

**Nick LaLota NY-01 Research Report**

The following report contains research on Nick LaLota, a Republican candidate in New York's 1st district. Research for this research book was conducted by the DCCC's Research Department between 4/20/22 and 6/3/22. By accepting this report, you are accepting responsibility for all information and analysis included. Therefore, it is your responsibility to verify all claims against the original documentation before you make use of it. Make sure you understand the facts behind our conclusions before making any specific charges against anyone.

**Nick LaLota**

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Republican Party Candidate in  
New York's 1st Congressional District

**Research Memo – 2022**

Last Updated [June 2022]

Prepared by the DCCC Research Department

## Nick LaLota (NY-01) Research Memo

### Significant Findings

#### **LaLota Had A Long Record Of Targeting Police Funding And “Attacking” Law Enforcement, Even Making A Case For “Abolishing The Amityville Police Department” To Save Money**

- ✓ The Amityville Police Benevolent Association (PBA), the village police union, accused LaLota of “attacking” officers with his proposal to freeze the base pay of some of its members.
  - ✓ LaLota’s “very public push to freeze base pay for some Amityville police officers drew the ire of PBA officials,” who said it would “save money on the backs of police.”
  - ✓ LaLota accused the police union of “character assassination” when the PBA said he was “exploiting the pay issue for political gain.”
- ✓ LaLota was the “most dominant voice on police pay” in Amityville Mayor Wandell’s administration, which made “repeated requests to the PBA to agree to cut compensation for rank-and-file officers by reopening the police contract.”
- ✓ LaLota described police salaries as “an existential threat to the village” of Amityville, denigrating payments to retiring police officers as “golden parachutes.”
- ✓ As Amityville Budget Officer, LaLota listed potential savings that “would be achievable by abolishing the Amityville Police Department” in a PR document.
  - ✓ LaLota denied claims that he wanted to eliminate the Amityville PD, despite rumors that he wanted to merge the department with Suffolk County law enforcement and spoke to other politicians about the possibility of a merger.
- ✓ LaLota championed a plan that violated the police union’s contract and stole \$123,000 in overtime wages from police officers.
  - ✓ LaLota planned “to balance the budget in part by cutting extra pay for police officers working overnight shifts,” which a labor arbitrator ruled violated the police union’s contract.
  - ✓ Amityville “reduced the pay, a 12 percent premium over regular wages known as ‘night differential,’ to 8 percent,” cutting night pay from “about \$15,000 per officer per year, to \$10,000.”
    - ✓ LaLota said the village proposal to cut the night differential for police officers was “relatively generous.”
  - ✓ A labor arbitrator said LaLota’s plan violated the Amityville police union’s contract, and the village was ordered to give \$123,000 back to police officers.

- ✓ LaLota touted his work increasing the number of officers on patrol as an Amityville trustee, but the Amityville PBA accused him of understaffing the police department “at its lowest levels since 1975.”
- ✓ The Amityville police union said LaLota’s 2014 trustee campaign was “fixed on facilitating lies about the PBA.”

### **LaLota Further Attacked First Responders, Saying Residents Believed “Much” Of The Amityville Village Fire Department “Lacks Honor” And Repeatedly Fought With The Department**

- ✓ The Amityville Fire Department leadership opposed LaLota’s 2017 mayoral run after LaLota voted to take disciplinary action against an Amityville police officer who logged in as a firefighter when he responded to calls.
- ✓ LaLota said residents believed “much” of the Amityville Village Fire Department “lacks honor” and he “used to have a lot of respect for” the department leadership.
- ✓ The Fire Department Council asked the Amityville Mayor to replace LaLota as the Board of Trustees’ liaison to the fire department; LaLota was removed after his opponent in the mayoral race took office.
- ✓ LaLota got into a “heated back and forth” with the fire chief after refusing to buy a “long-awaited” pick-up truck for the department after previously saying the village would do so.

### **LaLota Proposed Raising Taxes On Amityville Residents By Up To 11 Percent**

- ✓ LaLota “sought a state bill to allow the village to bond \$1.4 million to pay retiring police officers for unused sick and vacation time,” which would have raised taxes by up to 11%, and was accused of misleading officials about the proposal.
- ✓ LaLota later retracted the proposal, claiming he found the money for officers elsewhere in the village budget, which one trustee said “raises the question of exactly where LaLota came up with that money.”

### **LaLota Was A Carpetbagging Career Politician Who Repeatedly Took Time Off From His Taxpayer-Funded Jobs To Run For Office, While Continuing To Draw A Salary**

- ✓ LaLota lived outside of New York’s 1st Congressional District and was recruited by party leaders to run for the seat.
  - ✓ In February 2022, LaLota said, “I think that voters of the district have a fair expectation that a member of Congress actually live in the district.”
    - ✓ LaLota lived outside of the district at the time of his campaign announcement, but the district lines were struck down in court in April 2022.
    - ✓ LaLota’s home was outside the New York 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District after the final congressional map was approved.
  - ✓ After the Suffolk County Republican Party endorsed LaLota, his primary opponent said “obviously some deals were made and they chose an individual who doesn’t even live in the district.”

- ✓ In 2020, LaLota ran for New York State Senate while still keeping his taxpayer-funded job with a \$152,906 salary as a county elections commissioner, until a state appellate court ruled the arrangement was an “obvious conflict of interest” and removed him from the ballot.
  - ✓ LaLota had argued there was no conflict of interest because he was taking a leave of absence from his job as elections commissioner to run for state Senate, which the appellate court said “wasn’t good enough.”
- ✓ In December 2021, LaLota stepped down from the Suffolk County Board of Elections to be chief of staff to Republican Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey, just three months before announcing his run for Congress.
  - ✓ LaLota “said the job change could allow him to run for public office again,” after his previous job disqualified him from running for office. LaLota took a pay cut in the role, making \$140,183 a year as McCaffrey’s chief of staff, \$12,000 less than his commission salary.
- ✓ LaLota said he would continue to work for the Suffolk County Legislature while running for Congress, and “expects to take accrued time off this summer and fall to campaign.”

#### **LaLota Faced Criticism During His Tenure As The Republican Elections Commissioner In Suffolk County For Having Conflicts Of Interest And Being Absent From His Job**

- ✓ LaLota was criticized for holding a fundraiser for local Republican candidates while serving as an elections commissioner.
- ✓ LaLota was accused of not meeting his elections commissioner job requirements while in law school and faced an audit into his attendance practices.
- ✓ In 2019, the Suffolk County Comptroller’s audit was “unable to insure [sic] the accuracy of hours worked and benefit hours utilized” and found that LaLota “[did] not utilize a daily attendance sheet and [did] not sign in when he arrives at work.”

#### **LaLota Was Accused Of Disenfranchising Voters As An Elections Commissioner, Pushing Baseless Election Fraud Claims That Echoed Then-Candidate Trump’s Warnings Of A “Rigged” Election**

- ✓ LaLota was accused of disenfranchising voters when he ended a walk-in absentee voting program.
- ✓ A voter sued the Suffolk County Board of Elections, arguing it had “created a poll tax” for Shelter Island residents by excluding the town from early voting locations.
- ✓ LaLota claimed New York’s election system was “vulnerable to fraud” and pushed election conspiracy theories in 2016.
  - ✓ Election experts “criticized the comments” LaLota made about potential voter fraud, which “came less than two weeks before a hotly contested presidential election that Republican nominee Donald Trump has warned could be rigged.”

#### **LaLota Was A Threat To New Yorkers’ Reproductive Rights**

- ✓ LaLota was “proud” to be endorsed by the Suffolk County Republican Party, which had a platform that included measures that would “effectively outlaw abortion.”

- ✓ In 2020, LaLota criticized his Democratic opponent for New York State Senate “on issues that are likely to become a cornerstone of every GOP state candidate this year—bail reform, immigration and abortion.”
- ✓ LaLota was a top aide to Republican legislators who opposed abortion rights.
  - ✓ LaLota was chief of staff to New York State Sen. Phil Boyle, who refused to support a proposal to codify *Roe v. Wade* in New York state law.
  - ✓ LaLota was chief of staff to and “best friends” with Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey, who was criticized over the “harshness” of his “political attacks” on the issue of abortion.

### **LaLota Worked For A Pelosi Democrat But Obscured His Work History While Running For Congress**

- ✓ From 2009-2010, LaLota was a District Representative for then-Rep. Steve Israel, a Democrat and “top loyalist to Pelosi,” shortly before Israel was named DCCC chair in December 2010.
- ✓ As of 2022, LaLota’s LinkedIn does not identify his title or the member who employed him, listing LaLota as having been a “Veterans Advocate” who represented an unnamed “Member of Congress.”

## **Background**

- **FULL LEGAL NAME:** Nicholas “Nick” J. LaLota
- **BORN:** 6/1978 (age:43)
- **FAMILY:** Wife: Kaylie (Howard), Daughters: Maggie Rae, Reagan Elizabeth, Brook Murphy
- **HOME:** Amityville, New York 11701-4220
- **EDUCATION:** United States Naval Academy (B.S. in Political Science, 2000); Hofstra University (M.B.A, 2012); Hofstra University (J.D., 2020)
- **MILITARY:** Surface Warfare Officer, United States Navy (2000 – 2007)
- **PROFESSIONAL:** Trader, GH Traders/Hoya Capital (2007 – 2009); District Representative, Office of Democratic Rep. Steve Israel (2009 – 2010); Chief of Staff, Long Island Director, New York State Senator Phil Boyle (2010 – 2014); Chief of Staff to Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (2021-Present)
- **POLITICAL:** Suffolk County Board of Elections Commissioner (2015 – 2021); Village of Amityville Trustee (2013 - 2019)
- **COMMITTEES:** former Chairman of the Committee to the Amityville Police Department and the Committee to the Amityville Village Fire Department
- **AWARDS:** Joint Service Commendation Medal
- **ORGANIZATIONS:** Interim President of the West End Republican Club (2020-Present); Vice Chair of the Babylon Town Republican Committee (2021-Present)

## **LaLota Had A Long Record Of Targeting Police Funding And “Attacking” Law Enforcement, Even Making A Case For “Abolishing” The Amityville Police Department To Save Money**

**LaLota Was The “Most Dominant Voice On Police Pay” In Amityville Mayor Wandell’s Administration, Which Made “Repeated Requests To The PBA To Agree To Cut Compensation For Rank-And-File Officers By Reopening The Police Contract”**

**LaLota Was Amityville Mayor Wandell Administration’s “Most Dominant Voice On Police Pay.”** “Speaking from notes at the end of a Monday night board of trustees meeting where the retirements of the village's top two police officials were announced, Wandell warned that the village will pay more than \$1 million to retiring employees this year, along with tax grievance payments to residents that could exceed \$300,000. The total village budget this year is \$15.4 million. ‘We have tried just about everything, and every time we move forward we get knocked back,’ Wandell said. More than half of village spending this year is going to police, according to budget figures, and Wandell appealed to the union representing police officers for help in reducing costs, warning that ‘without it, the outlook is grim.’ He did not specify the kind of help he and fellow trustees are looking for, but they have over the past year made repeated requests to the PBA to agree to cut compensation for rank-and-file officers by reopening the police contract. The frosty relationship between the two sides deteriorated further when a divided village board moved to cut night differential pay for officers earlier this month. The matter could end in arbitration later this summer. In a statement, the PBA said it had already made substantial concessions to the village and that retirements would lead to greater saving. ‘As new officers are hired, the village will continue to see reduced costs without compromising public safety,’ the statement said. Wandell praised trustee Nick LaLota, a close ally who prepares the village budget and has been the administration's most dominant voice on police pay, crediting him with ‘pulling rabbits out of his hat.’” [Newsday, [6/24/15](#)]

- **The Wandell Administration “Made Repeated Requests To The PBA To Agree To Cut Compensation For Rank-And-File Officers By Reopening The Police Contract.”** “Speaking from notes at the end of a Monday night board of trustees meeting where the retirements of the village's top two police officials were announced, Wandell warned that the village will pay more than \$1 million to retiring employees this year, along with tax grievance payments to residents that could exceed \$300,000. The total village budget this year is \$15.4 million. ‘We have tried just about everything, and every time we move forward we get knocked back,’ Wandell said. More than half of village spending this year is going to police, according to budget figures, and Wandell appealed to the union representing police officers for help in reducing costs, warning that ‘without it, the outlook is grim.’ He did not specify the kind of help he and fellow trustees are looking for, but they have over the past year made repeated requests to the PBA to agree to cut compensation for rank-and-file officers by reopening the police contract.’” [Newsday, [6/24/15](#)]

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### **LaLota Had A “Caustic” Relationship With The Amityville Police Department And He Said “He Assumes At Least Some Of The Responsibility For Getting Of On The Wrong Foot”**

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**Under The Administration Of The Mayor Who Appointed LaLota, The Village Had A “Caustic Relationship With The Police.”** “The cost of police services raised controversy during the last administration. The Village, under former Mayor James P. Wandell, had a caustic relationship with the police. Early on, as the Village was struggling through financial stress, Trustee Nick LaLota reached out to the Amityville PBA asking-according to some, demanding-that the union agree to open the current police contract and accept givebacks to help the Village's financial picture. The PBA refused, saying it had agreed to givebacks when its members approved the last contract. Both sides dug their heels in and exchanged barbs, often publicly. What followed was a host of actions against officers that some saw as retaliatory, including the suspension of four officers for allegedly ‘double dipping’ into the state pension system by logging in time as fire volunteers when they responded to incidents as police officers. The issue was eventually settled with both sides opting not to comment on the agreement. Additionally, the PBA won a grievance against the Wandell administration when it held back night differential pay saying it violated the police contract. The Wandell administration was ordered by a state arbitrator to give back a total of \$123, 000 to the officers.” [Amityville Record, 1/24/18]

**Amityville Record: “Relations Between The Union And Some Trustees Have Been Tense” Since LaLota And Others Asked The Union To Cap Pay For Some Officers.** “A pay dispute between Amityville Village and the union for its police officers will go before a private arbitrator February 25, trustee Nick LaLota said. Amityville trustees in September reduced the premium the village pays officers for working overnight shifts by approximately \$5,000 per officer per year, about \$100,000 annually in total. [...] Relations between the union and some trustees



have been tense since at least 2014, when LaLota, Mayor James Wandell and Deputy Mayor Jessica Bernius signed a letter asking the union to agree to cap pay for some officers.” [Newsday, [2/16/16](#)]

**Amityville Record: LaLota “Raised Controversy And Criticism, Particularly With Regard To His Dealings With The Amityville Police Department.”** “LaLota has largely been the face of the Amityville First Party, taking on leadership positions with regard to the Village’s finances and other key aspects of Village government. He has raised controversy and criticism, particularly with regard to his dealings with the Amityville Police Department and with the Wandell administration’s decision last year to revoke health insurance benefits from former Village officials.” [Amityville Record, 1/4/17]

**Lalota Said “He Assumes At Least Some Of The Responsibility For Getting Off On The Wrong Foot With The Police And The PBA President Chris Mullin.”** “LaLota said there is always tension between employers and employees and that he assumes at least some of the responsibility for getting off on the wrong foot with the police and the PBA President Chris Mullin. ‘The Amityville First Party has the interest of the community, and it is important for the next mayor to have not only a working relationship with the police union but also to stick up for the taxpayer.’ The police contract is up for renegotiation in 2018. ‘My position is that we do not have to choose between having the most expensive police department in the state or none at all; I want something in the middle,’ said LaLota.” [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]

**LaLota, As The Budget Officer In The Wandell Administration, Was Tied To The “Administration’s Poor Working Relationship With The Police Department.”** “Wandell said that many of the improvements made under his administration are directly related to the ‘leadership of our budget officer Nick LaLota.’ ‘He comes with financial discipline,’ said Wandell. ‘He looked at our budget, found places to save money and is a true asset to the Village.’ But the opponents said the changes have come at a cost. ‘They don’t know how to treat people,’ said Siry, who referred to the administration’s poor working relationship with the police department and its decision to revoke health insurance coverage from three Village officials and a former employee. ‘There are ways to get things done while still treating people with respect and dignity, which is something my opponent and the Wandell administration lacks.’ LaLota countered that management decisions made by the Wandell administration have allowed it to ensure low taxes and a high quality of life. ‘Yes we have had difficult conversations, such as the question of health care for former employees, but those savings will be reinvested into the programs that make Amityville great for all residents,’ he said. ‘The Amityville First party has the interest of the community at heart. We are looking to move forward with common sense and frankly that is the only message that will be get this guy, who is (originally) from Bay Shore and who doesn’t come from here, elected.’” [Amityville Record, 3/15/17]

**President Of The Police Union Accused LaLota And The Wandell Administration Of Trying To “Demonize The Hardworking Members Of The Amityville Police Department And Distort The Truth.”** “‘We can keep our own Village PD and not pay through the nose doing so,’ it says. If the police union agreed to concessions requested by the administration of Mayor James Wandell, the average home would receive a \$480 tax cut. Those concessions include a freeze on base pay for officers making more than \$150,000 a year and restaffing a desk job filled by officers with a civilian. ‘Residents should know how much extra service costs so they can evaluate if the service is worth it and join the conversation of urging the union to give concessions to taxpayers,’ LaLota said in an interview. ‘Once again, the current administration walked away from negotiations,’ Chris Mullin, president of the union, the Amityville Police Benevolent Association, said. ‘They look to demonize the hardworking members of the Amityville Police Department and distort the truth.’” [Newsday, [4/15/15](#)]

**LaLota Said It “Concern[ed] Him” That The Village’s “Relationship Has Warmed” With The Police Union.** “Additionally, the PBA won a grievance against the Wandell administration when it held back night differential pay saying it violated the police contract. The Wandell administration was ordered by a state arbitrator to give back a total of \$123, 000 to the officers. Since Siry has taken office, the relationship has warmed, something that LaLota says concerns him. ‘While no board member or prospective candidate with whom I’ve spoken wants to disband the Amityville Police Department, many voters understand that this election is for the deciding vote on the next police union contract,’ said LaLota. ‘They also understand that Tom Whalen, in exchange for the union’s political support,

will put the union's interests far ahead of property taxpayers; this doesn't bode well for Mr. Whalen's candidacy.' Whalen declined to respond to LaLota's comment except to say that 'every action I take or every item I vote on is always in the best interest of Amityville, its residents and taxpayers.'" [Amityville Record, 1/24/18]

### **LaLota Described Police Salaries As "An Existential Threat To The Village" Of Amityville**

**LaLota Described Police Salaries As "An Existential Threat To The Village" Of Amityville.** "Near-term finances will be strained by separation payments totaling about \$1.3 million to four retired police officers, including Police Chief Don Dobby and Lt. Gerard Gralton, with Dobby taking about \$407,300 and Gralton \$431,520. Police salaries, which LaLota, Wandell and Deputy Mayor Jessica Bernius have described as an existential threat to the village, are a looming issue, Moody's said. 'The village will continue to struggle with the rising costs associated with its largest collective bargaining unit, the police union, which comprises 51 percent of the annual budget.'" [Newsday, [8/2/15](#)]

**LaLota Blamed "A Generous Police Contract" For Budget Problems In Amityville.** "Fewer Long Island villages than in previous years face acute fiscal stress, but Amityville and Valley Stream are still 'susceptible' to the condition, meaning they may not be able to generate enough revenue to meet expenditures. [...] Trustee Nick LaLota, who leads village budgeting, blames slack spending controls and a generous police contract signed under a previous administration for putting the village there in the first place, but says the village's finances are gradually improving. The operating fund pushed into the black this year for the first time since 2008." [Newsday, 3/1/16]

