



Dutchess County
Young Republicans



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Media Contact: Michael Kelsey, youngdutchessgop@yahoo.com, (914) 475-0060

**Young Republican Club Announce Slate
Record Number of Young Candidates Seek Office**

Countywide – From border to border, north to south and east to west, voters of Dutchess County will have the opportunity this November to pull the lever for a young Republican candidate. From Red Hook to Beacon, from Poughkeepsie to Amenia eight young, energetic and talented Republican candidates are seeking public office.

“I think this year is record for Dutchess County with so many young Republican candidates on the ballot,” said Michael Kelsey of Salt Point, Chairman of the Dutchess County Young Republicans, and who is also a candidate for County Legislature.

Kelsey, 31, an adjunct Marist College professor and soon-to-be admitted attorney, hopes to represent Amenia, Washington, Stanford, the Village of Millbrook and his hometown Pleasant Valley hamlet of Salt Point. If elected, Kelsey will join fellow club member, Angela Flesland, the County Legislature’s youngest member.

A lifelong Town of Poughkeepsie native, Flesland, 22, is completing her first two-year term as a county legislator a tenure that produced notable legislative accomplishments including record funding to prevent drinking and driving with zero tax impact, and important safeguards to assist the senior population.

Flesland is a former officer in the Young Republican club that seeks to involve young people ages 18-40 in the political process and provide them with opportunities to network and fellowship with civic-minded young people who embrace the political platform of the Republican Party.

A recent club secretary, Benjamin Traudt of Red Hook is the youngest member to seek office this year. Traudt, 19, who graduated from Red Hook Senior High School in June and plans to start his college career at Dutchess Community College this month also aspires to be elected to the County Legislature.

A fourth County Legislature candidate to have ties to the Dutchess County Young Republican Club, Justin Frye, is seeking to represent the Town Wappingers and the Village of Wappinger Falls. Frye, 28, is a Marine Combat Veteran and heads the Young Republican Veteran's Affairs committee who most recently teamed up with the American Legion to place American flags on veteran graves for Memorial Day.

Club members are also seeking election to town boards. Mike Taylor, the club's two-term treasurer, is aiming at Hyde Park town council. Taylor, 31, is an area banker helping families to finance higher education as well as a devoted husband and father.

Bill Beale from Hughsonville, a former Fire Chief and K104.7 disc jockey, is seeking re-election to the Wappinger Town Board, where he currently serves as Deputy Supervisor. A three-year veteran on the Board, Beale has been active in the Young Republican Club previously serving as club parliamentarian.

In the City of Beacon, Justin Riccobono, 34, is making his first run for office. Riccobono, a Telecommunications Sales Consultant, is a candidate for Beacon City Council.

Rounding out the Young Republican slate is Jimmy Myers III of Stanford who is a candidate for Town Board. Myers, 28, is **OCCUPATION.**

“If county voters are looking for fresh ideas and vibrant energy this year, they don’t have to look very far,” says Kelsey, “Our generation is ready to lead and to add to the successes of Republican leadership that have made Dutchess County such a great place to live for so many years.”

Kelsey says that already their generation is doing a wonderful job representing the people of Dutchess County and notes that alongside Flesland and Beale, current young Republican elected officials include City of Poughkeepsie Mayor John Tkazyik, Village of Tivoli Deputy Mayor Bryan Cranna, and New York State Assemblymen Marc Molinaro and Greg Ball.

Further information on the Dutchess County Young Republican club can be found at www.dutchessyr.com.

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