

# DAILY MESSENGER

Friday, October 23, 2020

## What you need to know about 23rd Congressional race

**Julie Sherwood**

MPNnow

Democrat Tracy Mitrano and Republican Tom Reed face off as the major party candidates in the 23rd Congressional District. Running on the Libertarian Party line is Andrew M. Kolstee. Early voting begins Saturday, Oct. 24, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 1. Election Day is Nov. 3.

Incumbent Tom Reed



**PARTY:** Republican

**RESIDENCE:** Corning

**AGE:** 48

**EDUCATION:** Law degree, Ohio Northern University

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** Ran law office specializing in medical debt collections, RR

Resource Recovery LLC

**OFFICES:** Former one-term mayor of Corning; elected to Congress in 2010 special election, seeking a sixth term

# DAILY MESSENGER

Challenger Tracy Mitrano



**PARTY:** Democrat

**RESIDENCE:** Penn Yan

**AGE:** 62

**EDUCATION:** Law degree, Cornell University Law School

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** Principal, Mitrano & Associates; former director of Information Technology Policy, and director of Internet Culture Policy and Law, Cornell University

**OFFICES:** None

**Libertarian candidate Andrew M. Kolstee** is founder and chair of the Chautauqua County Libertarian Party. He is a business owner, writer, genealogist, and political activist. According to his website, Kolstee is running for Congress “because he believes that the two old parties have become increasingly polarized, to the point where the American people are divided more and more each day. He believes in bringing those on the left and those on the right together to build a consensus.”

## Mitrano and Reed on key issues

### HEALTH CARE

#### Mitrano

She supports plans to ensure every American has affordable health care coverage that includes vision, hearing, dental and prescription coverage. Specifically, Mitrano advocates Medicare eligibility

# DAILY MESSENGER

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for people 60 years of age to enhance coverage and include dental, vision, and hearing in Medicare coverage.

She supports government negotiation with drug companies to reduce expenses, and reform and realignment of government programs such as Veterans Affairs, Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) to reduce administrative costs and duplication. Mitrano supports a sliding scale for Medicaid and CHIP that allow people incentives to work.

## **Reed**

He voted to repeal and replace President Obama's Affordable Care Act. He voted for a Republican bill, the American Health Care Act, which repeals major parts of the Obama health law, caps future funding for Medicaid and cuts taxes on the wealthy and insurance companies. The bill includes a provision to stop local governments in upstate New York from paying a portion of the state's Medicaid charges.

Reed is co-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus that crafted a set of proposals that include creation of a health insurance marketplace to reduce costs and increase access to healthcare. He is co-chair of the Diabetes Caucus, the largest disease-specific caucus in Congress that backs legislation to boost diabetes research, education and treatment.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Mitrano**

She is focused on building key areas: Communication, to ensure everyone has access to high-speed, broadband internet; transportation infrastructure, to ensure safe and properly maintained roads, bridges and railways; and education and workforce readiness through support for programs and institutions that provide citizens with the skills and training needed to compete in the workforce.

Mitrano supports comprehensive immigration reform, to expand select visas and help bring in an influx of legal workers. She supports protecting natural resources by maintaining water quality monitoring. She supports New York's moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, investing in clean energy, and continued funding for climate change research.

### **Reed**

He supported the massive \$1.5 trillion tax reform bill, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which was signed into law by President Donald Trump. The bill passed in 2017, slashed tax rates for big business and lowered levies on the wealthiest Americans while containing smaller benefits for other taxpayers. The bill lowered the corporate rate from 35 % to 21 % and cut individual taxes across income brackets for eight years.

Reed authored the bipartisan Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act (RAMI), which was signed into law and aims to boost jobs and the manufacturing sector. He supports low-cost energy as a way to drive economic growth and supports varying methods of energy generation to improve the nation's energy infrastructure.

# DAILY MESSENGER

## ENVIRONMENT

### Mitrano

In her campaign platform, Mitrano cites the need for immediate, swift action to target investments in renewable energy, clean vehicles, and green infrastructure. She lists support for funding climate change research to reduce human contributions to the changing climate as well as support for businesses, especially farmers, as they adapt to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

She supports funding research and the development of solutions to fossil fuel dependency, including research and development of renewable energies. She backs federal and state alignment to address water quality and ongoing monitoring to combat harmful algae blooms. She supports federal funding for the final cleanup and removal of low-level radioactive waste at **West Valley**, a nuclear waste treatment site in Cattaraugus County. She supports federal oversight of hydraulic-fracturing.

### Reed

Reed is a member of the House Clean Energy and Innovation Working Group and a member of the Climate Solutions Caucus. He sponsored a \$75 million bill to federally fund nuclear waste cleanup from **West Valley**. He was recognized in 2018 by the Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, a clean energy advocacy organization, for sponsoring legislation to create jobs, reduce energy consumption, and protect the environment.

In rating Reed on his voting record, The League of Conservation Voters, a national environmental advocacy organization, gave Reed a score of 31% in 2019 and a lifetime score of 10%. A sampling of Reed's votes in the 2019/2020 term include voting against increased funding for renewable energy, research and development (H.R. 4447); voting against a clean energy and climate science funding package (H.R. 7617); voting against a funding package addressing environmental justice, water quality, dirty energy and drilling (H.R. 7608); and voting for permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and investing in national parks (H.R. 1957).

The 23rd Congressional District covers all of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins and Yates counties, and parts of Ontario and Tioga counties. In Ontario County, the district covers the towns of Manchester, Hopewell, Phelps, Seneca, Gorham, Geneva, plus the city of Geneva and part of Naples (the entire village and town, east of Route 21.)

## THREE WAYS TO VOTE

- Vote early: Oct 24-Nov. 1
- Vote by mail: Request ballot by Oct. 27; last day to postmark ballot, Nov. 3
- Vote on election day: Nov. 3, polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Check early voting times and locations at your county Board of Elections.

In Ontario County, visit <https://www.co.ontario.ny.us/107/Board-of-Elections> or call: 585-396-4005.