reform to industries that have abused the public trust and in bringing to justice individuals who have violated



the law. And in doing so, he has recovered billions of dollars for New York's citizens.

As the Attorney General of New

York, Andrew has initiated a dramatic and historic expansion of the Civil Rights Bureau, won landmark decisions forcing the E.P.A. to enforce pollution laws, and achieved new standards in government transparency and accountability.

Andrew's strong values and demonstrated ability to achieve results stem from a grand tradition of service -- a tradition that began in Queens, New York.

Andrew's strong values and demonstrated ability to achieve results stem from a grand

*Continued page 3*



*Lazio has outlined a broad platform for New York state based on 5 principles: Attack Spending, Bring Down Taxes, Create Jobs, Defend New York, and Educate the Nation.*

—Wikipedia

#### Your Pi State Legislation Committee

Jane Tanner, chair,  
Active legislators  
Jane Crosby, chair,  
Retired educators  
Sally Burgess,  
US Forum Liaison  
Judith Geer  
Bonnie Nash  
Jane Miller  
Nancy Siegel  
Brenda Wilson

# Your Legislative Committee at Work

## Rick Lazio, continued

In 1992 Rick upset an 18-year incumbent to win election to the United States House of Representatives. He represented New York's Second Congressional district for four terms in Congress, winning re-election by the largest margins in the history of the district.

Rick earned assignment to both the House Committee on the Budget, and the Banking and Financial Services Committee. From his seat on the Budget Committee, Rick helped create and pass the first balanced budget in a generation. In 1995, Rick was tapped as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. Serving as Chairman for six years, Rick secured the most extensive overhaul of public housing laws since the Great Depression.

Rick also served concurrently on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee so that New York's unique interests had a strong voice on issues relating to energy, healthcare, telecommunications, the environment, financial services, and insurance.

One of Rick's biggest victories was the enactment of the Work Incentives Improvement Act, which enables Americans with disabilities to enter into the workforce without losing healthcare and disability benefits. With bi-partisan support, Rick ensured that this critical legislation passed the House and was signed into law by President Clinton.

Rick also was a champion in

the fight against cancer, creating the bipartisan House Cancer Awareness Working Group, enacting The Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, which provides treatment to low-income women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, and fighting to ensure that cancer centers across America are funded and reimbursed adequately.

Rick proved to be a good steward of our natural resources, and as a result he was routinely endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters and by the Sierra Club.

Since leaving Congress, Rick has continued his advocacy for economic opportunity in the global economy. He served as President and CEO of The Financial Services Forum and as a Managing Director at J.P. Morgan Chase in New York City.



Rick lives in New York City and Long Island with his wife Patricia, and their daughters Molly and Kelsey.

Taken from: <http://www.nygop.org/page/rick-lazio>

The information given here is not an endorsement for any candidate by Pi State, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

## OTHER REPUBLICAN NOMINEES IN NOVEMBER

Lieutenant Governor --  
Greg Edwards  
Comptroller --  
Harry Wilson  
Attorney General --  
Dan Donovan  
Senate (against Schumer) --  
Gary Berntsen  
Senate (against Gillibrand)\* --  
Bruce Blakeman  
David Malpass

\*There will be a primary in September.

[www.voternetwork.com](http://www.voternetwork.com)

The Voternetwork is a non-partisan national platform that connects American citizens with key election information and alerts.

By registering with the Voternetwork you'll receive official elections information making it more convenient for you to:

- Receive timely election alerts before each key deadline
- Register to vote
- Update your voter registration information, if you have moved
- Request an absentee ballot
- Find out where you go to vote
- Volunteer to become a poll worker
- Contact a local election official with questions

Taken from the voternetwork.com website. Sign up today to stay connected with every election!

**Andrew Cuomo, continued**

tradition of service – a tradition that began in Queens, New York.

Born on December 6, 1957, Andrew M. Cuomo was the second child of Mario Cuomo & Matilda Raffa Cuomo. His paternal grandparents, Andrea and Immaculato Cuomo, emigrated from Salerno, Italy to South Jamaica, Queens, in the 1920s, where Andrea ran a small grocery store.