**LaLota Said "Salaries For Officers In The Village's Police Department Played A Central Role In The Village's Overall Financial Situation" And Needed To Be Cut To Deal With The Village's "Long Term Financial Problems."** "Four Long Island villages are among 22 labeled as being in fiscal stress or susceptible to fiscal stress in a state report, with Amityville achieving the worst stress rating. [...] Amityville trustee Nick LaLota, the village budget officer, said in an email that salaries for officers in the village's police department played a central role in the village's overall financial situation. 'If the Village is ever going to solve our long term financial problems, we must begin with gaining a concession from the 2013-2018 Amityville Police Union Contract, which accounts for 44% of the village budget, pays the average officer more than \$150,000 per year, and gives \$250,000 buyouts to retiring officers,' he wrote." [Newsday, [2/23/15](#)]

**Amityville Record: "LaLota Reached Out To The Amityville PBA Asking-According To Some, Demanding-That The Union Agree To Open The Current Police Contract And Accept Givebacks To Help The Village's Financial Picture."** "The cost of police services raised controversy during the last administration. The Village, under former Mayor James P. Wandell, had a caustic relationship with the police. Early on, as the Village was struggling through financial stress, Trustee Nick LaLota reached out to the Amityville PBA asking-according to some, demanding-that the union agree to open the current police contract and accept givebacks to help the Village's financial picture. The PBA refused, saying it had agreed to givebacks when its members approved the last contract. Both sides dug their heels in and exchanged barbs, often publicly. What followed was a host of actions against officers that some saw as retaliatory, including the suspension of four officers for allegedly 'double dipping' into the state pension system by logging in time as fire volunteers when they responded to incidents as police officers. The issue was eventually settled with both sides opting not to comment on the agreement. Additionally, the PBA won a grievance against the Wandell administration when it held back night differential pay saying it violated the police contract. The Wandell administration was ordered by a state arbitrator to give back a total of \$123, 000 to the officers." [Amityville Record, 1/24/18]

**Newsday: As Amityville Trustee, LaLota "Called For Pay Concessions From The Police Union Over The Last Year."** "However, budget officer Nick LaLota's announcement at Monday night's village board meeting of a 1.16 percent property tax levy increase for next year was offset by a warning of an estimated \$2 million in retirement payments he said the village could face in coming years. Ten village police officers are approaching retirement age and could do so in six to eight years, he said. 'Where we're going to get that money from, stay tuned,' he said. Mayor James Wandell put it bluntly: 'That's the bomb waiting to happen.' Officers typically receive



lump-sum payments for unused sick and vacation time at retirement. LaLota and Wandell have called for pay concessions from the police union over the last year. According to calculations by LaLota included in the budget, the police department will cost taxpayers \$7.4 million in 2015-16.” [Newsday, [4/30/15](#)]

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**The Amityville Police Benevolent Association (PBA), The Village Police Union, Accused LaLota Of “Attacking” Officers With His Proposal To Freeze The Base Pay Of Some Of Its Members**

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**2014: LaLota Signed A Letter Asking To Cap The Base Pay Of Top Police Officers In Amityville**

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**HEADLINE:** “Amityville wants to cap village police salaries.” [Newsday, [2/25/14](#)]

**2014: LaLota Signed A Letter Asking To Cap The Base Pay Of Top Police Officers In Amityville.** “A majority of Amityville's trustees have signed a letter seeking to cap the pay of top-earning officers in the village police department, a move they say would save \$800,000 over the four years remaining in the current contract. The proposal, which would need the agreement of the union that represents Amityville's police, would cap base pay for officers whose total earnings -- including salary, overtime and extras like night differential -- exceeded \$150,000 in 2013. Trustee Nick LaLota said 20 of the 24 officers on the payroll earned over that threshold last year. The top earner was Chief Donald J. Dobby, a 29-year veteran whose base wages were \$181,282.40 in 2013, according to the village payroll. The proposal, outlined in a letter to the police union president Wednesday, comes as village officials prepare their 2014-2015 budget and weeks after the release of a New York State comptroller's report that identified Amityville as one of the most fiscally stressed villages in the state.” [Newsday, [2/25/14](#)]

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**LaLota Described Payments To Retiring Police Officers As “Golden Parachutes”**

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**LaLota: “The Amityville PBA Contract, Which Accounts For Almost 40% Of The Village Budget, Paid The Average Officer \$176,000 Last Year And Gives \$250,000 Golden Parachutes To Retiring Officers, Is Bankrupting Our Village And Crippling Our Taxpayers.”** “My dad was a cop and I know that Amityville is a better Village because we have our own police department. And as long as I am on the Board, I will advocate for a well-equipped Village PD. As the Board's rep to the PD, I've proven my support of our police by recommending the hiring of three new police officers and promoting one to detective. The Wandell administration has supported every request for training and lifesaving equipment made by the chief of police, ensuring that the PD is manned, trained and equipped better than it's been in almost five years. But the Amityville PBA contract, which accounts for almost 40% of the Village budget, paid the average officer \$176, 000 last year and gives \$250,000 golden parachutes to retiring officers, is bankrupting our Village and crippling our taxpayers. This contract, which is the costliest in the State, is the main reason for our firefighters' pension fund hitting rock bottom, other Village employees not getting a raise in years or our Village not having any money for capital projects like new roads. A unified Board of Trustees should immediately endorse my plan, which requests that the PBA open the contract to do two main things: 1) Institute a base pay freeze for any officer who earned more than \$150,000 last year; 2) Increase the starting pay of new officers from \$42k to \$78k, because we should pay all of Amityville's Finest a wage that they can actually live here on. This plan, which doesn't cut any officers' pay, would put almost \$900,000 back into the Village coffers over the next four years to be used for tax relief and capital projects like road repair.” [Amityville Record, Nick LaLota Op-ed, 3/5/14]

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**LaLota's “Very Public Push To Freeze Base Pay For Some Amityville Police Officers Drew The Ire Of PBA Officials,” Including The Union President, Who Said It Would “Save Money On The Backs Of Police”**

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**LaLota's “Very Public Push To Freeze Base Pay For Some Amityville Police Officers Drew The Ire Of PBA Officials.”** “LaLota has been a driving - and polarizing - force in Amityville government since Mayor James Wandell appointed him as a trustee in 2013, taking a lead role on budgeting for the fiscally troubled village. His very public push to freeze base pay for some Amityville police officers drew the ire of PBA officials and criticism

from fellow trustee Dennis Siry. Bay Village Civic Association president Joan Donnison called LaLota's approach disrespectful." [Newsday, [11/17/14](#)]

**HEADLINE: "Amityville police union slams trustee's plan to freeze some cops' base pay."** [Newsday, [3/9/14](#)]

**Police Union President Criticized The Plan And Said It Would "Save Money On The Backs Of Police."**

"Three of the five trustees -- Mayor James Wandell, Trustee Jessica Bernius and LaLota -- signed the letter in support of the plan. Trustees Dennis Siry and Kevin Smith said they had not signed the letter because they needed more time to evaluate the proposal. The letter asks Village Police Benevolent Association chief Chris Mullen to respond by March 10. Amityville's payroll shows that 21 officers were paid more than any other village employees last year. Police spending accounts for more than \$4.7 million of the \$15.2 million total village budget. The letter asks police for a financial sacrifice 'in our time of need . . . The savings will be used to fund new officers' pay raises, capital projects like roads and important programs like tax relief.' LaLota said residents would face double-digit tax increases unless the proposal is enacted. 'If you want to deal with village finances, you have to deal with the biggest source of problems, and police spending adds up to a third of the budget,' he said. Mullen criticized a plan he said would 'save money on the backs of the police.'" [Newsday, [2/25/14](#)]

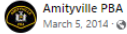
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**Amityville Police Union Accused LaLota Of "Attacking" Officers With His Proposal To Freeze The Base Pay Of Some Of Its Members**

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**Amityville Police Union Accused LaLota Of "Attacking" Officers With His Proposal To Freeze The Base Pay Of Some Of Its Members.** "Amityville's police union says in a letter to village residents that trustee Nick LaLota is 'attacking' officers in his recent proposal to freeze the base pay of some of its members. Police Benevolent Association president Chris Mullin wrote in the letters and a Newsday advertisement that the union has already made 'substantial' concessions to 'do our part to deal with the fiscal and economic realities our community faces.' LaLota, running for re-election in a March 18 village election, said his proposal to freeze the base pay of officers with gross 2013 earnings of more than \$150,000 is needed to avoid double-digit tax increases. 'I want our village to have the best police services,' he said. 'I just want them at a cost the taxpayers can afford.'" [Newsday, [3/9/14](#)]

**Police Union President: "Please, Mr. LaLota, Stop Attacking Our Local Law Enforcement Professionals Who Protect Our Families 24/7."** "'A Response to Amityville Political Candidate Nick LaLota: Please, Mr. LaLota, Stop Attacking Our Local Law Enforcement Professionals Who Protect Our Families 24/7 Trustee Nick LaLota 21 Ireland Place Amityville, N.Y. 11701 Dear Trustee LaLota: I recently learned -- from an article in Newsday -- that you and two other Village Board members drafted a proposal for the Amityville Police Benevolent Association to again reopen its contract with the Village. Even before getting into what we must guess was the actual substance of your 'proposal,' the very means of delivery (or non-delivery) of your 'proposal' immediately calls into question the sincerity of anything you say or 'propose.' Thus, while you somehow managed to get your 'proposal' to Newsday two weeks before your election for trustee, our organization -- the supposed recipient of your 'proposal' -- has not yet received anything from you. Nothing. Probably 'good politics' on your part. But being willing to seriously address the issues facing our community (to say nothing of the safety and well-being of the people in our community), I think, is more important than 'good politics.'"



Amityville PBA  
March 5, 2014

"A Response to Amityville Political Candidate Nick LaLota:"

Please, Mr. LaLota, Stop Attacking Our Local Law Enforcement Professionals Who Protect Our Families 24/7

Trustee Nick LaLota  
21 Ireland Place  
Amityville, N.Y. 11701

Dear Trustee LaLota:

I recently learned -- from an article in Newsday -- that you and two other Village Board members drafted a proposal for the Amityville Police Benevolent Association to again reopen its contract with the Village.

Even before getting into what we must guess was the actual substance of your "proposal," the very means of delivery (or non-delivery) of your "proposal" immediately calls into question the sincerity of anything you say or "propose."

Thus, while you somehow managed to get your "proposal" to Newsday two weeks before your election for trustee, our organization -- the supposed recipient of your "proposal" -- has not yet received anything from you. Nothing.

Probably "good politics" on your part.

But being willing to seriously address the issues facing our community (to say nothing of the safety and well-being of the people in our community), I think, is more important than "good politics."

As a new resident to our Village and new appointee to our Village Board, we welcome you.

However, you appear to be unaware of the facts regarding the past concessions our members have taken.

The Amityville PBA has continually demonstrated we are willing to work collaboratively with the Village for the best interests of the residents. The 2007-2013 contract froze academy pay for the life of the contract and lowered salary steps up to top pay.

In 2011, at the request of the Village, we reopened that contract, extended it until 2018, froze wages for 2013.

In 2013, again at the request of the Village, we again reopened the contract.

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In 2013, again at the request of the Village, we again reopened the contract.

This time the PBA agreed to a wage freeze for 30 months, and agreed it would take new hires 12 years to reach top pay and they would pay for part of their health insurance.

All of these contracts were unanimously approved by the Village Board.

And all this in the context of what many would describe as the remarkable, indeed, unique service that our police officers in Amityville provide to the community.

Our officers are not only among the most highly-trained law enforcement professionals in New York State, but because the overwhelming majority of them live in our Village, they have the detailed knowledge and strong personal and family commitment to serve us in a way that very few communities ever come close to experiencing.

Just ask your neighbors.

And what does this high-quality professional law enforcement cost? A fair question.

It currently costs less than \$10 per month per household.

And, yet, we are always open and willing to having a productive dialog regarding the concerns and needs of the Village.

As documented above, we have always been willing to make adjustments -- indeed provide substantial concessions if necessary -- to do our part to deal with the fiscal and economic realities our community faces.

We will not, however, sit idly by while you -- or any other politician -- falsely disparage the brave law enforcement professionals who every day serve this community with courage and commitment.

We understand and acknowledge what clearly seems to be your overwhelming desire for political office...but we do not believe that the many residents of Amityville who have been personally helped by their caring and professional officers would want us to accept the denigration -- by you or anyone else -- of their local community police officers.

We wish you well and express our willingness to discuss any of these issues with you.

We would, however, expect that in the future you would follow the very basic courtesy of sending us your "proposals" before you run to the press.

Sincerely,

Christian Mullin  
Amityville PBA President

[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/5/14](#)]

**Police Union President To LaLota: "We Will Not, However, Sit Idly By While You -- Or Any Other Politician -- Falsely Disparage The Brave Law Enforcement Professionals Who Every Day Serve This Community With Courage And Commitment."** "We will not, however, sit idly by while you -- or any other politician -- falsely disparage the brave law enforcement professionals who every day serve this community with courage and commitment. We understand and acknowledge what clearly seems to be your overwhelming desire for political office...but we do not believe that the many residents of Amityville who have been personally helped by their caring and professional officers would want us to accept the denigration -- by you or anyone else -- of their local community police officers. We wish you well and express our willingness to discuss any of these issues with you. We would, however, expect that in the future you would follow the very basic courtesy of sending us your 'proposals' before you run to the press. Sincerely, Christian Mullin Amityville PBA President." [Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/5/14](#)]

**Amityville Police Union: "LaLota Demanded 5% From The PBA By Threatening To 'Smear Us In The Media' With Blatant Disregard To A Legally Binding Contract."** "Mayor Wandell and Nick Lalota are simply playing Procrustean politics here. Like Procrustes, they are attacking the PBA by attempting to stretch or cut off our legs, so as to force us to fit the size of their iron bed, which is their failed political agenda. To their demise, they cannot live up to the promises they've made on the campaign trail, so both Wandell and Lalota are trying to shape the Village to their agenda rather than shaping their agenda to the Village's needs. Therefore the whole village, not just elements of it are going to lose. Immediately after his appointment, Lalota demanded 5% from the PBA by threatening to 'smear us in the media' with blatant disregard to a legally binding contract in which the PBA had already made several concessions over the past year and a half."



Amityville PBA  
February 26, 2014 ·

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Mayor Wandell and Nick LaLota are simply playing Procrustean politics here. Like Procrustes, they are attacking the PBA by attempting to stretch or cut off our legs, so as to force us to fit the size of their iron bed, which is their failed political agenda. To their demise, they cannot live up to the promises they've made on the campaign trail, so both Wandell and LaLota are trying to shape the Village to their agenda rather than shaping their agenda to the Village's needs. Therefore the whole village, not just elements of it are going to lose.

Immediately after his appointment, LaLota demanded 5% from the PBA by threatening to "smear us in the media" with blatant disregard to a legally binding contract in which the PBA had already made several concessions over the past year and a half. Because we saw the village in need, the member's collectively deferred a sum of 208k of their salary to ease a Village cash flow problem. This money will be paid back upon retirement without interest. (Some younger members won't see this money for another 25-30 years). The membership voluntarily agreed to no pay raises for 2013 and 2014. Most recently, the PBA renegotiated our contract to save the village well over a million dollars over the life of the contract by hiring new officers at a much lower rate. ALL new officers now pay 15% into their healthcare plan also contributing to the savings. The current board dismissed these savings as mere pittance. To say that the PBA hasn't made sacrifices on behalf of the village and it's residents is purely disingenuous and motivated by LaLota's election, which is fixed on facilitating lies about the PBA, most recently in Newsday's February 26, 2014 article.

In a previous meeting with the PBA, both Wandell and LaLota were unwilling to discuss any long-term savings plan because they put themselves in a position that required an immediate cash flow to fulfill campaign promises. Both Wandell and LaLota criticized the previous board for implementing a long-term savings plan without consulting an unknown incoming Village board. Ironically, LaLota now takes credit for the savings of these new police hires under the current PBA contract in his election ads. Surprisingly, LaLota now wants to give the new hires a 36k raise!

52

7 Shares

[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [2/26/14](#)]

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## **LaLota Accused The Police Union Of "Character Assassination" When The PBA Said He Was "Exploiting The Pay Issue For Political Gain"**

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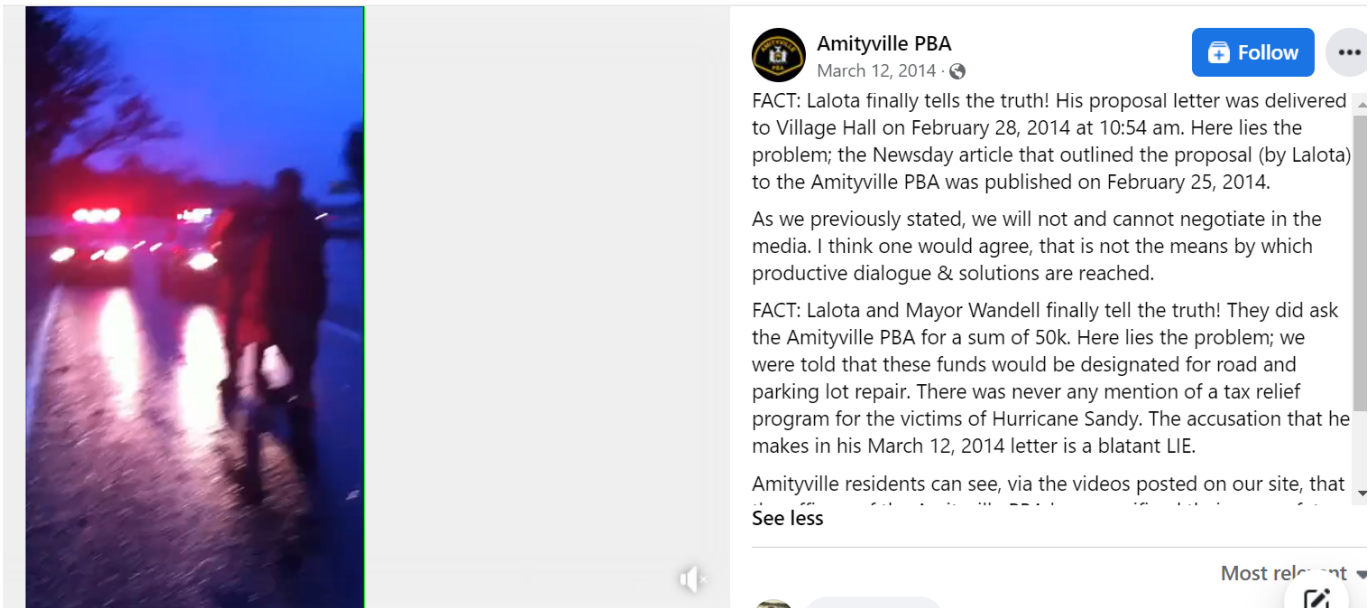
**LaLota Accused The Police Union Of "Character Assassination" When The PBA Accused Him Of "Exploiting The Pay Issue For Political Gain."** "LaLota has argued for months that current police pay is unsustainable, citing a report on village finances from the New York State comptroller's office and \$10 million in debt. He called last week's talks 'a sign that the Board and the PBA can partner up to keep Amityville moving forward.' The tone from both sides was more amicable than in the past, when the PBA accused LaLota of exploiting the pay issue for political gain and he accused the union of character assassination." [Newsday, [7/21/14](#)]

**LaLota's Relationship With The Union Was "Less Than Cordial," And The Union Accused Him Of Signing A Letter Calling Asking To Freeze Pay For Top Officers As A "Political Gimmick."** "Amityville trustees and the union representing village police officers have agreed to meet to discuss amendments to the police contract. The village will seek pay concessions, said trustee Nick LaLota, the village's budget officer. While the contract runs through 2018, a village proposal -- outlined in a letter to the PBA made public this spring -- asks the union to agree to a freeze on the base pay of top-earning officers. [...] LaLota said the village would likely hire a labor relations lawyer for the meeting. His own relations with the union have been less than cordial. While he was one of three trustees who signed the letter to the PBA this spring - Mayor James Wandell and Deputy Mayor Jessica Bernius also signed - union officials bought newspaper ads singling him out for his role in what they called a political gimmick." [Newsday, [6/4/14](#)]

**Police Union Said The Accusations In LaLota's Letter Were "A Blatant LIE."** "FACT: LaLota finally tells the truth! His proposal letter was delivered to Village Hall on February 28, 2014 at 10:54 am. Here lies the problem; the Newsday article that outlined the proposal (by LaLota) to the Amityville PBA was published on February 25, 2014. As we previously stated, we will not and cannot negotiate in the media. I think one would agree, that is not the means by which productive dialogue & solutions are reached. FACT: LaLota and Mayor Wandell finally tell the truth! They did ask the Amityville PBA for a sum of 50k. Here lies the problem; we were told that these funds would be designated for road and parking lot repair. There was never any mention of a tax relief program for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. The accusation that he makes in his March 12, 2014 letter is a blatant LIE. Amityville



residents can see, via the videos posted on our site, that the officers of the Amityville PBA have sacrificed their own safety for Village residents. It’s absurd to believe that we wouldn’t sacrifice 50k for those same families who were forced out of their homes by Hurricane Sandy.”



