



New York State Law Enforcement Officers Union, Council 82

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

63 COLVIN AVENUE, ALBANY, NY 12206 (518) 489-8424 (518) 435-1523 FAX

www.council82.org · c82@council82.org

July 17, 2020

Liz Joy
Joy for NY

Dear Liz,

The New York State Law Enforcement Officers Union, Council 82, AFSCME, AFL-CIO (Council 82), is honored to endorse and stand with you in your run for Congress. As you know, Council 82 represents over 3,500 Police Officers, Deputy Sheriffs, County Correction Officers, State Correction Lieutenants, Emergency Dispatchers, and other Public Safety personnel across New York State, including about 1,000 members who live and work in the 20th Congressional District. These members include the men and women of the Albany Police Officers Union, the Albany Police Detectives Union, the Coeymans Police Officers Union, the Bethlehem Police Supervisors Union, the Cohoes Police Officers Union, the East Greenbush Police Officers Union, the Mechanicville Police Officers Union, the Menands Police Officers Union, the North Greenbush Police Officers Union, the Waterford Police Officers Union, the East Greenbush Dispatchers Union, the Albany County Deputy Sheriffs Union, the Albany County Correction Officers Union, the Schenectady County Correction Officers Union, the Schenectady County Deputy Sheriffs Union, the Rensselaer County Correction Officers Union, the Montgomery County Correction Supervisors Union, and the New York State Correction Lieutenants Union. Our endorsement of you recognizes your strong and unwavering support for law enforcement at a time when many politicians are either afraid or unwilling to do so.

As you know, the men and women of Council 82 are some of the best law enforcement officers in our nation – caring, compassionate, and professional people who leave the safety of their homes every day to serve and protect all of us and our communities. They respond call to call, day in and day out, in the face of pandemic health risks, calls to “defund” us, and rising violence against us. We need those in elected positions to be unafraid to stand with and stand up for law enforcement and all of those who want to be safe in their homes and in their communities. We need those in elected positions to be unafraid to do or say something on behalf of law enforcement to calm the reckless and escalating anti-police rhetoric across this Nation. You are clearly such a person. Your opponent, Congressman Paul Tonko, has proven to not be such a person. He voted against protecting law enforcement officers in 2018, and most recently voted in favor of the dangerous and ill-advised “Justice in Policing Act” – an act which we believe would make it nearly impossible for us to properly protect our communities, to return to our families each day, or to provide for their future. Not a single one of us is opposed to legitimate reform, but we all stand against proposed reforms that would purposefully put law enforcement officers in harm’s way. Congressman Tonko’s utter lack of support or concern for the men and women who protect us has been shameful.

We are especially grateful for and recognize your vocal support of law enforcement at this time when so many locally and nationally vilify us. Your support of the Albany Police during recent protests and your calling out of Paul Tonko in his knee-jerk rush to judgment in condemning a Schenectady Police Officer before all the facts have been gathered has not gone unnoticed by us. He has abandoned us, but you have stepped up. We’re grateful for that, and we will not forget it.

This election is so important for law enforcement and for our families. Council 82 proudly supports your run for Congress, and we pledge to support you every step of the way. And we will welcome the opportunity to work with you after your victory in November.

Sincerely,

Ronald Walsh
President, Council 82