They brought with them a history of hard work and single-minded determination. Andrew's success is rooted in that history and it is that history which continues to drive him today.

Andrew attended Fordham University in the Bronx and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979. He received his law degree from Albany Law School in 1982. Working his way through both college and law school, Andrew took jobs as a security guard, landscaper, and an auto repair mechanic.

After law school, Andrew headed the Transition Committee for Governor-Elect Mario M. Cuomo and then served as an advisor to the Governor taking a salary of \$1 a year, before joining the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

The growth of the nation's homeless population in the 1980s sparked Andrew's passion to fight for human rights and social justice – especially for our most vulnerable citizens.

Recognizing the need for ambitious action, he established Housing Enterprise for the Less Privileged (HELP) in 1986, which has since become one of the country's largest builders and operators of service-enriched transitional and low income permanent housing.

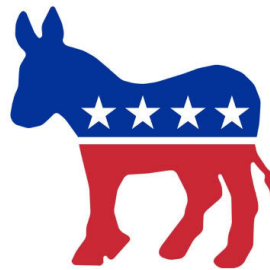
By providing more than just shelter, HELP challenged the traditional orthodoxy on dealing with homelessness, and advocated for the true needs of the population – job training, education, treatment for drug and alcohol abuse, mental health services, and emergency and transitional housing.

HELP has revolutionized traditional thinking on this issue and earned recognition by Congress as an example of real progress on the challenge of homelessness. Since then, HELP has become a national model, copied throughout the country.

In 1992, Andrew was invited to work on President-elect Bill Clinton's Transition Committee and then asked to serve as Assistant Secretary of Community Planning and Development at the Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD), where he quickly established a reputation as an innovative reformer.

After the 1996 election, President Clinton picked Andrew to serve as HUD Secretary. At the time, HUD was viewed as a poster child for waste and mismanagement. It was the only federal agency designated "high risk" by the Government Accounting Office and several members of Congress were calling for HUD's elimination.



As HUD Secretary, Andrew Cuomo launched a top to bottom reinvention of the troubled agency, overhauling HUD's management, governing philosophies, and programs. By the time Andrew left HUD, the Department had been removed from the GAO "high risk" list, his management reform effort won prestigious prizes for innovation and he received bipartisan praise for turning around one of the most poorly managed federal agencies.

The turnaround was clearest at the Federal Housing Administration, a backbone of providing mortgages to first time home buyers. During the early 1990s, FHA was almost \$3 billion in the red – and without radical restructuring, a costly federal bailout seemed inevitable. But Andrew's management reforms helped revitalize the FHA. By 2000, instead of running a deficit, FHA was \$16 billion in the black and poised to return almost \$20 billion dollars a year to taxpayers.

Andrew Cuomo is the proud father of three daughters, Mariah, Cara, and Michaela. When not working for the people of New York State, he is a regular cheerleader at their soccer games and track meets, and enjoys fishing and tinkering with his old sports car. He's also earned a reputation as a pretty tough competitor on the basketball court – although his 3-point shot could use some work.

Taken from: <http://www.andrewcuomo.com/about>

The information given here is not an endorsement for any candidate by Pi State, The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

**OTHER DEMOCRAT NOMINEES IN NOVEMBER**

- Lieutenant Governor -- Robert Duffy
- Comptroller -- Tom DiNapoli
- Attorney General\* -- Kathleen M. Rice
- Eric T. Schneiderman
- Richard L. Brodsky
- Eric R. Dinallo
- Sean Coffey
- Senate -- Charles Schumer
- Senate -- Kirsten Gillibrand

\*There will be a primary in September.

*The Five Steps that Andrew Cuomo will take to rebuild our state:*

1. Clean up Albany
2. Get our Fiscal House in Order
3. Rightsizing Government
4. NY Works
5. NY Leads

-- [www.andrewcuomo.com/issues\\_and\\_agenda](http://www.andrewcuomo.com/issues_and_agenda)

**Need help with voting?**

canivote.org is a nonpartisan web site created by state election officials to help eligible voters figure out how and where to go vote.