[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/12/14](#)]

**As Amityville Budget Officer, LaLota Listed Potential Savings That “Would Be Achievable By Abolishing The Amityville Police Department” In A PR Document**

**As Amityville Budget Officer, LaLota Listed Potential Savings That “Would Be Achievable By Abolishing The Amityville Police Department” In A PR Document.** “Longtime Amityville Clerk Diane Sheridan will depart, and road repaving will be cut back under a revised spending proposal the village budget officer unveiled this week. The \$15.4 million proposed budget, up 2.6 percent from last year, would rely on a property tax increase of 1.5 percent, which is within the state-mandated tax levy cap and would qualify homeowners for a tax-freeze check from the state. The tax rate would be \$34.64 per \$100 of assessed value. Part spreadsheet, part public relations, the 17-page document also outlines potential savings budget officer Nick LaLota says would be achievable by abolishing the Amityville Police Department or by pursuing a middle course of concessions from the police union, which LaLota has long advocated. The spending proposal puts the 2015-16 cost of the village’s police department at \$7.3 million, compared with \$3.8 million village taxpayers would pay for police coverage from the county.”

[Newsday, [4/15/15](#)]

- **The Document Also Included Potential Savings From “A Middle Course Of Concessions From The Police Union, Which LaLota Has Long Advocated.”** “Part spreadsheet, part public relations, the 17-page document also outlines potential savings budget officer Nick LaLota says would be achievable by abolishing the Amityville Police Department or by pursuing a middle course of concessions from the police union, which LaLota has long advocated. The spending proposal puts the 2015-16 cost of the village’s police department at \$7.3 million, compared with \$3.8 million village taxpayers would pay for police coverage from the county.” [Newsday, [4/15/15](#)]

*\*NOTE: Could not locate LaLota’s original budget document online, but a public records request to the Village of Amityville might be a way to retrieve it.*

**LaLota’s Opponent In The Amityville Mayor’s Race Accused Him Of Wanting To Abolish The Amityville Police Department.** “The two trustees running for mayor, Amityville First Party candidate Nick LaLota and

Hometown Party candidate Dennis Siry, and the future of the Amityville Police Department are at the center of the squabbles. Siry and his supporters have accused LaLota of wanting to abolish the department. The police department can only be dissolved by public referendum and LaLota said he only wants a better contract for the village's interests, noting that police costs make up 52 percent of the municipal budget." [Newsday, [3/17/17](#)]

**LaLota's Mayoral Opponent: "While LaLota Makes That Commitment Publicly" To Continue The Police Department, "His Actions And Those Of The Wandell Administration Send Another And Different Message."** "Candidates for the Amityville First Party, Nick LaLota, who is running for mayor, and James P. Wandell and Jessica Bernius, who are running for trustees, said they stand in staunch support of the department and its continuation. Their opponents, Dennis Siry of the Hometown Party who is running for mayor, and Kevin Smith of the Smith Party and Stephen Greenwald of the Good Neighbor Party, who are running for trustees, said that while LaLota makes that commitment publicly, his actions and those of the Wandell administration send another and different message. 'We love them, we have to keep them,' said LaLota who discussed the police department in a recent interview. 'As a husband and father who often works late, I know that if my family calls 911, the police will be there in 3-4 minutes. This is a service that is valuable to me as it is to every other Amityville Village resident.' 'Rumors were spread that the Amityville First Party would eliminate the APD to cut costs, which were blatant lies,' said Bernius. 'This is a true case of "fake news",' said Wandell adding that his administration 'never advocated the merger of our police department with Suffolk County.'" [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]

**Amityville Record: "LaLota Was Quoted As Saying The Village Could Save A Lot Of Money If It Abolished The Police Department."** "Their opponents, Dennis Siry of the Hometown Party who is running for mayor, and Kevin Smith of the Smith Party and Stephen Greenwald of the Good Neighbor Party, who are running for trustees, said that while LaLota makes that commitment publicly, his actions and those of the Wandell administration send another and different message. [...] Wandell pointed to his administration's commitment to the department in hiring more police officers, and providing significant training and equipment, including new vehicles. 'Having a police department in the Village is a true asset and increases our property values,' said Wandell 'If that is what they are saying today, then they are doing some back peddling,' said Greenwald who pointed to a Newsday article in April 2015 in which LaLota was quoted as saying the Village could save a lot of money if it abolished the police department. 'Obviously the thought was in their heads, no matter what they say now,' said Siry. 'We want to negotiate with the police in a fair and constructive manner and ensure that the department is self sustaining. They (the police) understand that too, but they are tired of being treated unfairly by this administration that has been out there demonizing them.'" [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]

**LaLota Said He Did Not Want To Eliminate The Amityville Police Department Despite Rumors That He Wanted To Merge With Suffolk County.** "Both Mayor James P. Wandell and LaLota, who have been the most outspoken on the issue, repeatedly stated over the past several months that they are not looking to eliminate the department and merge with Suffolk County, as some have rumored, and that they believe that Amityville Police officers provide high-quality protection and services to the residents. Their focus, they said, is to have the police join the process of helping to bring the Village out of its fiscal crisis. With mounting debt and a less-than-desirable credit rating, something must be done, they said." [Amityville Record, 7/23/14]

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**Suffolk County Legislator Said He Was "Sure" LaLota Asked Him If He Would "Push Forward" With A Measure Supporting The Merger Of The Amityville Police With The Suffolk County Police"**

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**Suffolk County Legislator Said He Was "Sure" LaLota Asked Him If He Would "Push Forward" With A Measure Supporting The Merger Of The Amityville Police With The Suffolk County Police.** "S.C. Leg. and Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory said he is sure that the administration at least at one time was looking for ways to disband the police department. LaLota approached him two years ago, he said, asking if he would 'push forward' a measure supporting the merger of the Amityville Police with the Suffolk County Police. 'I told him at the time that I did not think it was a good idea, and did not think the residents of Amityville would want to see that done,' said Gregory this week. 'I also told him if he thought it was a good idea, he should put his name to it.'" [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]



**LaLota “Vehemently” Denied That He Had Asked A Suffolk County Legislator If The County Could Hire Away A “Handful Of Amityville’s Senior Officers.”** “S.C. Leg. and Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory said he is sure that the administration at least at one time was looking for ways to disband the police department. LaLota approached him two years ago, he said, asking if he would ‘push forward’ a measure supporting the merger of the Amityville Police with the Suffolk County Police. [...] LaLota vehemently refuted that saying he contacted Gregory asking if the county would hire a handful of Amityville’s senior officers, whose pay exceeded \$180, 000 a year. The Village could then hire replacements at a lower cost. ‘It might be the thousands of dollars that DuWayne has taken from police unions that is clouding his recollection of our 2015 conversation,’ countered LaLota.” [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]

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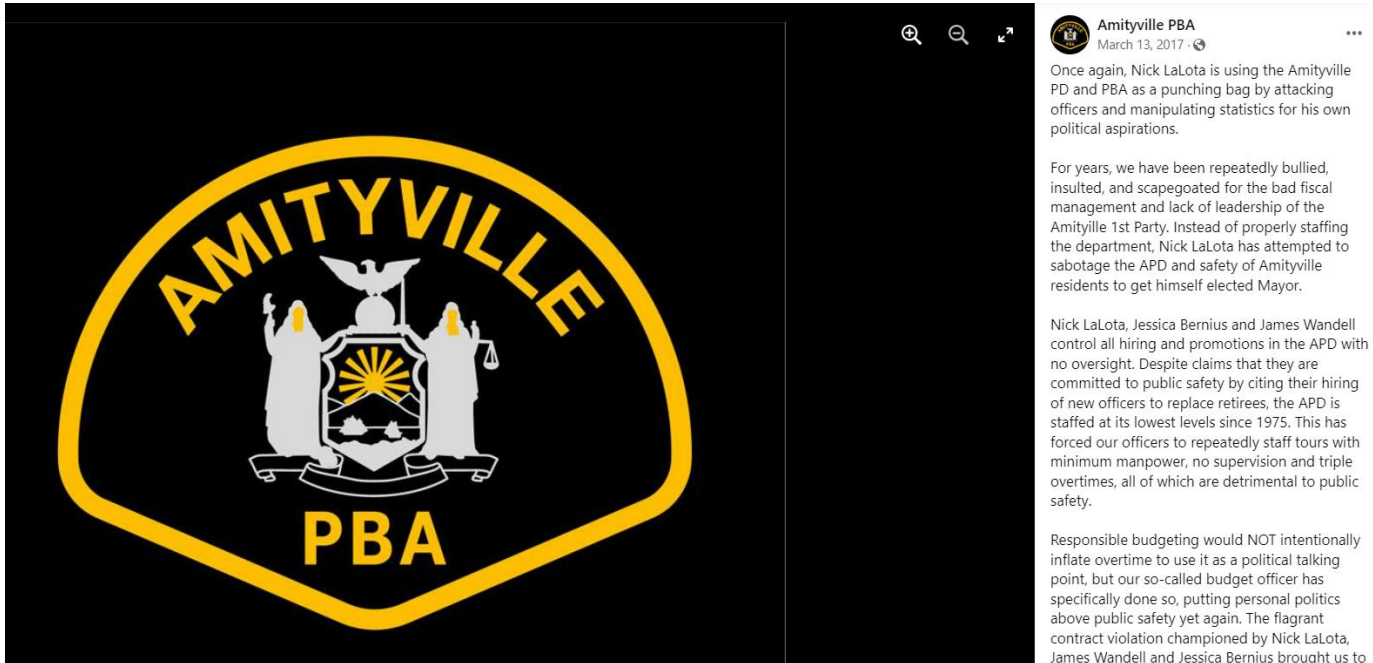
### **LaLota Was “The Face” Of The Amityville First Party, Which Was Accused Of Wanting To Dissolve The Village Police Department**

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**Amityville Record: “LaLota Has Largely Been The Face Of The Amityville First Party.”** “LaLota has largely been the face of the Amityville First Party, taking on leadership positions with regard to the Village’s finances and other key aspects of Village government. He has raised controversy and criticism, particularly with regard to his dealings with the Amityville Police Department and with the Wandell administration’s decision last year to revoke health insurance benefits from former Village officials.” [Amityville Record, 1/4/17]

**2017: LaLota’s Amityville First Party Was Accused Of Wanting To Dissolve The Village Police Department.** “Wandell, LaLota and Bernius represent the majority voting bloc on the board and are all running on the Amityville First Party. Siry, Smith and Greenwald are running on separate party lines. Candidates from the majority and minority blocs have sparred on social media and during board meetings recently over mailings stating that the Amityville First Party wants to dissolve the village police department, an action that can only be accomplished through public referendum. LaLota, 38, was appointed to the board in 2013, elected for the remainder of that term in 2014 and elected to a full term in 2015. He touts the improvement of the village’s finances as his proudest accomplishment, including two credit rating upgrades in recent years. LaLota, who is a commissioner for the Suffolk County Board of Elections and a former Navy officer, is promising a no-tax-increase budget within the first 30 days if he is elected mayor. He also said he would make revitalization of the downtown a priority.” [Newsday, [3/12/17](#)]

**Amityville Police Union: “For Years, We Have Been Repeatedly Bullied, Insulted, And Scapegoated For The Bad Fiscal Management And Lack Of Leadership Of The Amityville 1st Party.”** “Once again, Nick LaLota is using the Amityville PD and PBA as a punching bag by attacking officers and manipulating statistics for his own political aspirations. For years, we have been repeatedly bullied, insulted, and scapegoated for the bad fiscal management and lack of leadership of the Amityville 1st Party. Instead of properly staffing the department, Nick LaLota has attempted to sabotage the APD and safety of Amityville residents to get himself elected Mayor. Nick LaLota, Jessica Bernius and James Wandell control all hiring and promotions in the APD with no oversight. Despite claims that they are committed to public safety by citing their hiring of new officers to replace retirees, the APD is staffed at its lowest levels since 1975. This has forced our officers to repeatedly staff tours with minimum manpower, no supervision and triple overtimes, all of which are detrimental to public safety.”



[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/13/17](#)]

**Amityville Police Union: “Once Again, Nick LaLota Is Using The Amityville PD And PBA As A Punching Bag By Attacking Officers And Manipulating Statistics For His Own Political Aspirations.”** “Once again, Nick LaLota is using the Amityville PD and PBA as a punching bag by attacking officers and manipulating statistics for his own political aspirations. For years, we have been repeatedly bullied, insulted, and scapegoated for the bad fiscal management and lack of leadership of the Amityville 1st Party. Instead of properly staffing the department, Nick LaLota has attempted to sabotage the APD and safety of Amityville residents to get himself elected Mayor. Nick LaLota, Jessica Bernius and James Wandell control all hiring and promotions in the APD with no oversight. Despite claims that they are committed to public safety by citing their hiring of new officers to replace retirees, the APD is staffed at its lowest levels since 1975. This has forced our officers to repeatedly staff tours with minimum manpower, no supervision and triple overtimes, all of which are detrimental to public safety.”

[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/13/17](#)]

**LaLota Championed A Plan That Violated The Police Union’s Contract And Stole \$123,000 From Police Officers**

**LaLota Planned “To Balance The Budget” In Amityville “In Part By Cutting Extra Pay For Police Officers Working Overnight Shifts,” Which A Labor Arbitrator Ruled Violated The Police Union’s Contract**

**HEADLINE: “Wanting To Save Money, Amityville Proposes To Cut Night Pay For Police Officers.”**

[Newsday, [6/14/15](#)]

**LaLota Planned “To Balance The Budget In Part By Cutting Extra Pay For Police Officers Working Overnight Shifts.”** “LaLota's budget draft calls for \$500,000 to be spent on road repairs, enough for two as-yet unidentified quarter-mile sections. Smith said yesterday that repairs need to be made to Park and Ketcham avenues to alleviate flooding, with additional repairs to Merrick Road, police department offices in Village Hall and village docks. A number of trucks used by the Department of Public Works also need to be replaced, he said, and the village should build up what he called a ‘disaster relief’ fund. He also criticized LaLota's plan to balance the budget in part by cutting extra pay for police officers working overnight shifts from \$329,524 budgeted last year to \$223,031, calling it a ‘gamble’ the police union could fight. Police spending is a longtime sore spot for Amityville trustees. LaLota, Mayor James Wandell and Deputy Mayor Jessica Bernius have repeatedly asked for pay

concessions from the Police Benevolent Association, even though the union contract runs to 2018. They say concessions are necessary to the village's fiscal health and this year, for what they say was the first time in recent history, they retained a lawyer to negotiate with the police union." [Newsday, 4/21/15]

**LaLota Said His Plan To Reduce Extra Pay To Police Officers Working Night Shifts Would Cut Officers' Pay By \$4,000 A Year.** "The union representing Amityville police officers says a village board plan to reduce extra pay for regularly scheduled night shifts that officers work violates its contract, and it has begun a grievance process that could end in arbitration this summer. The reduction, which is not scheduled to go into effect until September, would cut officers' pay by an average of \$4,000 annually, trustee Nick LaLota said. Amityville PBA president Chris Mullin released a statement through a representative accusing the village of breaching its contract with the union. 'What the Village has done is an unfair labor practice which will burden residents with unnecessary court costs,' he said. 'The PBA looks forward to the opportunity for a neutral arbitrator to review the grievance and make a legally sound decision.' The dispute comes after months of ill will between the union and a majority of the trustees, including LaLota, who say six-figure salaries on the 25-officer force are threatening the long-term financial health of the village. A state review earlier this year found that the village was among the most fiscally stressed in New York, with spending on police accounting for a significant portion of its yearly budget." [Newsday, [6/14/15](#)]

**Newsday: Amityville "Reduced The Pay, A 12 Percent Premium Over Regular Wages Known As 'Night Differential,' To 8 Percent. This Cut Night Pay From About \$15,000 Per Officer Per Year, To \$10,000."** "Amityville Village will pay about \$120,000 in back pay to its police officers after an arbitrator sided with the officers' union in a case involving a contested premium paid for overnight shifts. The Village Board last June reduced the pay, a 12 percent premium over regular wages known as 'night differential,' to 8 percent. This cut night pay from about \$15,000 per officer per year, to \$10,000. The lower amount was based on the village's assertion that the officers, who work 12-hour tours, should only earn elevated night pay for hours actually worked at night." [Newsday, [6/26/16](#)]

