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Long Island Environmental Voters Forum Announces Choices

For Immediate Release

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The Long Island Environmental Voters Forum has announced its endorsements in the November 2 election. The political action group for Island environmentalists picked Andrew Cuomo for Governor, Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand for Senate and Tim Bishop, Steve Israel and Gary Ackerman for Congress. LIEVF endorsed Eric Schneiderman for Attorney General and Thomas DiNapoli for Comptroller. The group said they had all done right by the environment.

In races for State Senate, LIEVF endorsed Lee Zeldin over incumbent Brian Foley, Jack Martins over Craig Johnson, Charles Fuschillo over Carol Gordon, John Flanagan over Ira Bernstein, Kenneth LaValle over Jennifer Maertz and Dean Skelos over George Save.

Assembly picks included Robert Sweeney, Ken Mangan, Phillip Boyle, Andrew Raia, Joseph Saladino, James Conte and Robert Calarco over incumbent Dean Murray.

Some previous endorsees were made ineligible for endorsement this year because of their vote to slash the state's Environmental Protection Fund, an issue the group had warned legislators in advance was crucial to endorsement consideration. They included Senators Brian Foley and Craig Johnson (LIEVF endorsed their opponents) and Assembly Members Marc Alessi, Fred Thiele, Steven Englebright, Ginny Fields (who was defeated in a Democratic Primary,) Phillip Ramos, Charles Lavine, Michelle Schimel Earlene Hooper and Harvey Weisenberg. The Voters Forum did not endorse their opponents. "We made support of the EPF a litmus test which these candidates failed. We'll reconsider them next time around," said LIEVF Chairman Richard Amper. An exception was made in the case of Robert Sweeney, chairman of the Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee because he was obliged to vote for the EPF deal he helped to negotiate as committee chairman, an EPF deal that would have been worse without his efforts.