

Primary Election 2012: Bichotte campaign gains momentum; Stavisky, Messer talk issues

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42nd State Assembly District: Rodneyse Bichotte's campaign builds momentum [The Haitian Times]

NEW YORK — [Rodneyse Bichotte](#), an electrical engineer who has also worked as a math teacher and an investment banker, has been emphasizing her professional background and her humble East Flatbush roots during speeches as she vies to represent Brooklyn's 42nd State Assembly District, the Haitian Times [reports this week](#).

“As a public school math teacher, I witnessed and experienced [the] lack of resources, the pressure on teachers to pass students and all the challenges of children of low-income and working families that don’t allow them to excel and compete,” Bichotte told the Haitian Times. “I’ve lived that experience.”

However, many Haitians in the district she is trying to represent tell the Times that they are doubtful Bichotte can win against incumbent [Rhoda Jacobs](#):

Though Bichotte has made significant inroads with immigrants across the district from her previous run, many Haitians still doubt her chances to unseat Jacobs. Some tell her “*Ou paka bat Rhoda non!*” (You can’t beat Rhoda).

16th State Senate District: Incumbent state Sen. Stavisky and challenger Messer on the issues [Queens Times-Ledger]

NEW YORK — The two candidates in the Democratic primary for the 16th State Senate District seat in Queens, incumbent Toby Ann Stavisky and challenger John Messer, sat down with the [Queens Times-Ledger](#) recently to talk about their campaign issues.

The 16th State Senate District seat was re-drawn to represent Flushing, Forest Hills, Rego Park, Elmhurst, Fresh Meadows and Bayside.

John Messer, a local Queens businessman and lawyer, said he would be focusing on developing policies to reduce the number of 25 to 30 year olds who leave the city due to the cost of living and doing business.

After moving to New York in 1991, Messer said he saw promise in public-private partnerships while working as a project manager for the city Economic Development Corporation. But he also said he saw the need to help "mom and pop" businesses.

"We're losing so much revenue because people who own businesses are leaving the state," he said [in a recent interview at the TimesLedger Newspapers' offices](#) .

Stavisky was first elected in 1999 during a special election and, since then, has been re-elected seven times.

Stavisky has been pushing issues such as the DREAM Act, which would permit financial aid for undocumented teenagers, and raising the minimum wage. She also pushed a bill in 1997 called "Power for Jobs" to provide low-cost power to 500 state businesses that has been renewed each year by the state Senate. This year Gov. Andrew Cuomo launched an update of the bill called "Recharge New York."

"This session has to focus on the economy and job creation," she [told the TimesLedger Newspapers](#).

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