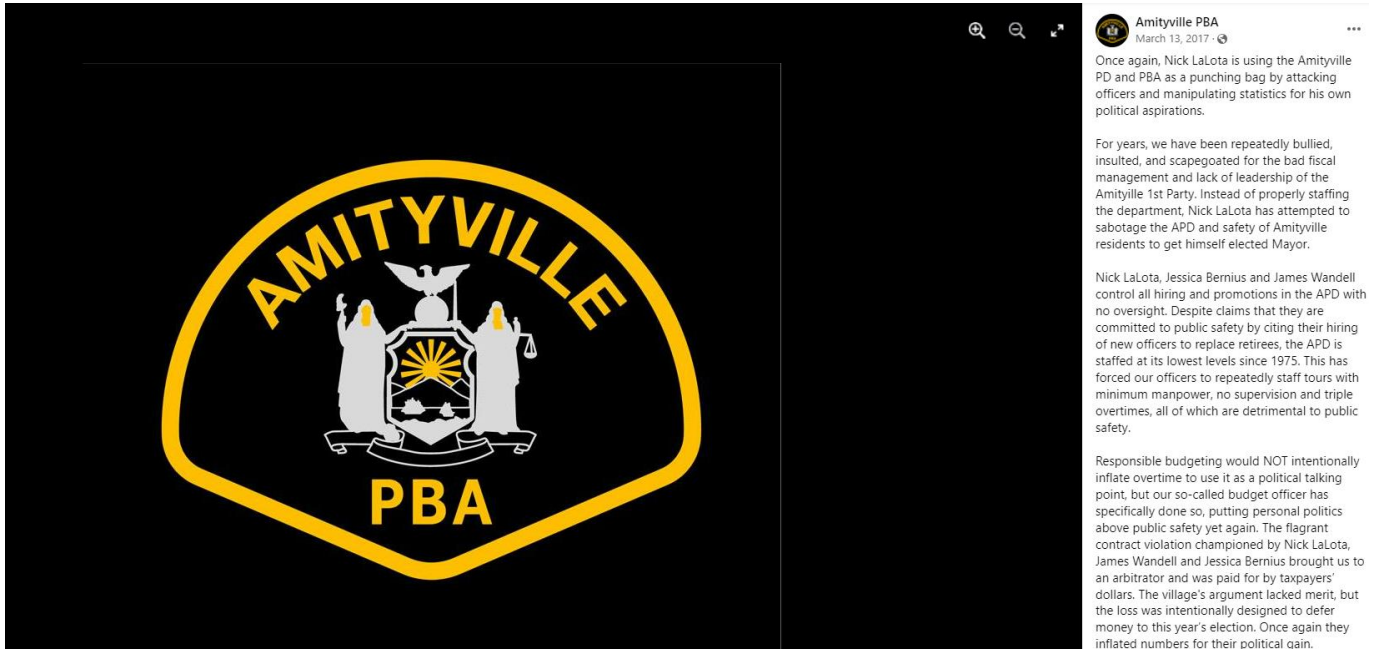
**LaLota Said The Village Proposal To Cut The Night Differential For Police Officers Was "Relatively Generous."** "LaLota said the cut to night differential pay, which he described as an 'administrative correction,' would save about \$100,000. Extra compensation of 12 percent of the top step officers' and sergeants' base pay, known as 'night differential,' is written into the PBA contract, intended to compensate officers for a schedule that typically includes six months of 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. shifts every year. Village officials propose to cut that bump to 8 percent. They refer also to a clause in the contract that calls for night differential to be adjusted to equal the Suffolk County PBA's, which would mean only a 7.5 percent bump for an officer working half of his tours at night. Based on that interpretation, LaLota said, the village proposal is relatively generous. The village will not pursue clawbacks and gave union officials and lawyers ample notice of the change, he said. 'We wanted to be as liberal as possible,' he said. That, he said, was in contrast to the PBA position. 'By asking for more than their Suffolk County counterparts, they fail to recognize the dire financial straits this village is in,' he said." [Newsday, [6/14/15](#)]

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**Amityville PBA: LaLota Was "Intentionally Inflat[ing] Overtime To Use It As A Political Talking Point" And Was "Putting Personal Politics Above Public Safety Yet Again"**

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**Amityville PBA: LaLota Was "Intentionally Inflat[ing] Overtime To Use It As A Political Talking Point" And Was "Putting Personal Politics Above Public Safety Yet Again."** "Responsible budgeting would NOT intentionally inflate overtime to use it as a political talking point, but our so-called budget officer has specifically done so, putting personal politics above public safety yet again. The flagrant contract violation championed by Nick LaLota, James Wandell and Jessica Bernius brought us to an arbitrator and was paid for by taxpayers' dollars. The village's argument lacked merit, but the loss was intentionally designed to defer money to this year's election. Once again they inflated numbers for their political gain."



[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/13/17](#)]

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### **The Police Union President Said LaLota “Acted Frivolously And Without Merit By Intentionally Violating The Clear Language Of The Collective Bargaining Agreement”**

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**The Police Union President Said LaLota “Acted Frivolously And Without Merit By Intentionally Violating The Clear Language Of The Collective Bargaining Agreement.”** “Labor arbitrator Robert L. Douglas called that an ‘appealing and quite tempting intuitive argument’ that nevertheless violated the village’s contract with the PBA, which makes no provision for the unilateral imposition of an adjustment to pay. ‘This landmark decision reaffirms the Amityville PBA’s position that the Board of Trustees — specifically Mayor [James] Wandell, Trustee [Jessica] Bernius and Chief Budget Officer [Nick] LaLota — acted frivolously and without merit by intentionally violating the clear language of the collective bargaining agreement,’ PBA president Chris Mullin said in a statement released by a representative. The decision proves, he continued, that ‘those who make the laws must also abide by them.’ LaLota had anticipated savings of about \$100,000 a year from the night differential reductions, which affected about 19 patrolmen and two sergeants. Instead, the village must now make the officers whole and restore the 12 percent premium.” [Newsday, [6/26/16](#)]

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### **A Labor Arbitrator Said LaLota’s Plan Violated The Amityville Police Union’s Contract, And The Village Was Ordered To Give \$123,000 Back To Police Officers**

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**A Labor Arbitrator Said LaLota’s Plan Violated The Amityville Police Union’s Contract.** “Labor arbitrator Robert L. Douglas called that an ‘appealing and quite tempting intuitive argument’ that nevertheless violated the village’s contract with the PBA, which makes no provision for the unilateral imposition of an adjustment to pay. ‘This landmark decision reaffirms the Amityville PBA’s position that the Board of Trustees — specifically Mayor [James] Wandell, Trustee [Jessica] Bernius and Chief Budget Officer [Nick] LaLota — acted frivolously and without merit by intentionally violating the clear language of the collective bargaining agreement,’ PBA president Chris Mullin said in a statement released by a representative. The decision proves, he continued, that ‘those who make the laws must also abide by them.’ LaLota had anticipated savings of about \$100,000 a year from the night differential reductions, which affected about 19 patrolmen and two sergeants. Instead, the village must now make the officers whole and restore the 12 percent premium.” [Newsday, [6/26/16](#)]



- **Economic Policy Institute: Wage Theft Was The Practice Of Employers Failing To Pay Workers The Full Wages To Which They Are Legally Entitled,” Including “Not Paying Overtime Premiums.”** “Wage theft, the practice of employers failing to pay workers the full wages to which they are legally entitled, is a widespread and deep-rooted problem that directly harms millions of U.S. workers each year. Employers refusing to pay promised wages, paying less than legally mandated minimums, failing to pay for all hours worked, or not paying overtime premiums deprives working people of billions of dollars annually.” [Economic Policy Institute, [5/10/17](#)]

**The Wandell Administration Lost A Grievance Brought By The Police Union After Holding Back Night Differential Pay In Violation Of The Police Contract And Was Ordered To Give Back \$123,000 To The Officers.** “The cost of police services raised controversy during the last administration. The Village, under former Mayor James P. Wandell, had a caustic relationship with the police. Early on, as the Village was struggling through financial stress, Trustee Nick LaLota reached out to the Amityville PBA asking-according to some, demanding-that the union agree to open the current police contract and accept givebacks to help the Village's financial picture. The PBA refused, saying it had agreed to givebacks when its members approved the last contract. Both sides dug their heels in and exchanged barbs, often publicly. What followed was a host of actions against officers that some saw as retaliatory, including the suspension of four officers for allegedly ‘double dipping’ into the state pension system by logging in time as fire volunteers when they responded to incidents as police officers. The issue was eventually settled with both sides opting not to comment on the agreement. Additionally, the PBA won a grievance against the Wandell administration when it held back night differential pay saying it violated the police contract. The Wandell administration was ordered by a state arbitrator to give back a total of \$123, 000 to the officers.” [Amityville Record, 1/24/18]

**HEADLINE: “Amityville must give village police \$120G in back pay.”** [Newsday, [6/26/16](#)]

**Labor Arbitrator’s Ruling In Favor Of The Police Union Was “A Setback For The Wandell Administration And In Particular For LaLota, Who Has Repeatedly Said That The Union Must Accept Cuts To Police Pay To Ensure Amityville’s Fiscal Stability.”** “The decision, first reported last week by the Amityville Record, marks a setback for the Wandell administration and in particular for LaLota, who has repeatedly said that the union must accept cuts to police pay to ensure Amityville’s fiscal stability in coming years. ‘Common sense and the English language were surely on our side,’ LaLota said, adding that the village will revisit the night differential issue in 2018 contract negotiations with the union. In the meantime, he said, the village is moving ahead with purchase of new police cruisers and weapons and the hiring of new officers. ‘These are steps we hope the union will recognize as positive for public safety,’ he said. LaLota said he was hopeful that resolution of the case will lead to better relations between the board and the union, but fellow trustee Dennis Siry discounted that possibility. ‘Because of the way they treated the cops and talked to them in the beginning . . . it’s going to be a hard fence to mend,’ he said.” [Newsday, [6/26/16](#)]

### **LaLota Was Accused Of Taking Retaliatory Action Against Police Officers Over The Contract Dispute**

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**LaLota Employed “Strong-Arm Tactics In An Attempt To Force The Amityville PBA To Open Its Contract,” But “Nothing Was Accomplished Except Creating A Lot Of Bad Blood”**

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**LaLota Employed “Strong-Arm Tactics In An Attempt To Force The Amityville PBA To Open Its Contract.”** “They also sought to save \$100, 000 a year the Village was spending to pay for health care coverage of former Village officials and a former employee. The administration, and LaLota in particular, publicly opposed and made caustic comments about these individuals-his neighbors-making it appear that they were doing something illegal by taking health care benefits from the Village based on a legitimate agreement made by an administration years ago. The former officials and employee were not part of that decision. Finally, LaLota used the same strong-armed tactics in an attempt to force the Amityville Police PBA to open its contract and provide givebacks above

and beyond what they gave back to the Village when the contract was signed. The tactic backfired, and both sides hunkered down. Nothing was accomplished except creating a lot of bad blood.” [Amityville Record, Editorial, 3/15/17]

**LaLota’s “Tactic Backfired” And “Nothing Was Accomplished Except Creating A Lot Of Bad Blood.”** “They also sought to save \$100, 000 a year the Village was spending to pay for health care coverage of former Village officials and a former employee. The administration, and LaLota in particular, publicly opposed and made caustic comments about these individuals-his neighbors-making it appear that they were doing something illegal by taking health care benefits from the Village based on a legitimate agreement made by an administration years ago. The former officials and employee were not part of that decision. Finally, LaLota used the same strong-armed tactics in an attempt to force the Amityville Police PBA to open its contract and provide givebacks above and beyond what they gave back to the Village when the contract was signed. The tactic backfired, and both sides hunkered down. Nothing was accomplished except creating a lot of bad blood.” [Amityville Record, Editorial, 3/15/17]

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### **After The Police Union Refused LaLota’s Request To Accept Givebacks To The Village, “What Followed Was A Host Of Actions Against Officers That Some Saw As Retaliatory”**

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**After The Police Union Refused LaLota’s Request To Accept Givebacks To The Village, “What Followed Was A Host Of Actions Against Officers That Some Saw As Retaliatory.”** “The cost of police services raised controversy during the last administration. The Village, under former Mayor James P. Wandell, had a caustic relationship with the police. Early on, as the Village was struggling through financial stress, Trustee Nick LaLota reached out to the Amityville PBA asking-according to some, demanding-that the union agree to open the current police contract and accept givebacks to help the Village’s financial picture. The PBA refused, saying it had agreed to givebacks when its members approved the last contract. Both sides dug their heels in and exchanged barbs, often publicly. What followed was a host of actions against officers that some saw as retaliatory, including the suspension of four officers for allegedly ‘double dipping’ into the state pension system by logging in time as fire volunteers when they responded to incidents as police officers. The issue was eventually settled with both sides opting not to comment on the agreement. Additionally, the PBA won a grievance against the Wandell administration when it held back night differential pay saying it violated the police contract. The Wandell administration was ordered by a state arbitrator to give back a total of \$123, 000 to the officers.” [Amityville Record, 1/24/18]

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### **LaLota Abstained From Voting On Promoting A Police Officer To Sergeant Because He Had “Been At Odds” With Him Over The Police Contract**

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**LaLota Abstained From Voting On Promoting A Police Officer To Sergeant Because He Had “Been At Odds” With Him Over The Police Contract.** “In a 3-0 vote with two abstentions, the Amityville Village Board moved on a mayor’s action, promoting APO Christian Mullin to sergeant. Voting for the move were Mayor Dennis Siry and Trustees Kevin Smith and Tom Whelan. Trustees Nick Lalota and Jessica Bernius abstained saying that the administration had not provided them with background information on Mullin and the two other candidates, APOs Frank Caramanico and Michael Walters. ‘I congratulate Chris, and I mean that sincerely,’ said Lalota who has been at odds with Mullin over the police contract. Mullin is the president of the police officer’s union and the two have sparred, personally and publicly, since Lalota was elected to office. Lalota consistently pointed to the costs of police services in the Village and asked the union to open the contract and provide some financial givebacks to help the Village over its financial crisis. ‘Whether it is the uniform of a police officer or the military service, I respect it,’ said Lalota as the motion to appoint Mullin was raised. ‘But part of the board (he and Trustee Bernius) has been shut out of the process and I find that unfair.’ His statement received angry comments from those in the audience, most who came to see Mullin sworn in. ‘That’s why you were not elected,’ shouted one, referring to Lalota’s recent unsuccessful bid for the mayor’s seat.” [Amityville Record, 7/19/17]

**LaLota Questioned The Appointee’s Credentials Despite The Officer Having 20 Years Of Experience.** “Lalota said he only heard about the mayor’s choice the Thursday before the meeting on Mon., July 10, and had not had time to complete ‘my due diligence.’ And, he added, when he asked Police Chief Glenn Slack for the



background information on the three candidates, the chief declined, saying the mayor had told him not to release the information. ‘We all found out at the same time,’ said Whelan. ‘This is a mayor’s action and I am honored to vote for you (Mullin),’ he said. Mayor Siry said after the meeting that LaLota had asked for extensive records documenting the statistics of the three officers being considered for sergeant. ‘I was told by the chief that it would take a long time to compile that information and did not believe it was necessary,’ said Siry. ‘We had one officer with 20 years experience and the others with eight years experience each. As far as I was concerned, it was Chris’s experience that made him the best candidate.’” [Amityville Record, 7/19/17]

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**LaLota Supported Controversial A Plan To Create A Civilian Police Commissioner Post That The Police Chief Said Was Unnecessary, Which The Police Union President “Slammed”**

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**LaLota Supported Controversial A Plan To Create A Civilian Police Commissioner Post That The Police Chief Said Was Unnecessary.** “The Amityville Police Department would get civilian leadership under a controversial village board proposal to create the position of police commissioner. Under the proposal, slated for a public hearing Monday, the commissioner would supervise newly appointed Police Chief Glenn C. Slack but also focus on planning, management and administration of the department. [...] ‘The challenge on this board for the last few years has been how to deliver vital services and do so at an affordable cost,’ trustee Nick LaLota said at a village board meeting last week. The creation of a commissioner’s position would do both, he added in an interview. The commissioner would do much of the work previously done by the lieutenant but more cheaply, saving the village about \$100,000 a year and letting Slack focus on policing, rather than paperwork, LaLota said. The proposal has already drawn opposition from a number of quarters. The department has 23 officers. ‘I don’t think we need a commissioner. What we need are police officers,’ Slack said in an interview this week, citing two empty sergeants’ slots in the department. He and a full-time administrator have handled the department’s administrative work since June, he added.” [Newsday, [9/23/15](#)]

**Amityville PBA President Chris Mullin “Slammed The Idea” To Create A Police Commissioner.** “Trustee Kevin Smith described the proposed position as redundant and ‘a waste of taxpayer dollars.’ Amityville PBA president Chris Mullin slammed the idea in a statement released by a representative, calling it ‘clearly not in the interest of public safety, but politics.’ Union leaders and trustees have feuded publicly for months over issues related to police officer pay, which some trustees have said is unsustainably high. While Nassau and Suffolk County police departments have commissioners, along with a handful of smaller Nassau forces, it’s ‘unusual’ for a department the size of Amityville’s to have both a commissioner and a chief, said New York State Association of Chiefs of Police president Stephen Conner, who also serves as assistant MTA police chief. Maria Haberfeld, chair of the Department of Law & Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, criticized the proposal. ‘It’s not a good mix, the civilian and the sworn,’ she said. ‘It’s a power struggle.’” [Newsday, [9/23/15](#)]

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**LaLota Introduced A Law To Limit The Length Of The Village’s Contract With Police Officers**

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**LaLota Introduced A Law To Limit The Length Of The Village’s Contract With Police Officers.** “For the second time in two weeks, Amityville Village Trustee Nick LaLota has brought forward proposals for new local laws. He’s hoping his latest will be discussed at the Village’s workshop meeting on Thursday. The local law is designed, he said, to bring responsible contracting and disclosure on all Village contracts of \$1 million or more. The financial threshold would apply to only two contracts in the Village: the PBA and Department of Public Works contractual agreements. The Village is currently in negotiations with the police for a new contract. Under the terms of the proposal, if passed, the Village board would be required to limit these contracts to no more than a year beyond the term of office of the mayor in office at the time the contract is signed. In addition, the full contract, with all of its parts, must be published on the Village website a week before it is brought to the board for a vote. Along with the contract, the Village would be required to disclose any contributions of \$250 or more made by any of the individuals or groups affected by the contract. While that information is available through other sources, LaLota said he wants to make it available to the full board and have it posted on the Village website. LaLota sent his latest proposal to the board over the weekend. Mayor Dennis Siry said he received it and was looking into it. ‘Certainly,

he is looking at this with regard to the police contract,' said Siry. 'We are willing to review it, but what concerns me is that I don't want to agree to something that ties the hands of the duly elected officials.' [...] 'What this law is designed to do is prevent lame duck administrations from binding a future one,' said LaLota referring to the police contract signed by former Mayor Peter Imbert in his last year in office. That contract extended through the first term of his successor, James P. Wandell." [Amityville Record, 2/7/18]

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**LaLota Touted His Work Increasing The Number Of Officers On Patrol As An Amityville Trustee, But The Amityville PBA Accused Him Of Understaffing The Police Department**

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**2014: LaLota Said Claims That He Had Disparaged Police Were "Absolutely False" And That "We Support The Full Manning, Equipment And Training Of The Village Police Department And My Record Reflects That"**

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**LaLota Said Claims That He Had Disparaged Police Were "Absolutely False."** "We understand and acknowledge what clearly seems to be your overwhelming desire for political office,' the letter continues. 'We do not believe that the many residents of Amityville who have been personally helped by their caring and professional officers would want us to accept the denigration -- by you or anyone else -- of their local community police officers.' LaLota said the union's charge that he disparaged police officers by offering a plan to freeze their base pay was 'absolutely false.' His father and both grandfathers were police officers, he said." [Newsday, [3/9/14](#)]

