



## Candidate Survey 43rd Senate District Race

# Mike Russo

*Please state your support or non-support for the following:*

<b>The Administration’s position on continuing the Iraq War</b>	Do Not Support
<b>Single Payer Health Insurance or Alternative Universal Access</b>	Support
<b>Paper-ballot/Optical Scan PBOS voting machines for NYS</b>	Support
<b>Campaign Finance Reform (including the “clean money initiative”</b>	Support

**Comment:**

I have been a representative most of my life, and have always believed that any seat I have held has belonged to the people. I believe in listening and respecting all, and that good, 2-way communication is imperative in representative government. I believe in open, honest and transparent government. As the director of the 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District for Congresswoman Gillibrand, I have worked with her to promote this style of government on the Federal level...and with your help, will bring it to our seat in the State Senate.

With the changing dynamics in Albany, we need a strong, independent voice that understands our issues. I believe my experience and skill sets, as well as my strong family ties to both Saratoga and Rensselaer Counties, make me second to no other candidate in this race when it comes to representing working families.

Priorities that make sense.

- \* Permanent property tax relief while fully funding education
- \* Jobs and economic development upstate
- \* A multi-faceted approach to curb the rising costs of energy
- \* Affordable and accessible healthcare for all
- \* Fiscal responsibility and ending un-funded mandates
- \* Campaign finance and election reform
- \* Taking care of our veterans, farmers, seniors and our education system are top priorities

**BIO:**

Proven leadership - As the Director of the 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of NY for Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand, Mike has been responsible for all of her district operations. He has worked directly with local, State and Federal officials, helping to obtain necessary funding and permits for projects that are important to our economy. He has worked with our cities, towns and constituents on the issues that directly affect their daily lives.

Life long advocate and public servant - Mike has been an advocate and representative for 3 decades and was one of the youngest union leaders for the nation’s oldest industrial union at the age of 20. As an Executive Officer and International Executive Board member, Mike was responsible for all of his union’s operations in the Northeastern United States.

An advocate for business and economic development - Mike has used his expertise in organizational development and effectiveness to work with corporations and labor forces to help them most effectively compete in a global marketplace.

Respected - Mike has always been a listener and is respected by people regardless of political affiliation or view.

Real life experience - As a young single parent raising two children, Mike balanced raising his sons with working 12 hour shifts in a factory...while representing working families in his representative role. Mike knows what it means to struggle to pay the bills and raise a family.