



lienvironmentalvoters.org

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## **ENVIRONMENTALISTS REJECT ACAMPORA ENDORSEMENT Cite "Conflict of Interest" in Role as Party Chair**

### **For Immediate Release**

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The Long Island Environmental Voters Forum, a non-profit, non-partisan environmental advocacy group has declined to endorse Assemblywoman Patricia Acampora for re-election in the First Assembly District on the North Fork. The political action group praised her voting record in Albany but criticized her "partisan role as Suffolk Republican Party Chairwoman," as "undermining the need to make the environment strictly non-partisan."

In a strongly-worded letter, the Environmental Voters Forum cited several legislative actions as "anti-environment." The group said, "in recent months, the Republican County Legislative Delegation has blocked the appointment of notable conservationists to the Suffolk County Planning Commission, opposed the creation of a Department of the Environment in Suffolk County government and supported the pro-development inclusion of further over-development in an environmental referendum." The Voters Forum urged the Assemblywoman to resign "from your party position."

Voters Forum Chairman, Joseph Lorintz added, "one cannot serve two masters. Assemblywoman Acampora's voting record as a minority member impacts Long Island's environment less than her function as party chair. Since the current Republican majority in the Suffolk County Legislature has at best a mixed environmental record, we cannot in good conscience endorse her. In fact, we think it inappropriate for an elected official to serve as chairman of a political party at the same time," Lorintz declared.

The Environmental Voters Forum also withheld support for Suffolk's proposed \$75 million Bond Act. The organization criticized the eleventh-hour inclusion of a development provision in the open space and farmland referendum as "pro-development," questioning the proposal's likelihood of providing affordable housing. The group said it would campaign neither for nor against the Suffolk Bond Act, but would instead concentrate on winning approval of bond acts in Nassau, Brookhaven and Oyster Bay, "which are truly environmental initiatives."