**LaLota: "We Support The Full Manning, Equipment And Training Of The Village Police Department And My Record Reflects That."** "At times the responses got dicey. The Wandell administration has made it clear that it believes the Amityville police officers are making too much and has been pressing for the PBA to agree to open its contract, which runs through 2018. After LaLota pointed out that the administration supports the police and pointed to the fact that three new police officers were hired by the mayor this year, Powell responded that he thought it was disingenuous that they take credit for hiring new police officers 'but howled over the police contract' during the campaign last year and since being elected to office. LaLota then outlined a proposal calling for a freeze on police officers salaries at \$150, 000 a year, saying they were the highest in the state (averaging \$176, 000 a year), and calling for an increase in the pay for new officers from \$42,000 a year to \$78,000. 'This would enable the officers to live in Amityville,' he said. 'If we are going to do something about the \$10 million budget and deficit and credit rating we have to talk about the elephant in the room-the PBA contract,' he said. Despite that, LaLota said he wants to 'debunk' the rumor that he and the administration do not support the police and want to see it disbanded. 'We support the full manning, equipment and training of the Village police department and my record reflects that,' said LaLota." [Amityville Record, 3/5/14]

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**2022: LaLota Touted His Work Increasing The Number Of Officers On Patrol As An Amityville Trustee...**

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**LaLota Touted His Work Increasing The Number Of Officers On Patrol As An Amityville Trustee.** "As the Chairman of the Committee to the Police Department, Nick increased the number of Officers on patrol. As Chairman of the Committee to the Fire Department, Nick worked with the Chiefs' Office and Fire Council to start a Village Fire Marshal program, refurbish multiple ambulances, increase EMT funding by 40% and appropriated additional funding for life saving equipment that keeps our volunteer firefighters and community safe." [Nick LaLota for Congress, accessed [4/28/22](#)]

**LaLota: "I Will Ensure That Our Police Departments Are Well-Funded And That Our Officers Have Everything The Need To Keep Long Island Communities Safe."**



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [4/27/22](#)]

**LaLota: “In This Era Of Hatred And Animosity Directed At Our Police, Congress Must Take Action To Send A Clear Message Of Support For Our Great Law Enforcement Officers.”** “My father was a Police Officer. Both of my grandfathers served in the NYPD. With that close family background, I understand how Law Enforcement Officers all over the country are on the front lines in our communities day in and day out, working around the clock to keep us safe. Our brave men and women in Law Enforcement deserve to have elected officials who will stand up for them when-- in the course of protecting our communities-- they find themselves in harm’s way. With an unprecedented rise of violence committed towards those in Blue, Congress must step up to make sure that our law enforcement is treated with the respect it deserves. That is why I would support the ‘Protect and Serve Act’ which would make police officers across all 50 states a protected class. Specifically, the Act would make it a crime to knowingly cause or attempt to cause ‘serious bodily injury to a law enforcement officer.’ The crime is punishable by 10 years in prison. If the crime results in the death of a law enforcement officer, or the crime involves kidnapping or the attempt to kidnap or kill a law enforcement officer, then the sentence can be up to life in prison. In this era of hatred and animosity directed at our police, Congress must take action to send a clear message of support for our great law enforcement officers.” [Nick LaLota for Congress, accessed [4/28/22](#)]

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**... But The Amityville Police Benevolent Association Accused LaLota Of Understaffing The Police Department When He Was A Trustee**

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**Police Union: “Amityville PBA Members Have Been Under Manned Since The Amityville First Party’s Election And Lalota’s Appointment.”** “Today in a Facebook post Trustee Lalota referred to a smear campaign by the Amityville PBA. The only smear campaign is the one perpetrated by Lalota in a desperate attempt to win his first election. The timing of the Amityville First Party rhetoric is very evident with Election Day fast approaching. Lalota is pulling out all the stops to fuel his inflated ego. The Amityville PBA members have been under manned since the Amityville First Party’s election and Lalota's appointment; until very recently the Board hired three new members. This mismanagement along with Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy’s additional overtime cost’s, inflated the salaries of the entire PBA.”

**Amityville PBA**  
February 27, 2014 · 🌐

Today in a Facebook post Trustee Lalota referred to a smear campaign by the Amityville PBA. The only smear campaign is the one perpetrated by Lalota in a desperate attempt to win his first election. The timing of the Amityville First Party rhetoric is very evident with Election Day fast approaching. Lalota is pulling out all the stops to fuel his inflated ego.

The Amityville PBA members have been under manned since the Amityville First Party's election and Lalota's appointment; until very recently the Board hired three new members. This mismanagement along with Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy's additional overtime cost's, inflated the salaries of the entire PBA.

The Amityville PBA and the Village have had a long history of Pattern Bargaining Agreement that strives for parity with the Suffolk County PBA contract. We have a contract until 2018, but opened it prospectively to mirror the new Suffolk County PBA deal, which reduced salaries for new hires; added steps to top pay, and required new hires to pay into their medical care. This long-term plan was implemented to create a short-term savings as well as effectively change the paradigm for Police contracts in Suffolk County and Amityville Village. This brings costs down dramatically and addresses the sustainability of police salaries for the future.

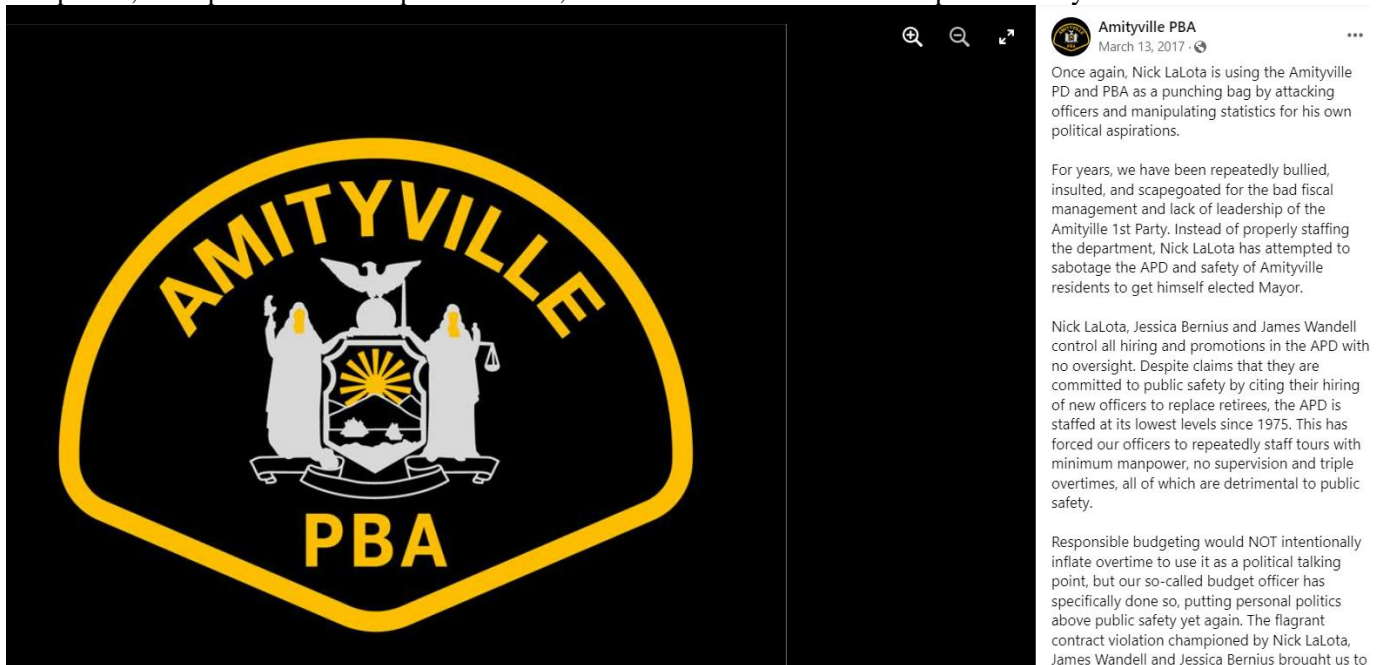
Lalota wants to give the new hires \$34k raises. This is not a plan for real savings, but an attempt to cause division amongst the union. Lalota is reaching for anything to put "his" name on and will criticize any of the previous work done by his predecessors. This vain attempt will undo the "reset button" of the new police salaries that have been created in this agreement. We stand by our 35-year pattern bargaining concept to give our residents the knowledge that our police costs are the same in both the County and the Village.

Regardless of what Lalota wants you to believe, the fact is, to deviate from this plan, shows little knowledge of what the short and long-term savings mean to municipalities in regards to police contracts.

👍 39      2 Comments 5 Shares

[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [2/27/14](#)]

**Amityville Police Union: “Instead Of Properly Staffing The Department, Nick LaLota Has Attempted To Sabotage The APD And Safety Of Amityville Residents To Get Himself Elected Mayor.”** “Once again, Nick LaLota is using the Amityville PD and PBA as a punching bag by attacking officers and manipulating statistics for his own political aspirations. For years, we have been repeatedly bullied, insulted, and scapegoated for the bad fiscal management and lack of leadership of the Amityville 1st Party. Instead of properly staffing the department, Nick LaLota has attempted to sabotage the APD and safety of Amityville residents to get himself elected Mayor. Nick LaLota, Jessica Bernius and James Wandell control all hiring and promotions in the APD with no oversight. Despite claims that they are committed to public safety by citing their hiring of new officers to replace retirees, the APD is staffed at its lowest levels since 1975. This has forced our officers to repeatedly staff tours with minimum manpower, no supervision and triple overtimes, all of which are detrimental to public safety.”



[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/13/17](#)]

**In 2017, The PBA Said The Police Department Was “Staffed At Its Lowest Levels Since 1975,” Which Forced Our Officers To Repeatedly Staff Tours With Minimum Manpower, No Supervision And Triple Overtimes, All Of Which Are Detrimental To Public Safety.”** “Once again, Nick LaLota is using the Amityville

PD and PBA as a punching bag by attacking officers and manipulating statistics for his own political aspirations. For years, we have been repeatedly bullied, insulted, and scapegoated for the bad fiscal management and lack of leadership of the Amityville 1st Party. Instead of properly staffing the department, Nick LaLota has attempted to sabotage the APD and safety of Amityville residents to get himself elected Mayor. Nick LaLota, Jessica Bernius and James Wandell control all hiring and promotions in the APD with no oversight. Despite claims that they are committed to public safety by citing their hiring of new officers to replace retirees, the APD is staffed at its lowest levels since 1975. This has forced our officers to repeatedly staff tours with minimum manpower, no supervision and triple overtimes, all of which are detrimental to public safety.” [Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/13/17](#)]

### **The Amityville Police Union Said Lalota’s 2014 Trustee Campaign Was “Fixed On Facilitating Lies About The PBA”**

#### **Amityville Police Union: “This Campaign Is Not About Appointed Trustee LaLota Vs. Andy Powell, But Appointed Trustee LaLota Vs. The PBA Union.”**



Amityville PBA

March 2, 2014 · 🌐

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It appears that Mr. Lalota has once again directed most of his attention toward the PBA Union. It has become quite clear to many people throughout the Village that this campaign is not about Appointed Trustee Lalota vs. Andy Powell, but Appointed Trustee Lalota vs. the PBA Union. He continually uses the media and social outlets in an attempt to educate Village residents with inconsistencies and a clear misrepresentation of the truth. It's unfortunate that his campaign is not about addressing the issues, but once again is transfixed on his own personal 'David & Goliath.' Mr. Lalota is no 'David' and we are certainly no 'Goliath'. Quite the contrary, we are the humble servants who serve this Village with the ultimate dedication and sacrifice to your family as well as ours, who keep the 'Goliath' out of the Village.

👍 73

1 Comment 3 Shares

[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/2/14](#)]

#### **Amityville Police Union: Lalota’s Trustee Campaign Was “Fixed On Facilitating Lies About The PBA.”**

“Because we saw the village in need, the member’s collectively deferred a sum of 208k of their salary to ease a Village cash flow problem. This money will be paid back upon retirement without interest. (Some younger members won’t see this money for another 25-30 years). The membership voluntarily agreed to no pay raises for 2013 and 2014. Most recently, the PBA renegotiated our contract to save the village well over a million dollars over the life of the contract by hiring new officers at a much lower rate. ALL new officers now pay 15% into their healthcare plan also contributing to the savings. The current board dismissed these savings as mere pittance. To say that the PBA hasn’t made sacrifices on behalf of the village and it’s residents is purely disingenuous and motivated by Lalota’s election, which is fixed on facilitating lies about the PBA, most recently in Newsday’s February 26, 2014 article. In a previous meeting with the PBA, both Wandell and Lalota were unwilling to discuss any long-term savings plan because they put themselves in a position that required an immediate cash flow to fulfill campaign promises. Both Wandell and Lalota criticized the previous board for implementing a long-term savings plan without consulting an unknown incoming Village board. Ironically, Lalota now takes credit for the savings of these new police hires under the current PBA contract in his election ads. Surprisingly, Lalota now wants to give the new hires a 36k raise!” [Facebook, Amityville PBA, [2/26/14](#)]

#### **Amityville PBA To LaLota: “Please Don’t Gamble With The Truth” Regarding How Much The Police Contract Cost The Village.**





Amityville PBA

March 9, 2014 · 🌐

Did You Know? The Amityville Police Department budget line consists of 31% of your village tax bill (under a 1/3 of the village budget), not the 60% and 46% erroneously reported by Mayor Wandell and Appointed Trustee LaLota.

If the good people, whom we swore to protect and serve, really want the truth about the Police budget and not the toxic propoganda being spewed from the mouth of an ambitious politician, then we beseech you to go to (<http://amityville.com/Budgets.cfm>) to see the truth.

Please don't gamble with the truth "Nick."

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." —Aldous Huxley



1 Comment 12 Shares

[Facebook, Amityville PBA, [3/9/14](#)]

### **LaLota Took Disciplinary Action Against An Amityville Police Officer Who Logged In As A Firefighter When He Responded To Calls And Put The Jobs Of Three Other Officers In "Jeopardy"**

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#### **LaLota And Members Of The Wandell Administration Voted To Suspend Amityville Police Officer Onderdonk Without Pay Because They Believed He Had "Illegally Logged In As A Firefighter When He Responded To [Police] Calls"**

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**LaLota And Members Of The Wandell Administration Voted To Suspend Amityville Police Officer Onderdonk Without Pay Because They Believed The Officer Had "Illegally Logged In As A Firefighter When He Responded To [Police] Calls."** "The next salvo was launched June 29, 2015 when LaLota, Bernius and Wandell voted to suspend APO Eric Onderdonk without pay. While the board would not say at that time why they took that move, it was later revealed through other sources that the administration believed that Onderdonk, who is also an Amityville Fire Department volunteer, had illegally logged in as a firefighter when he responded to calls as a police officer or took part in fire department meetings. Those logs are kept to calculate volunteers' LOSAP (fire volunteer retirement) credits. Later, the administration added three additional officers to the fray, Michael Walters, Charles Taylor and Harold Miller, who were also told their jobs were in jeopardy. After months, all three eventually signed agreements with the Village and the cases against them were dismissed." [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]

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#### **Three Other Officers "Were Also Told Their Jobs Were In Jeopardy" By The Wandell Administration, And Later Signed Settlements With The Village And Had Cases Against Them Dismissed**

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**Three Other Officers "Were Also Told Their Jobs Were In Jeopardy" By The Wandell Administration.** "The next salvo was launched June 29, 2015 when LaLota, Bernius and Wandell voted to suspend APO Eric Onderdonk without pay. While the board would not say at that time why they took that move, it was later revealed through other sources that the administration believed that Onderdonk, who is also an Amityville Fire Department volunteer, had illegally logged in as a firefighter when he responded to calls as a police officer or took part in fire department meetings. Those logs are kept to calculate volunteers' LOSAP (fire volunteer retirement) credits. Later, the administration added three additional officers to the fray, Michael Walters, Charles Taylor and Harold Miller, who were also told their jobs were in jeopardy. After months, all three eventually signed agreements with the Village and the cases against them were dismissed." [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]

**The Three Other Officers Signed Settlements With The Village And The Cases Against Them Were Dismissed.** "Later, the administration added three additional officers to the fray, Michael Walters, Charles Taylor and Harold Miller, who were also told their jobs were in jeopardy. After months, all three eventually signed agreements with the Village and the cases against them were dismissed." [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]



**Fire Official: None Of The Officers Benefitted From Signing In As Police, Which “Was Something The Village Should Have Taken Into Consideration At The Outset-And Acknowledged Publicly Later-To Clear The Officers' Names, Something It Never Did.”** “Other sources said, however, that the Village was forced to recognize that it had no written policy outlining the procedures for signing the sign-in sheets, though there were state requirements. The fire chief also acknowledged its procedures had to be tightened up and fire board took responsibility for the confusion. After that, a fire official came forward saying that at no time had any of the officers benefitted financially from signing in. The official added he believed that was something the Village should have taken into consideration at the outset-and acknowledged publicly later-to clear the officers' names, something it never did.” [Amityville Record, 3/8/17]

**Onderdonk Entered Into An Agreement With The Village To End The Dispute And Was Reinstated; The Dispute Cost The Village \$50,000 In Legal Fees.** “The agreement follows one involving APO Eric Onderdonk who was suspended on those charges in July of this year. At that time, the Village conducted an extensive investigation into Onderdonk's case, which officials said involved ‘knowingly submitting false data to the insurance company, which could be a crime.’ During that investigation, however, both the Suffolk County District Attorney and New York State Comptroller's offices said they could not provide the Village with an opinion on the case regarding criminality, and declined to investigate it. After more than three months, Onderdonk and the Village entered into an agreement to end the dispute. Onderdonk lost one month's pay and was reinstated. It cost the Village approximately \$50, 000 in legal fees.” [Amityville Record, 4/27/16]

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**Editorial: “The Wandell Administration Sullied The Reputations Of Amityville Police Officers Who Are Also Volunteer Firefighters”**

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**Editorial: “The Wandell Administration Sullied The Reputations Of Amityville Police Officers Who Are Also Volunteer Firefighters.”** “There is no question that the Wandell administration has made significant improvements to the Village's finances. It is climbing out of debt and the future looks brighter, in large part to the work of the Village's financial officer, Trustee Nick LaLota who is running for Mayor. Improved too, is our business district, and new laws, such as the Village code addressing abandoned houses has helped protect our residential communities. Trustee Jessica Bernius worked hard on these. Undoubtedly many of these improvements are due directly to Mayor Wandell and his team. They are also due to a better economy, the availability of grants and other outside forces that have worked in the administration's – and residents' -- favor. Sometimes, however, the way in which someone gets things done is as important as their accomplishments. To accomplish a correction in paperwork procedures, for example, the Wandell administration sullied the reputations of Amityville Police Officers who are also volunteer firefighters. They should have sat down, discussed the problems they saw, and addressed them appropriately.” [Amityville Record, Editorial, 3/15/17]

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**The Suffolk County Democratic Chairman Personally Spent \$1,000 On A Newspaper Ad Attacking LaLota For Pressing Charges Against Four Local Police Officers**

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**The Suffolk County Democratic Chairman Personally Spent \$1,000 On A Newspaper Ad Attacking LaLota For Pressing Disciplinary Charges Against Four Local Police Officers.** “It was only a village election and no one uses major party labels. But Suffolk Democratic chairman Rich Schaffer this week called the Amityville mayor's race, in which Suffolk Republican county Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota was beaten, his sweetest political win in 16 years. [...] Schaffer in the mayoral election personally spent \$1,000 on a local newspaper ad attacking LaLota for pressing disciplinary charges against four village police officers who had sought volunteer fire pension credits for responding to a fire call while on police duty. Schaffer called him ‘unfit to serve,’ while LaLota accused Schaffer of bringing ‘big city politics’ to the village.” [Newsday, [3/25/17](#)]