**In the next issue...**

- More on elections
- Legislative issues that affect you
- Ideas for programming for your chapter
- Resources
- How to become more active legislatively

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF HEALTH COVERAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

The information in the following was put together as part of a folder prepared by Labor Relations Specialists Tim Fay and Donna Kuhn of the Syracuse Regional Office. It is summarized from the work of Melissa Thomasson, Miami University. Tim and Donna provided their work to Jeanette Petrantoni and Loretta Donlon for the RC7/Regional Office Medicare Workshops. Additional information and comments are from the materials prepared by Jeanette and Loretta for the workshops.

**In the 20ies and before**, Americans who went to a doctor or health facility paid for treatment out of their own pockets. Within two decades, however, medical costs began to rise -- due in part by the discovery of such miracle drugs as insulin (1922), sulfa (1935) and synthetic penicillin (1946), and to the increase in demand for medical services.

**The decade of the 30ies** saw the birth of Blue Cross, which was designed to reduce the price competition among hospitals, and Blue Shield, an insurance for physicians' services. Pre-paid hospital service plans grew during and immediately following the Great Depression. The plans turned out to be an advantage to both the hospitals and consumers, since both were suffering from falling incomes.

Between **1940 and 1960**, the United States saw the growth of commercial insurance companies who aimed their products at employed workers.

When nationalized health insurance was proposed as part of the **Social Security Act of 1935**, it was defeated by the American Medical Association, and was again defeated in 1949 with the Murray-Wagner-Dingell bill, which would have provided comprehensive nationalized health insurance for all Americans.

**Medicare** became the law of the land in **1965** - 30 years after Social Security - and in fact, became part of the Social Security legislation.

**In 2003**, the Medicare Modernization Act, an attempt by the Bush Administration to privatize Medicare, was passed by holding the vote open throughout the night. It outlined a system that would provide the insurance companies with incentives to provide comprehensive care. The "Advantage Plans" that were developed provided more advantage to the insurance companies than to their beneficiaries. Although it provided prescription drug coverage under Medicare for the first time, it also proved to be a bonus for the pharmaceutical companies, who spent more than 100 million dollars in lobbying Congress.

The passage of health care reform in March of this year is not all that many of us would like to see, but it puts the issue back on our national agenda and can be amended in the future. Allowing the insurance companies to control American health care - with NO real competition - may prove to be a problem, but it may also prove to the nay-sayers that a public option is hardly the tragedy that opponents have portrayed.

Ironically, the United States is suffering a severe lack of medical personnel. There are now more insurance administrators in the country than there are doctors. (More money in insurance?)

Jeanette Pietrantoni

*This article is reprinted from the May-June 2010 Central New Yorker, a newsletter for the NYSUT Retiree Council 7.*

### IMMUNIZATION ADVICE FOR ADULTS

The Duke Medicine Health News (April 2010 issue) advises adults to consider having the following immunizations.

Flu Shot - annually for those over 50

Pneumonia Shot - at least one shot after age 65, consult physician for individual advice about whether more shots are needed, a shot before age 65 should minimize the total number of pneumonia immunizations needed

Zoster (shingles) - recommended for those over the age of 60 (some health insurance plans cover the cost of the cost of this immunization)

Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis - Adults over the age of 18 should get the tetanus and diphtheria immunizations once every 10 years. If you have not had the pertussis (whooping cough) immunization as an adult you should get one immunization.

Varicella (chickenpox) - Optional - Consult your physician about your risk if you have never had chickenpox.

Hepatitis B - Optional - Consult your physician about your risk

Hepatitis A - Optional - Consult your physician about your risk

Meningococcal - Optional - Consult your physician about your risk

CHECK WITH YOUR INSURANCE PROVIDER AS TO WHICH OF THESE IMMUNIZATIONS ARE COVERED BY YOUR INSURANCE

*This article has been taken from the U.S. Forum Connection #33, MAY 2010.* This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to Angela.Bedenbaugh@usm.edu. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.