

Allegany County native Ross Scott running for Assembly



Assembly candidate W. Ross Scott addresses the crowd at the Allegany County Democratic Committee's Election Headquarters Thursday night in Wellsville. [Chris Potter/The Spectator photo]

By [Chris Potter](#)

Attorney, nuclear expert challenging Joe Giglio in 148th District

WELLSVILLE — US Army veteran, nuclear expert, lawyer ... W. Ross Scott is hoping to add one more title to his varied resume.

New York State Assemblyman.

Scott, a Democrat, is challenging incumbent Joe Giglio (R-Gowanda) for the Assembly seat in the 148th District, which covers all of Allegany and Cattaraugus counties, as well as the towns of Greenwood, Jasper, Troupsburg and West Union in the southwestern corner of Steuben County.

Scott was recruited to run by Allegany County Democratic Committee Chairman Mike McCormick after another candidate decided not to seek office. Scott acknowledged his campaign got off to a late start, but promised the party he will "make a valiant effort" during remarks delivered Thursday night as the Allegany County Democratic Committee cut the ribbon on its new 2020 Election Headquarters on Main Street Wellsville.

"I'll do my best if I get in. I'll make the people proud of me," Scott said.

Scott has been an attorney in Allegany County for 23 years and has resided in the county for the last 52 years. He currently lives outside Whitesville. Scott's law practice has focused on property rights, the environment and controlling government abuses. He has successfully argued cases against National Fuel, was part of the "Bump the

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Dump” fight to keep nuclear waste out of Allegany County, and was part of a team of lawyers that argued against fracking in New York state.

“I do think (fracking) should take place, but at some time in the future when it makes sense. It doesn’t make sense now,” Scott said. “There’s not enough understanding of how to protect against catastrophes. Everything in its time.”

If elected, Scott said he would focus on some “problems not even being looked at” in Albany, such as the state’s nuclear reactors. He said the industry is constantly asking for relaxation of standards and the requests are approved without adequate review.

“I’m quite concerned about that,” Scott said. “If I get to Albany I’ll do everything I can to make sure the state is paying careful attention and reviewing.”

Scott served as the state’s nuclear expert during the shutdown of the **West Valley** nuclear fuel reprocessing plant. He studied engineering, mathematics and physics at the University of Washington before later moving into law.

“I want to continue applying that knowledge if I get into the Assembly,” he said.

Scott, the son of a career police officer, served in the US Army Security Agency during the Berlin Crisis of 1961-62. He is also running on adequate funding for police agencies. Other priorities include increasing access to internet across the district, and ending telephone and email spam.

In all matters, Scott said Albany must recognize upstate New York has its own identity and needs.

“Don’t treat us just like every other county in the state,” Scott said. “One of the problems with Albany is these western counties are treated as if we are just another borough out of New York City.”

Scott has been primarily conducting his campaign online due to COVID-19. He can be reached at Ross.Scott.for.Assembly@gmail.com

Giglio, the Republican incumbent, has served in the Assembly since 2005.