<p><b>Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation, A Super PAC Run By Suffolk County Police Unions, Opposed LaLota's Run For Mayor In Amityville</b></p>
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**Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation, A Super PAC Run By Suffolk County Police Unions, Opposed LaLota's Run For Mayor In Amityville.** “Also stepping into the local election is the Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation, a super PAC run by Suffolk County police unions. Newsday has reported the group has spent more than \$2.8 million on local races since 2011. The group includes Christian Mullin, president of the Amityville police union, as a member, said foundation president Noel DiGerolamo. The foundation has sent mailings to Amityville residents and canvassed neighborhoods in support of Siry, residents said.” [Newsday, [3/17/17](#)]

**Long Island Law Enforcement PAC Sent Out Mailings Opposing LaLota's Mayoral Run.** “The Suffolk County Police Benevolent Association's super PAC is wading into the Southampton Village election, sending mailers attacking the incumbent mayor and featuring false information about an appointee to a police reform committee. A mailer paid for by the Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation, the PBA's PAC, criticizes Mayor Jesse Warren for appointing an artist with a criminal past to a committee tasked with making recommendations for the village police department as part of the state-mandated police reform process. [...] The Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation has become involved in village elections before and sent out mailings in the 2017 Amityville Village election in which Dennis Siry beat Nicholas LaLota for the mayor's seat. The organization collects \$1 a day from the county's cops for political spending.” [Newsday, [6/7/21](#)]

- **Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation Sent Out At Least Four Mailings Opposing LaLota.** “Schaffer said he also organized more than 80 volunteers to get out the vote. The Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation, the Suffolk PBA's independent political committee, also did at least four mailings.” [Newsday, [3/25/17](#)]

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### **When LaLota Was Accused Of “Dirty” Campaigning, He Compared His Behavior To That Of The Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation**

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**LaLota Was Accused Of “Dirty” Campaigning When The Amityville First Party Sent A Flier That Accused A Trustee Candidate Of Not Paying Taxes.** “The race heated up last week when the Amityville First Party, which has not endorsed a candidate in this year's election, printed and mailed a flyer saying that Whalen had ‘failed to pay his companies' bills and taxes.’ The flyer went on to state that his businesses have 12 unpaid judgments against them totaling nearly \$150, 000. ‘How can we trust Tax Lien Tom to look out for us?’ the flyer concluded. Whalen took time at the end of a recent Village Board meeting to respond when a resident got up and questioned the flyer. While Mayor Siry attempted to cut off any campaign discussion at the meeting, Whalen did say that the flyer misrepresented the truth. He said he does not own, nor is he an officer of one of the businesses cited and that the information cited has nothing to do with nonpayment of taxes. ‘These (the allegations in the flyer) are fabricated and lies,’ he responded to the resident. Morin, who denied being involved in the publication of the flyer, said not a penny of his campaign money went into printing and mailing it. He added, however, that the information is something the public should know about. ‘What is bothersome is how two of my fellow board members (Amityville First party Trustees LaLota and Bernius) who have zero to do with this election would take such extremes trying to damage my reputation and character,’ said Whalen who added that he is committed to making sure he does not become embroiled in a ‘dirty’ campaign and that he is continuing to ‘take the high road.’” [Amityville Record, 3/7/18]

**LaLota Compared His Campaigning Tactics To The Long Island Law Enforcement PAC Opposing His Candidacy The Previous Year.** “Officials for the Amityville First Party said the flyer was done independently and that Morin did not know about it. ‘We took pains to make sure he was not involved,’ said LaLota, who is a member and official of the Amityville First Party. He added that the flyer parallels the Long Island Law Enforcement PAC's opposition to his candidacy last year, ‘except that our mailings include well-referenced facts, which are relevant to the elected position sought,’ he said.” [Amityville Record, 3/7/18]

**LaLota Voted Against A New Contract And A Pay Raise For Amityville's Police Chief, Despite The Fact That "In Some Respects It Is In Line With What Is Being Paid To Chiefs In Other Village Police Departments"**

**2019: LaLota Voted Against Approving A New Contract And A Pay Raise For Amityville's Chief Of Police, Despite The Fact That "In Some Respects It Is In Line With What Is Being Paid To Chiefs In Other Village Police Departments."** "In a split vote, the Amityville Village Board voted to approve a new contract for Amityville Village Police Chief Glenn Slack, giving him an 11 percent raise and bringing his base salary from \$189, 927 to \$211.598. The contract runs through May 2019 and includes retroactive increases since his contract expired in 2017. The vote was 3-1 with Trustee Nick LaLota dissenting. Slack's contract expired in 2017. 'He worked a long time and it took a while going back and forth to where we felt like this is a contract we can get by,' said Mayor Dennis Siry. 'It is comparable with other chiefs' contracts on Long Island.' 'I have worked with the Chief as a Trustee over the past year and I can say that my experience has been all good,' said Trustee Tom Whalen. Village officials also point out that Slack has been heading up the department without a lieutenant, saving the Village almost \$250, 000 a year in salary and benefits for that position. The lieutenant's position, formerly held by Lt. Gerard Gralton, has been vacant since Gralton retired in July 2015. Some of that has been offset by extending the police department secretary from part-time to full time. LaLota did not comment on the resolution at the meeting, except to vote against it, but in an email to the Record outlining his position, LaLota said the pay raise was much more than the 2-3 percent per year raises given to DPW employees, and that while in some respects it is in line with what is being paid to chiefs in other village police departments, taxpayers' ability to pay is not equal." [Amityville Record, [4/18/19](#)]

- **LaLota: "Village Officials Should Prioritize These Other Projects And Work Toward Lowering Taxes" Rather Than Increase Pay For The Chief Of Police.** "LaLota did not comment on the resolution at the meeting, except to vote against it, but in an email to the Record outlining his position, LaLota said the pay raise was much more than the 2-3 percent per year raises given to DPW employees, and that while in some respects it is in line with what is being paid to chiefs in other village police departments, taxpayers' ability to pay is not equal. While the median household income in Amityville is \$85k, the median household income in those other Village such as Old Westbury, Malverne and Northport are much higher, at \$164k, \$120k, and \$116k respectively, he said. 'Many of our roads still need to be repaved and our drainage system needs massive overhaul,' he said. 'Rather than increase a \$255,000 employee's compensation, Village officials should prioritize these other projects and work toward lowering taxes.'" [Amityville Record, [4/18/19](#)]

**2018: LaLota On The Police Chief's Proposed Contract: "We Gave A Lot And Got Nothing In Return."** "In addition, the proposed contract changes the terms for separation pay. In Slack's previous contract, unused vacation and sick days would be paid out at a sergeant's hourly rate, which is \$91.28. Under the new proposal, Slack's unused time would be paid out under his new hourly rate of \$114.01. This change would result in a \$50,000 increase in the payout, Mayor Dennis Siry said. Trustee Nick LaLota, who provided Newsday with a copy of the proposed contract, criticized the agreement, which has been negotiated for more than a year. 'We gave a lot and we got nothing in return,' LaLota said. 'They gave him this \$50,000 provision and got nothing in return.' LaLota said that while village police officers 'deserve to earn a good living,' the chief's salary and payout increase is 'neither commensurate with the risk the chief takes nor representative of what the village can afford.'" [Newsday, [8/12/18](#)]

**LaLota Said Residents Believed "Much" Of The Amityville Village Fire Department "Lacks Honor" And He "Used To Have A Lot Of Respect For" Department Leadership****LaLota Said Residents Believed "Much" Of The Amityville Village Fire Department "Lacks Honor" And He "Used To Have A Lot Of Respect For" The Department Leadership**

**LaLota Said Residents Believed "Much" Of The Amityville Village Fire Department "Lacks Honor."** "Apparently LaLota was upset over the reaction of fire department officials to the suspension of Village Police

officer and firefighter Eric Onderdonk, who, according to LaLota 'is accused of stealing from taxpayers.' 'In doing so, you've set us up to be the bad guys and you've drawn the Fire Department into a political battle it shouldn't be in,' said LaLota. 'I'll get over the impact it has on me, but how many residents think much of the Department lacks honor, not just one person. The people you're charged with leading deserve better than that.' LaLota was apparently upset over Waegerle's comments in the Record about the Village Board's decision to suspend Onderdonk July 1, without pay." [Amityville Record, 9/30/15]

**LaLota Said He "Used To Have A Lot Of Respect For" The Amityville Village Fire Department Leadership.**

"The Wandell administration and Amityville Village Fire Department officials are expected to meet this week to address an ongoing controversy concerning what Mayor James P. Wandell described as 'issues which may have resulted in some sort of disconnect between AFT and The BOT majority.' The 'issues' began with emails between the Mayor, Trustee Nick LaLota and the fire department. Fire Chief Rob Waegerle would not comment on the content of the letters and emails except to confirm that they have resulted in the meeting set for tomorrow to 'resolve some concerns.' However, copies of the written exchanges were obtained by The Amityville Record and showed that Waegerle wrote a letter to the Village Board Sept. 6 inviting the Board to the department's picnic on Sept. 12. In addition, Waegerle reminded the board that Amityville was hosting this year's Babylon Town Fire Department Parade and Drill on Sept. 19. 'We look forward to seeing you at the events,' Waegerle wrote. 'Please let us know if you have questions.' LaLota responded to that letter saying the Chief that had 'alienated,' him, 'someone who used to have a lot of respect for the Department's leaders-someone who has fought for the volunteers time and again.'" [Amityville Record, 9/30/15]

**Fire Department Council Asked The Amityville Mayor To Replace LaLota As The Board Of Trustees' Liaison To The Fire Department.**

"The Village Board voted unanimously June 29 to suspend Onderdonk and while it did not outline the reason for the suspension, the Record learned that the board acted because a review of police and fire department records showed that the officer put himself in for fire department LOSAP credits for responding to scenes and meetings as a firefighter while he was on duty as a police officer. Onderdonk is a volunteer with Hose Co. #4 and serves on the Fire Counsel. LOSAP credits fulfill requirements for fire department service awards. Many close to the case pointed out that it has been a long-standing policy in the Village for police officers, who are also fire volunteers, to attend fire department meetings and even respond to fire calls while on duty. Under those circumstances, they generally notify the police dispatcher of their location and that they are taking personal time, they said. It is not known whether Onderdonk followed these procedures, but the records show that Onderdonk did not gain any meaningful LOSAP credits, according to one fire department source who added that Onderdonk had more than enough to meet the LOSAP requirements for the year. Onderdonk remains on suspension without pay pending a hearing. At the time the story ran in the July 15 edition of the Record, Waegerle declined to comment except to say that the department supported Onderdonk and 'was saddened by the board's move.' Apparently the issue has heated up with the Fire Department Council sending off a letter to the Mayor last weekend asking that he replace LaLota as the board's liaison to the department. That, apparently, led to the board's decision to meet with fire department officials to iron out their differences." [Amityville Record, 9/30/15]

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**2017: LaLota Was Removed From His Position As Liaison After His Opponent In The Mayor's Race Took Office**

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**2017: LaLota Was Removed From His Position As Liaison After His Opponent In The Mayor's Race Took Office.** "The candidates for Village Mayor were Dennis Siry and Nick Lalota. They were both Amityville Trustees, and liaisons between the Village of Amityville and the Fire Department. 32. The mayoral election was highly publicized, and hotly contested. For example, it was the subject of numerous articles in Newsday, Amityville Record, and various other online publications. The Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation super PAC was heavily involved, as was Suffolk County Democratic Chair Richard Schaefer and County Legislator Duwayne Gregory, who all opposed Nick Lalota in the Village election. [...] The Fire Department's Fire Council, which is comprised of the four Fire Chiefs and two Wardens from each Company, sent a unanimous letter to the Amityville Village Board requesting that Lalota be removed as liaison to the Fire Department. (Lalota was not removed until



after Mayor Siry took office).” [*James Squicciarini v. The Village of Amityville, et al*, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Complaint, [11/20/17](#)]

### **LaLota Got Into A “Heated Back And Forth” With The Fire Chief After Refusing To Buy A “Long-Awaited” Pick-Up Truck For The Department That He Previously Committed To Provide**

**LaLota Got Into A “Heated Back And Forth” With The Fire Chief After Refusing To Buy A “Long-Awaited” Pick-Up Truck For The Department After Previously Saying The Village Would Do So.** “Last week I was challenged with a situation where an honest ‘yes’ wasn’t an available response. At a Village Board work session, the fire chiefs asked for the Village to purchase a long-awaited pickup truck - one they’ve sacrificed without for about eight years - a purchase I told them last year we would be in the position to make this year. But, being that the Village budget was recently shocked with \$1.4 million in employee separation pays and, more recently, stuck with a \$100k bill to refurbish an ambulance that broke down twice with patients on board, an honest ‘yes’ to their request was no longer financially possible.” [Amityville Record, Nick LaLota Op-ed, [3/16/16](#)]

**Fire Chief Rob Waegerle Said There Was A “Gentleman’s Handshake” Between The Fire Department And The Village That Grant Money Would Be Used To Purchase A New Pickup Truck.** “The Amityville Village fire chief and Trustee Nick LaLota are in a bit of a ‘heated’ disagreement over a \$30, 000 grant the Village received for the fire department. Chief Rob Waegerle said there was a ‘gentleman’s handshake’ between the department and the Village that the money from the grant would be used to purchase a new pickup truck. LaLota says while that is the case, other priorities have surfaced since then and he is recommending that the money stay in the Village’s general fund and eventually be used to pay for those priorities, which include a refurbishing of the department’s ambulance.” [Amityville Record, 3/9/16]

**LaLota Compared The Firefighters’ Request For A New Truck When The Village Budget Could Not Afford It To A Child Expecting To Get A Trophy For Participation.** “Last week I was challenged with a situation where an honest ‘yes’ wasn’t an available response. At a Village Board work session, the fire chiefs asked for the Village to purchase a long-awaited pickup truck - one they’ve sacrificed without for about eight years - a purchase I told them last year we would be in the position to make this year. But, being that the Village budget was recently shocked with \$1.4 million in employee separation pays and, more recently, stuck with a \$100k bill to refurbish an ambulance that broke down twice with patients on board, an honest ‘yes’ to their request was no longer financially possible [...] We live in a world where every child gets a trophy, even if it’s just for participation. Likewise, from Washington on down, our governments wreak of the same ‘make everyone happy’ today mentality, without assessing its effect on tomorrow. In Amityville, a lot of unrealistic promises have been made over the years, and now it’s time for us to pay the bill. The question is: In the future, when faced with unaffordable proposals, will our leaders respond with the dishonest ‘yes’ or will we live within our means and have the courage to provide an honest ‘no?’” [Amityville Record, Nick LaLota Op-ed, [3/16/16](#)]

### **Amityville Fire Department Leadership Opposed LaLota’s 2017 Mayoral Run**

**Amityville Fire Department Leadership Opposed LaLota’s 2017 Mayoral Run Against Trustee Dennis Siry.** “The Village of Amityville general elections, including the election for mayor were held on March 21, 2017. The candidates for mayor were Dennis Siry (‘Siry’) and Nick Lalota (‘Lalota’) and the mayoral election was “highly publicized and hotly contested.” (Compl. ¶ 30-32.) The governing body of the Amityville fire department, “including all Four Chiefs and the Fire Council Members’ supported Siry. ‘The Fire Chiefs attended Siry’s fundraisers, as well as his ultimate victory party, [each] while dressed in their Fire Department attire which indicates “Amityville Fire Department Chief.” They arrived at the fundraisers and victory party in official Fire Department vehicles which they parked outside the event locations.” [United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, *James Squicciarini, v. The Village Of Amityville, et al*, [3/15/19](#)]

## LaLota Proposed An 11% Tax Increase On Amityville Residents

**LaLota “Sought A State Bill To Allow The Village To Bond \$1.4 Million To Pay Retiring Police Officers For Unused Sick And Vacation Time,” Which Would Have Raised Taxes By Up To 11%, And Was Accused Of Misleading Officials About It**

**LaLota “Sought A State Bill To Allow The Village To Bond \$1.4 Million To Pay Retiring Police Officers For Unused Sick And Vacation Time” And Was Accused Of Misleading Officials About It.** “Richard Schaffer, Suffolk Democratic chairman, said Jean-Pierre has ‘delivered terrifically’ for the district, while Cullinane has been rejected repeatedly by voters. Cullinane has lost a half-dozen races for village office, Babylon Town board and supervisor, and Suffolk County Legislature. However, he has won three terms as a library trustee. Schaffer called Cullinane a foil for GOP elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota, with whom Schaffer has been warring since spring. Schaffer said the dispute started after LaLota, an Amityville Village trustee, sought a state bill to allow the village to bond \$1.4 million to pay retiring police officers for unused sick and vacation time. Schaffer accused LaLota of misleading officials because the village already had budgeted \$450,000 for retirement pay. Later, LaLota withdrew the request and used money from the budget. A subsequent meeting to make peace blew up when LaLota accused Schaffer of intruding and politicizing a village issue. Schaffer portrayed LaLota of having ‘sharp elbows and fighting with everyone.’” [Newsday, 9/25/16]

- **The Bond Would Have Increased Taxes In Amityville By Up To 11 Percent Over 10 Years.** “Amityville Village may turn to the bond market to fund \$1.3 million in separation pay for four police officers who retired this year, trustee Nick LaLota said. If the village went that way, taxes would increase by 1.1 percent each year over the 10-year life of the bond. The alternative, he said, would be to raise taxes by an additional 10 percent next year. Village property taxes on an average home with a market value of \$375,000 are \$4,198, or \$34.55 per \$100 of assessed value. ‘I don’t know of any more silver bullets out there,’ LaLota said. Amityville police officers are entitled to compensation for unused vacation and sick time at the time of their retirement from the force. The village budgeted \$485,000 for two retiring officers this year but officials were caught by surprise when the department chief and lieutenant also retired over the summer. LaLota said that the village board could vote on how to proceed at its Monday night meeting but would ultimately need a specially passed state law to issue the bond.” [Newsday, 12/4/15]
- **LaLota Said He Found The Money Elsewhere In The Budget, Which One Trustee Said “Raises The Question Of Exactly Where Lalota Came Up With That Money.”** “The issue became critical last year when the Village had to come up with more than a million dollars for retirements in the police department, money that LaLota initially said publicly that the Village did not have and had to borrow. Later, however, LaLota said he found the money in the budget to pay the retirement costs. ‘That raises the question of exactly where LaLota, came up with that money,’ said Smith. ‘He told the public and the state lawmakers when he asked them to approve legislation to allow the Village to borrow the money that it wasn’t in the budget; when they questioned him further on it, all of a sudden it was there.’” [Amityville Record, 3/1/17]

## LaLota Was A Carpetbagging Career Politician Who Repeatedly Took Time Off From His Taxpayer-Funded Jobs To Run For Office, While Continuing To Draw A Salary

**LaLota Lived Outside Of New York’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District And Was Recruited By Party Leaders To Run For That Seat**

**February 2022: LaLota Lived Outside Of New York’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.** “Suffolk County Legis. Bridget Fleming (D-Noyac), Legis. Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) and Jackie Gordon, a former Babylon Town Council member, are seeking the Democratic nomination in the 1st District. LaLota, who lives outside CD-1, said he and his family will move into the district this fall, before the November election. The U.S. Constitution only requires



members of Congress to live in the state at the time they are elected. [Suffolk County Republican Party chairman Jesse] Garcia said party officials approached LaLota to run after the state legislature approved new district lines, and the party's executive committee unanimously approved his candidacy Saturday. 'We thought that from those that were eligible and available, that this was the best opportunity for us to maintain the First Congressional District,' Garcia said, citing LaLota's experience in government and as a Navy veteran." [Newsday, [2/22/22](#)]

**May 2022: LaLota's Home In Amityville, NY Was Not In The First District After The Final Congressional Map Was Approved.** "LaLota, a Republican, declared months ago that he would run in the First, but the district's boundaries changed a number of times as political parties fought in court about redistricting. The lines were finalized Friday. LaLota and his family live in Amityville, which is not in the First District, but members of Congress are not required to live in the districts they represent." [Huntington Now, [5/25/22](#)]

**LaLota: "I Think That Voters Of The District Have A Fair Expectation That A Member Of Congress Actually Live In The District."** "Mr. LoLata, who had screened for the previous congressional seat a few years ago, doesn't live in 1st District, but he said he plans to move. The Constitution requires that members of the House of Representatives live in the state they represent when elected, but not necessarily in the same district. 'Although the state Constitution merely requires one to be a resident of the state in order to run, I think that voters of the district have a fair expectation that a member of Congress actually live in the district,' he said. Mr. LaLota, 43, grew up in Bay Shore and graduated from St. Anthony's High School, and then graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2000. He was commissioned as an officer and served overseas on three deployments before leaving the Navy in 2007." [Riverhead News-Review, [2/23/22](#)]

**Republican Party Officials Recruited LaLota To Run In New York's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.** "Suffolk County Legis. Bridget Fleming (D-Noyac), Legis. Kara Hahn (D-Setauket) and Jackie Gordon, a former Babylon Town Council member, are seeking the Democratic nomination in the 1st District. LaLota, who lives outside CD-1, said he and his family will move into the district this fall, before the November election. The U.S. Constitution only requires members of Congress to live in the state at the time they are elected. [Suffolk County Republican Party chairman Jesse] Garcia said party officials approached LaLota to run after the state legislature approved new district lines, and the party's executive committee unanimously approved his candidacy Saturday. 'We thought that from those that were eligible and available, that this was the best opportunity for us to maintain the First Congressional District,' Garcia said, citing LaLota's experience in government and as a Navy veteran." [Newsday, [2/22/22](#)]

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### **LaLota Was Registered To Vote In New York's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District**

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**LaLota Was Registered To Vote At 24 Braham Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701-4220.** [VoteBuilder, accessed 4/28/22]

- **LaLota's Address Was Located In New York's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District.** [House.gov, accessed 4/28/22]

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### **After LaLota Was Endorsed By The Suffolk County Republican Party, His Primary Opponent Said "Obviously Some Deals Were Made And They Chose An Individual Who Doesn't Even Live In The District"**

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**After LaLota Was Endorsed By The Suffolk County Republican Party, His Primary Opponent Said "Obviously Some Deals Were Made And They Chose An Individual Who Doesn't Even Live In The District."** "LaLota was not alone in the field when he received the endorsement. Anthony Figliola, of East Setauket, and Robert Cornicelli, of St. James, both pursued the endorsement as well. In the wake of the announcement, Cornicelli is suspending his campaign for NY-1 and redirecting his energies to unseat Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-NY2). [...] Figliola remains in the primary for NY-1. He criticized the county GOP's endorsement of LaLota, arguing that Republican leaders are in danger of forfeiting the race to the Democrats. 'Obviously some deals were made and they chose an individual who doesn't even live in the district,' he said in a phone interview. 'I can't help but think they're just looking to throw this race away. For me, I believe it's winnable for a Republican. I

love my country and I want to be in a position to represent the people of the first congressional district.” [TBR News Media, [2/3/22](#)]

**LaLota’s Primary Opponent Said LaLota Did Not Attend “A Single” Republican Candidate Screening And The Suffolk County Republican Party Chairman’s Decision To Endorse LaLota Was “A Slap In The Face.”**

“He joins the race well after two other candidates for their party’s nomination, Robert Cornicelli and Anthony Figliola. Mr. Cornicelli was critical of the county Republicans’ chairman, Jesse Garcia, following the party’s endorsement of Mr. LaLota. ‘The county chairman put out guidance over the summer that said that no individual would be considered for the party nomination unless they attended all four Republican candidate screenings. I am the only candidate who attended all four — Nick did not go to a single one,’ he said. ‘The chairman’s decision to endorse LaLota’s candidacy is a slap in the face to every committee person who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend those screenings, listen to the candidates speak, and fill out candidate rating forms,’ Mr. Cornicelli added. ‘The decision to ignore the wishes of these duly elected committee people shows me that the local party leaders do not care about the will of the people.’” [East Hampton Star, [3/3/22](#)]

**2020: LaLota Ran For Higher Office Multiple Times While Still Keeping His Taxpayer-Funded Job As An Elections Commissioner, An “Obvious Conflict Of Interest”**

**LaLota Announced He Would Enter The Primary Against Andrew Garbarino, The Republican Candidate Tapped To Run For U.S. Rep. Peter King’s Seat In New York’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, But Later Withdrew.** “NYS Assemblyman Michael LiPetri announced that he will be waging a primary challenge against Andrew Garbarino, the GOP candidate tapped to run for Congressman Peter King’s seat in the 2nd Congressional District in November. Two other Republicans, Nick LaLota of Amityville, and Nancy Hemendinger of Babylon, also announced they were waging a primary challenge for the nomination, but have since withdrawn. LaLota is now running on the Republican line against Democrat NYS Sen. John Brooks, while Hemendinger said her candidacy divided my extended family.” [Babylon Beacon, [2/27/20](#)]

**LaLota Ran For New York Senate After “He Failed To Get The GOP Nod To Run For GOP Rep. Peter King’s Seat” In New York’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District.** “LaLota’s run comes after he failed to get the GOP nod to run for GOP Rep. Peter King’s seat. Assemb. Andrew Garbarino (R-Sayville) got the nomination. LaLota said he would resign from the BOE if elected to the Senate and return if he loses.” [Newsday, [2/23/20](#)]

**HEADLINE: “GOP taps Nick LaLota to square off against John Brooks in NYS 8th Senate District”**  
[Amityville Record, [2/19/20](#)]

**LaLota Said He Would Return To His Job As An Elections Commissioner If He Lost His Race For New York Senate.** “LaLota’s run comes after he failed to get the GOP nod to run for GOP Rep. Peter King’s seat. Assemb. Andrew Garbarino (R-Sayville) got the nomination. LaLota said he would resign from the BOE if elected to the Senate and return if he loses.” [Newsday, [2/23/20](#)]

**Democratic Suffolk County Elections Commissioner: LaLota “Has Not Ceased To Be Commissioner And Still Retains Control.”** “Nicholas LaLota, Suffolk’s Republican elections commissioner, said he intends to take a leave of absence to run for State Senate. LaLota, the GOP nominee to challenge Democratic Sen. John Brooks in the 8th District, said his leave from the Board of Elections will begin March 30, the first day for filing petitions. LaLota said deputy Republican Commissioner Erin McTiernan will act in his place. But Anita Katz, the Democratic elections commissioner, questioned whether a leave of absence would comply with state law that ‘was written so that a commissioner of the board of elections could not and should not run for office while commissioner.’ Katz said, ‘a leave of absence is not sufficient because he has not ceased to be commissioner and still retains control.’” [Newsday, [2/23/20](#)]

**LaLota Was “Reportedly Still Acting In His Official Capacity” As An Elections Commissioner Despite Taking A Leave Of Absence.** “Although LaLota took a leave of absence from his position as GOP Commissioner

of the Suffolk Elections Board to run for the NYS Senate (D-8), he is reportedly still acting in his official capacity. A source close to the proceedings said LaLota voted against simplifying absentee ballot submissions by including, in one envelope, ballots for both the Presidential and NYS and local primaries on June 23 [...] As the Board of Elections has ruled in Formal Opinion 1983, Opinion #4, 6/7/83, a commissioner 'must resign prior to the filing of his nominating or designating petitions.' A leave of absence does not satisfy the statute's requirement that a commissioner has 'ceased . . . to be commissioner . . .' While on a leave of absence, Commissioner LaLota still remains in office and retains control. In fact, he is still listed on the BOE website as the Republican Commissioner." [Patch, [5/15/20](#)]

**LaLota Made \$152,906 A Year At The Elections Board.** "Nick brings a wealth of knowledge and experience administratively,' McCaffrey said. LaLota will replace Lora Gellerstein, who became chief of staff in 2014 when former Legis. DuWayne Gregory (DCopiague) was presiding officer. McCaffrey, the legislature's minority leader, said he also expects to replace Democratic appointees including legislative counsel Sarah Simpson and chief legislative clerk Amy Ellis. LaLota is expected to take a pay cut, from \$152,906 a year at the elections board, to \$140,183 to match Gellerstein's salary." [Newsday, [12/10/21](#)]

**2020: State Appellate Court Ruled LaLota Running For New York State Senate While He Was An Elections Commissioner Was An "Obvious Conflict Of Interest" And Removed Him From The Ballot.** "The Court of Appeals declined to hear a lawsuit in which Republicans tried to substitute Norman Sammut for Nick LaLota. That lets stand a midlevel court ruling disqualifying Sammut — meaning the GOP will have no candidate in the race unless it somehow gets a federal court to intervene, which is considered unlikely. Monday's decision appears to be the final chapter in a tangled tale to challenge Brooks (D-Seaford) in a district that covers parts of Nassau and Suffolk counties. Republicans originally nominated LaLota, a Suffolk County elections commissioner. But the court disqualified him, ruling he couldn't run for Senate because of an obvious conflict of interest — a candidate cannot also serve as a commissioner in charge of counting the votes. LaLota said he was taking a leave of absence as commissioner, but the court ruled that didn't remove the conflict." [Newsday, [8/24/20](#)]

**LaLota Argued There Was Not Conflict Of Interest Because He Was Taking A Leave Of Absence From His Job As Elections Commissioner To Run For State Senate, Which The Appellate Court Said "Wasn't Good Enough."** "When LaLota was nominated, Democrats filed suit, saying an elections commissioner can't run in a race that his office oversees. LaLota countered by saying he was taking a leave of absence from his job, which he contended would eliminate the conflict of interest. But the Appellate Division, in a 4-0 ruling, said that wasn't good enough. 'Status as commissioner the linchpin of the disqualification to be a candidate, not whether the commissioner is actually performing any of the duties of an election commissioner at any particular time,' the court wrote in a 4-0 opinion handed down late Thursday. Further, LaLota hurt his own argument by penning a memo saying his leave of absence could be revoked at any time. That document 'implicitly acknowledged that he has retained his authority as commissioner,' the judges said." [Newsday, [5/15/20](#)]

- **LaLota Wrote A Memo Saying His Leave Of Absence Could Be Revoked At Any Time, Which "Implicitly Acknowledged That He Has Retained His Authority As Commissioner."** "Further, LaLota hurt his own argument by penning a memo saying his leave of absence could be revoked at any time. That document 'implicitly acknowledged that he has retained his authority as commissioner,' the judges said." [Newsday, [5/15/20](#)]

**Suffolk Democratic Chairman: "No One Is Above The Law, Including Nick LaLota."** "It wasn't immediately clear if Republicans would try other legal avenues to remove LaLota and substitute an alternate. Suffolk GOP Chairman Jesse Garcia and Nassau GOP Chairman Joseph Cairo disagreed with the court's decision and are 'considering all legal options,' spokesman Mike Deery said. Suffolk Democratic Chairman Richard Schaffer said the 'law is clear' and LaLota's leave of absence tactic 'made no sense.' 'You can't run for office and still be in charge of counting the votes of the office you're running for,' Schaffer said. He added about the ruling: 'We're very happy because it shows no one is above the law, including Nick LaLota.'" [Newsday, [5/15/20](#)]

**2022: LaLota Planned To Run For Higher Office While Taking A Taxpayer-Funded Salary, Again**

**December 2021: LaLota Stepped Down As The Republican Commissioner Of The Suffolk County Board Of Elections To Be Chief Of Staff To Republican Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey.** “Nicholas LaLota, the Republican commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, said he is stepping down with a year left in his term to serve as a top aide to the new Republican majority in the Suffolk County Legislature. LaLota will serve as chief of staff to Legis. Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst), who is expected to become legislative presiding officer in January after a Republican wave at the ballot box on Nov. 2 flipped control of the legislature from Democrats. ‘It’s a huge opportunity,’ LaLota, 43, of Amityville, said. ‘I look forward to running a tight ship so that we can deliver the right services at the right price to Suffolk County taxpayers.’” [Newsday, [12/10/21](#)]

- **LaLota “Said The Job Change Could Allow Him To Run For Public Office Again,” After His Previous Job Disqualified Him From Running For Office.** “LaLota, a former Amityville Village board member and officer in the U.S. Navy, said the job change could allow him to run for public office again. In 2020, an appellate court disqualified LaLota's Senate candidacy because of his position at the county elections board.” [Newsday, [12/10/21](#)]

**February 2022: LaLota Announced His Campaign For Congress In New York’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.** “Suffolk County Republicans have nominated Nicholas LaLota, the Suffolk County Legislature’s chief of staff and a former Republican county elections commissioner, as their candidate in the 1st Congressional District. Party officials over the weekend picked LaLota, 43, of Amityville, to seek the House seat of Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-Shirley), who is running for governor of New York, party chairman Jesse Garcia told Newsday Tuesday. LaLota, a former U.S. Navy officer and Amityville Village Board member, also is expected to receive the nomination of the Suffolk County Conservative Party, Conservative chairman Mike Torres said.” [Newsday, [2/22/22](#)]

**LaLota Said He Would Continue To Work For The Suffolk County Legislature While Running For Congress In NY-02 And “Expects To Take Accrued Time Off This Summer And Fall To Campaign.”** “LaLota said he will continue to work at the legislature five days a week, but expects to take accrued time off this summer and fall to campaign.” [Newsday, [2/22/22](#)]

- **LaLota Made \$140,183 A Year As McCaffrey’s Chief Of Staff.** “‘Nick brings a wealth of knowledge and experience administratively,’ McCaffrey said. LaLota will replace Lora Gellerstein, who became chief of staff in 2014 when former Legis. DuWayne Gregory (DCopiague) was presiding officer. McCaffrey, the legislature's minority leader, said he also expects to replace Democratic appointees including legislative counsel Sarah Simpson and chief legislative clerk Amy Ellis. LaLota is expected to take a pay cut, from \$152,906 a year at the elections board, to \$140,183 to match Gellerstein’s salary.” [Newsday, [12/10/21](#)]

**LaLota Had Worked For Government In Some Capacity Since 2008**

**LaLota Had Worked For Government In Some Capacity Since 2008.** “Since 2008, Nick has served in different roles in local government and currently serves as the Commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, the youngest person to hold the post in 30 years. Prior to accepting that appointment, Nick served as Chief of Staff to a New York State Senator, where he directed legislation, government relations, event planning, communications strategy and community outreach. He also owns his own consulting company and advises clients on strategic communications and marketing.” [Village of Amityville, accessed [5/3/22](#)]

**2013: LaLota Had Only Lived In Amityville For Two Years Before Being Appointed To The Board Of Trustees And Said It Was “Xenophobic” When Someone Criticized His Brief History There**

**LaLota Grew Up In Bay Shore And Had Live In Amityville For Two Years Before Being Appointed To The Amityville Board Of Trustees In 2013.** “Wandell appointed LaLota to fill the seat vacated when Peter Casserly



resigned last month with two years remaining in his term. LaLota will serve the remainder of that term. An Amityville resident for two years who grew up in Bay Shore, he focuses on strategy, public policy, budgetary and political matters at Boyle's office. He has an MBA from Hofstra University." [Newsday, [4/8/13](#)]

**When LaLota Was Criticized For Living In Amityville For A Short Time Prior To His Appointment, He Said, "That's The Xenophobic Attitude That's Destroying Us."** "Mayor James Wandell, Deputy Mayor Jessica Bernius and trustee Nick LaLota said last week that they supported a review for the village, which the state comptroller said this year was among the most financially stressed in New York. Together, they could have pushed the vote through the five-member village board, with or without the support of trustee Dennis Siry, who said he was still considering the matter. Instead, the village board will take up the matter again Sept. 14. The angriest exchange came not among trustees but between Bay Village Civic Association president Joan Donnison and LaLota, who has pushed aggressively for cost savings and bringing in the restructuring board, when she accused him of running roughshod over what she described as a tradition of consensus in the village. 'You've lived here a very short time,' she said. 'You don't get it yet.' LaLota countered: 'That's the xenophobic attitude that's destroying us.' Amityville's \$15.4 million budget carries a \$256,000 deficit and the unexpected retirement this year of four police officers resulted in a \$1.3 million bill for separation pay." [Newsday, [8/23/15](#)]

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### **LaLota Did Not Deny That His Election To The Amityville Board Of Trustees Was A "Stepping Stone" To Higher Political Office**

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**LaLota Did Not Deny That His Election To The Amityville Board Of Trustees Was A "Stepping Stone" To Higher Political Office.** "Question: Opponents said they believe you have political aspirations and that this election is just 'a stepping stone' for you to higher political office. How do you respond? Inherent in the concept of a 'stepping stone' is the idea that one has done great work and has been successful in order to progress. So if my opponents are conceding that I have been successful, then the better question is: Why do they oppose my candidacy? If the question is about whether I will work diligently to succeed by improving our Village, you better believe I will and my record thus far proves it: passing a budget within the 2% property tax cap, restoring free beach passes by cutting my own pay, initiating downtown revitalization, publicizing Board work sessions and enacting term limits. However, if you're a reader genuinely concerned about me leaving for a better opportunity, rest assured, I have a vested interest in Amityville and that's my family. Of all of the places I've lived, Seattle and San Diego included, my wife and I chose to buy our home and raise our daughters here in Amityville. This is my motivation for running for trustee." [Amityville Record, Nick LaLota Op-ed, 2/26/14]

**LaLota Said As Chief Of Staff To A State Senator He Had "Relationships With Dozens Of Officials From Our Town, County And State."** "Cutting from the Village's \$15.2 million budget isn't the only way to provide taxpayers' savings. Increasing revenue, specifically through grant money, is the most effective way to ease the burden on the taxpayer and not diminish our ability to deliver services from our Police, Fire, Public Works, Building and Administration Departments. As someone who is a chief of staff to a State senator and has relationships with dozens of officials from our Town, County and State, I am uniquely qualified to help Amityville apply for and receive funds from sources outside of the Village." [Amityville Record, Nick LaLota Op-ed, 3/5/14]

### **2017: LaLota Denied Rumors That He Would Move To Babylon Village To Run For A State Senate Seat Being Vacated By His Former Boss**

**2017: LaLota Denied Rumors That He Would Move To Babylon Village To Run For State Senate Sen. Phil Boyle's Seat.** "Amityville Village Trustee Nick LaLota said today that rumors about his intentions to move to Babylon Village and run for the seat of Sen. Phil Boyle are simply not true. 'I'm flattered by the Senate rumor, but my daughters are quite happy going to the same school their mom went to,' said LaLota, who is the Republican commissioner in the S.C. Board of Elections and lives in Amityville. A source told the Beacon last week that LaLota was looking for homes in Babylon. Those were later reiterated by two other sources, apparently fueled by the news that NYS Sen. Phil Boyle was interested in stepping down and running for S.C. sheriff. LaLota is a former



aide to Boyle As reported in Newsday this week, DeMarco announced he would not be seeking a fourth term and Boyle had put in a bid for the post, though DeMarco was quoted as saying he would not support the Senator because he does not have law enforcement experience. DeMarco, a Conservative, has served 12 years. LaLota, who recently lost a bid in March for the mayor's spot in Amityville, he said his focus continues to be on Amityville Village. 'I have an obligation to the voters who put me in office to watch out for their tax dollars,' he said." [Babylon Beacon, 5/18/17]

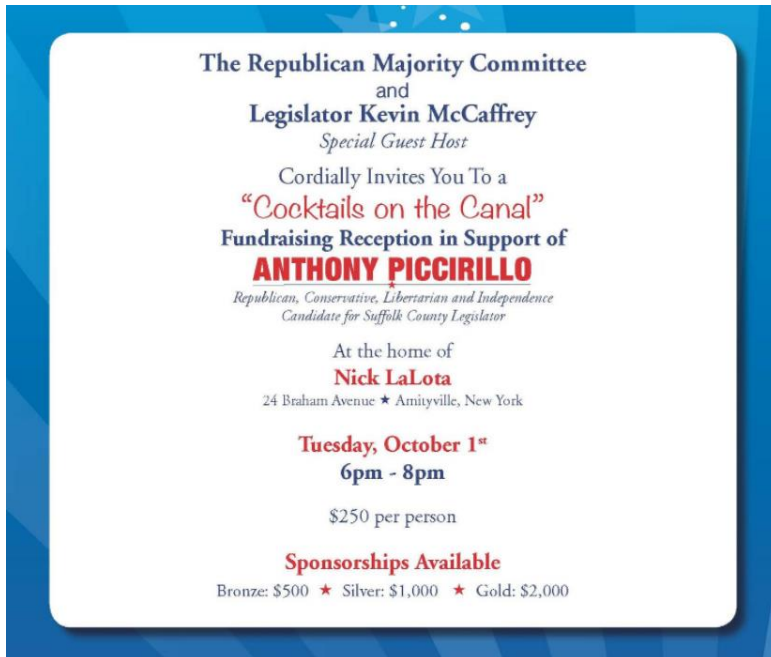
**LaLota Previously Worked For Boyle As His Chief Of Staff.** "Amityville Village trustees will hold their first regular board meeting Monday night, joined by the board's newest member, Nick LaLota. LaLota, 34, is chief of staff to state Sen. Phil Boyle (R-Bay Shore) and ran the campaign for new mayor Jim Wandell's Amityville First ticket. 'I think he was looking for somebody who understands government and finances and understands who to make them both work,' LaLota said. Wandell appointed LaLota to fill the seat vacated when Peter Casserly resigned last month with two years remaining in his term. LaLota will serve the remainder of that term." [Newsday, [4/8/13](#)]

### **LaLota Faced Criticism During His Tenure As The Republican Elections Commissioner In Suffolk County For Having Conflicts Of Interest And Being Absent From His Job**

#### **2019: LaLota Was Criticized For Holding A Fundraiser For Local Republican Candidates While Serving As An Elections Commissioner**

**2019: LaLota Was Criticized For Holding A Fundraiser For A Local Republican Candidate, Anthony Piccirillo, While Serving As An Elections Commissioner.** "Nicholas LaLota, the Republican Suffolk County Board of Elections Commissioner, is facing criticism from Democrats for holding a fundraiser for a GOP county legislature candidate last week. LaLota held a 'Cocktails on the Canal'-themed fundraiser at his Amityville home on Oct. 1 for Anthony Piccirillo, who is challenging Legis. William Lindsay III (D-Bohemia) in the 8th District. Democrats questioned LaLota's ability to fairly oversee the Nov. 5 election in the race. 'That is a clear conflict of interest for the county commissioner of the Board of Elections to hold a fundraiser for a candidate,' said Keith Davies, a county Democratic Party spokesman. 'That just seems on its face unethical and a clear conflict of interest.' LaLota said the county Board of Ethics said the fundraiser was fine, as long as he didn't use his official title on fundraiser materials. But, regardless, LaLota said he is allowed to support political candidates, particularly because of the partisan nature of his job." [Newsday, [10/13/19](#)]

#### **LaLota Held The Fundraiser At His Home In Amityville.**



[Suffolk County Republican Party, accessed [4/27/22](#)]

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### **LaLota Recused Himself From Overseeing The Final Ballot Count For The 8th Legislative District Following The Fundraiser**

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**LaLota Recused Himself From Overseeing The Final Ballot Count For The 8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Following The Fundraiser For Piccirillo.** “Nicholas LaLota, the Republican Suffolk County Board of Elections commissioner, said he will recuse himself from overseeing the 8th legislative district’s final ballot count after hosting a fundraiser for Republican candidate Anthony Piccirillo last month. LaLota said that while he was not required to recuse himself in the tight race, he did so to make Democratic incumbent William J. Lindsay III (D-Bohemia) more comfortable with the results. ‘I’m happy to defer to Mr. Lindsay so he is certain he gets absolute fairness by the Board of Elections,’ LaLota said.” [Newsday, [11/15/19](#)]

### **2015: LaLota Asked The Deputy Board Of Elections Commissioner To Act In His Place For 2015 Elections To Avoid “The Appearance Of” A Conflict**

**2015: LaLota Asked The Deputy Board Of Elections Commissioner To Act In His Place For 2015 Elections To Avoid “The Appearance Of” A Conflict.** “In an effort to avoid even ‘the appearance of’ a conflict, Amityville Village Trustee Nick LaLota has asked Deputy Board of Elections Commissioner William J. Ellis to assume his role in any issues that may come up related to the Amityville Village election on March 18. In that election, LaLota is running to retain his seat on the board. LaLota, who formerly served as chief of staff to New York State Sen. Phil Boyle, became one of the two Suffolk County board of commissioners in January. While most elections come under the jurisdiction of the County boards, Village and school board elections are under the jurisdiction of local officials who act as commissioners. In school board elections, district clerks, and in Village elections, Village clerks, act as commissioner. While elected officials are prohibited from serving as both a public official and election commissioner, New York State election Law 3-200 permits a Village or school board trustee to hold both posts. The law reads: No person shall be appointed as election commissioner or continue to hold office who is not a registered voter in the County and not an enrolled member of the party recommending his appointment, or who holds any other public office, except that of commissioner of deeds, notary public, Village officer, City or Town justice, member of a community board within the city of New York or trustee or officer of a school district outside of a city. LaLota said in his Jan. 22 letter to Ellis that while he could maintain his role, he believed it was important to avoid any appearance of conflict that may arise. ‘Thus I appoint you to act in my stead,’ he wrote to Ellis. ‘Please

work in concert with Commissioner Anita Katz on any efforts involving the upcoming Village election.’ [...] The elections are Wed., March 18. LaLota is seeking his first full, four-year term of office and at deadline no other candidates had filed to oppose him.” [Amityville Record, 2/11/15]

### **LaLota Faced An Audit Into His Attendance Records As An Elections Commissioner While Simultaneously Attending Law School**

#### **2017: Republican Suffolk County Comptroller Started A “Time And Attendance Audit” Of Senior Managers At The Suffolk Board Of Elections, After Democrats Requested An Audit Of LaLota**

**2017: Democrats Asked The Republican Suffolk County Comptroller To Review LaLota’s Time Sheets Since He Was Taking Daytime Law Classes, Which Appeared To Conflict With His Duties On The Board Of Elections.** “Suffolk’s legislative presiding officer, Democrat DuWayne Gregory, has asked Republican Comptroller John Kennedy to review GOP Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota’s time sheets because he is taking daytime classes as a part-time Hofstra Law School student while in his full-time county job. ‘It is difficult for me to understand how Mr. LaLota can attend law school classes during the day in Hempstead and simultaneously attend to his duties at the board of elections in Yaphank,’ Gregory, of Copiague, said in a letter Sept. 7. [...] ‘This so-called inquiry is why people hate politics,’ LaLota said. ‘If there was a sincere effort to understand my schedule, the legislator would have just called me and then would have understood my job isn’t just from 9 to 5; my 60 employees and I just worked a 20-hour day on primary day.’ [...] LaLota, a Naval Academy graduate and a scholarship law student, said he would ‘happily provide my time sheets and part-time class schedule while continuing to use the GI Bill to attend part-time classes to better myself and my public service.’” [Newsday, [9/19/17](#)]

**2017: The Republican Suffolk County Comptroller Started A “Time And Attendance Audit” Of Senior Managers At The Suffolk Board Of Elections, After Democrats Requested An Audit Of LaLota.** “Republican Suffolk County Comptroller John Kennedy said he has started a ‘time and attendance audit’ of senior managers at the Suffolk Board of Elections. Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory (D-Copiague) requested an audit after a Newsday story in September disclosed that Republican Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota was attending Hofstra Law School part time, including during office hours of the elections board. LaLota, who earns \$144,000 a year on the board, said he fulfills his requirement to work 70 hours every two weeks. He said he was ‘pleased to comply with the personnel audit’ covering all of the board’s 123 employees. ‘Going forward, I hope the Democrat legislators behind this distraction will exert at least as much effort closing our county’s \$100 million budget gap as they have playing these petty partisan games,’ LaLota said.” [Newsday, [11/12/17](#)]

#### **2018: Attendance Audit Held Up An Emergency Motion For LaLota’s Reappointment As Suffolk County Republican Elections Commissioner**

**2018: LaLota’s Reappointment As Suffolk County Republican Elections Commissioner Failed As Democrats Sought An Audit Of His Law School Attendance And His Commissioner Time Sheets.** “In an often testy and partisan debate, an emergency resolution to reappoint Suffolk’s Republican elections commissioner Nichola LaLota to a second term failed in the Democratic-controlled Suffolk Legislature. [...] While the reappointments of election commissioners are usually done jointly with a minimum of fuss, LaLota’s solo resolution became a heated confrontation with Democrats, who sought an audit of his attendance at Hofstra Law School, sometimes during regular daytime hours. ‘For eight months, I have been vilified and dragged through the mud,’ LaLota said, calling the inquiry absurd and inappropriate. He said he would have answered Democrats’ questions about the issue if they ever bothered to consult him. He said there is staff at the elections board to supervise from 105 to 130 hours every two weeks and he is always present for the 70 hours he is required to work.” [Newsday, [7/17/18](#)]

- **2018: LaLota Said He Did Not Attend A Social Event Hosted By The Mayor Because He Was Working On A Paper For Law School.** “She added that this was the first Mayor’s Social she has not attended since

2013 and that she made a contribution to support the Kiwanis Club's drug education program. LaLota said in a statement that over the years at events like these, he has gotten a cold shoulder from the 'Good Ole Boys Club' in an effort to make him feel unwelcome. 'More recently, my tire was slashed and car was keyed while I attended a public meeting at Village Hall,' he added. 'However un-Amityville as that behavior may be, I'm a big boy and will continue to participate in public and social events in order to engage neighbors, regardless if we agree on Village politics.' He added that he did not attend the social on March 4 because he was working on a five-page assignment regarding the Taxing and Spending Clause of the U.S. Constitution. LaLota is studying law at Hofstra." [Amityville Record, 4/4/18]

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**2019: The Auditor Was "Unable To Insure [sic] The Accuracy Of Hours Worked And Benefit Hours Utilized" And Found That LaLota "[Did] Not Utilize A Daily Attendance Sheet And [Did] Not Sign In When He Arrives At Work"**

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**2019: The Auditor Was "Unable To Insure [sic] The Accuracy Of Hours Worked And Benefit Hours Utilized" And Found That LaLota "[Did] Not Utilize A Daily Attendance Sheet And [Did] Not Sign In When He Arrives At Work."** "Suffolk County Comptroller John Kennedy has issued an audit on the pay reporting practices of top officials of the county Board of Elections, but could not verify their work hours. In an eight-page audit covering 2016-17, Kennedy said he was 'unable to insure the accuracy of hours worked and benefit hours utilized' by the board's Republican commissioner and the Democratic commissioner and her deputy. The audit also cited 'conflicting guidance as to the rules governing board employees.' The audit, issued May 2, came after legislative Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory (D-Copiague) asked Kennedy in 2017 to review time sheets of GOP Commissioner Nicholas LaLota, who was taking day classes as a part-time student at Hofstra Law School while working a full-time county job. The audit found LaLota 'does not utilize a daily attendance sheet and does not sign in when he arrives to work.' LaLota said he 'records actual hours worked on his Time and Accrual records,' and also 'records time spent on emails and phone calls while away from the office,' the audit said." [Newsday, [5/28/19](#)]

**LaLota's Democratic Counterpart Also Did Not Utilize An Attendance Sheet And Did Not Sign In.** "The audit also found Democratic elections Commissioner Anita Katz and former deputy Jeanne O'Rourke did not 'utilize a daily attendance sheet and do not sign in when they arrive for work,' and do not record their actual hours worked. But Katz and O'Rourke listed on their pay sheets that they worked seven hours a day, even if they worked longer, the report said." [Newsday, [5/28/19](#)]

**Auditors Questions The Commissioners' Practice Of Having Subordinates Approving Their Time Sheets.** "Auditors also questioned LaLota's and Katz's practice of having their time sheets approved by subordinates who might not be able to monitor out-of-office work or could be 'subject to undue influence' to approve the time sheets. Auditors also recommended that the county legislature adopt an approval process for commissioners' time sheets. Gregory said he would review whether the legislature should consider new time sheet rules for commissioners." [Newsday, [5/28/19](#)]

**The Democratic Legislative Presiding Officer Was Disappointed The Audit Did Not Look Into LaLota's Law School Attendance.** "Gregory also said he was disappointed the audit was 'just a paper review' that did not look into LaLota's law school attendance and check it against his time sheets. 'If he is not in the building, the question is, where is he?' Gregory said. LaLota did not make an official response to the audit. In an interview, he said the 'audit did not contradict what I have sworn on my time sheets and I worked the 70 hours every two weeks reduced by my allotted vacation, sick and personal time.'" [Newsday, [5/28/19](#)]

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**2019: LaLota Was Successfully Reappointed As Republican Elections Commissioner, After Democrats Refused To Adopt A Resolution For LaLota's New Term Under An Emergency Resolution**

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**2019: LaLota Was Successfully Reappointed As Republican Elections Commissioner, After Democrats Refused To Adopt A Resolution For LaLota's New Term Under An Emergency Resolution.** "Suffolk's

Republican Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota won a new four-year term in his \$144,000-a-year post Monday after the seven-member GOP caucus voted him in unanimously. LaLota said he was ‘humbled by the confidence expressed in me by the Republican caucus.’ [...] The appointment came after the Democratic-controlled county legislature earlier this month refused to adopt a resolution for LaLota's new term under an emergency resolution authorized by Democratic County Executive Steve Bellone.” [Newsday, [7/30/18](#)]

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**2017: LaLota Was Earning \$144,000 A Year While Serving On The Suffolk County Board Of Elections Commission And Was Required To Work 70 Hours Every Two Weeks**

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**In 2017 LaLota Was Earning \$144,000 A Year While Serving On The Suffolk County Board Of Elections Commission.** “LaLota, who earns \$144,000 a year on the board, said he fulfills his requirement to work 70 hours every two weeks.” [Newsday, [11/12/17](#)]

**LaLota Fired Multiple Suffolk County Board Of Elections Commission Staff Members Without Explanation; One Firing Resulted In A Lawsuit Filed Against Him**

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**Lawsuit Accused LaLota Of Illegally Firing A Conservative Secretary From His Elections Board Job**

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**LaLota Was Accused In A Lawsuit Of Illegally Firing A Conservative Secretary From His Elections Board Job.** “Nicholas LaLota, GOP commissioner for the Suffolk County Board of Elections, wrote in an email Monday: ‘Former Deputy Commissioner Ellis, who I fired in 2015, has been overreporting his committee’s account by nearly \$55k in every one of his 25 filings since 2006. [...] Ellis, asked to respond to LaLota's comment, said, ‘I have nothing to say for the story because of the federal lawsuit against Mr. LaLota in which I am a witness.’ A Suffolk Conservative Party secretary alleged in a 2015 lawsuit that LaLota had illegally fired him from his elections board job; LaLota said then that the suit had ‘no merit.’ [Newsday, [9/25/18](#)]

- **2015: LaLota Fired Conservative Party Secretary Michael Torres After Conservatives Made A Deal To Endorse Two Democrats For Judgeships While Democrats Endorsed The Conservative Future Father-In-Law Of Torres For A Supreme Court Judgeship.** “In 2015, county GOP Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota fired Conservative Party Secretary Michael Torres from his \$105,000-a-year elections job after Conservatives made a deal to endorse two Democrats for judgeships instead of GOP-backed candidates. The Democrats endorsed Conservative Howard Heckman, Torres' future father-in-law, for a Supreme Court judgeship.” [Newsday, [9/11/18](#)]
- **The Employee, Michael Torres, Claimed He Was Fired For Not Backing Republicans’ Choice For A District Court Judgeship.** “Suffolk Conservative Party secretary Michael Torres has filed a federal lawsuit, claiming Republican Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota illegally fired him from his \$105,000-a-year elections board job because he repeatedly refused to back Republicans' choice for a District Court judgeship. LaLota said there is ‘absolutely no merit behind his lawsuit’ [...] The suit claims LaLota told Torres he ‘would be terminated from his job at the board if he did not support having the Conservative Party nominate’ candidate Tara Scully over Howard Heckman, who recently became Torres' father-in-law. Heckman, a Conservative, later received Democratic cross-endorsement for the state Supreme Court. The minor party then backed Democrat Stephen Ukeiley, a former District Court judge, over Scully. Torres said he felt Scully, a Republican and a 2004 law school graduate, ‘did not have the necessary experience or qualifications to be a judge.’ Within days after the cross-endorsements, LaLota fired Torres as senior assistant elections commissioner.” [Newsday, [12/14/15](#)]
- **Torres’ Attorney Said Torres Was Penalized For His Personal Beliefs That Were Protected By The Constitution.** “‘To maintain his job, Torres was required to pledge his political . . . support for a judicial candidate he did not believe in,’ Torres' attorney, Alan Sach, said in court papers. ‘Torres was penalized for his personal beliefs . . . that are . . . fundamentally protected by the Constitution,’ Sach said.” [Newsday, [12/14/15](#)]



- **Torres Sought \$1 Million In Punitive Damages, Reinstatement, Back Pay And Attorney Fees.** “Torres is seeking \$1 million in punitive damages, reinstatement, back pay and attorney fees.” [Newsday, [12/14/15](#)]
- **Republicans Called It A “Frivolous Lawsuit.”** “Republicans attacked the suit, claiming that Torres did not have power over the judicial nominations. ‘The bottom line is that it’s a frivolous lawsuit brought by a desperate individual who is fighting legal battles on multiple fronts,’ said John Jay LaValle, Suffolk GOP chairman.” [Newsday, [12/14/15](#)]
  - **Torres Was Facing Felony Charges For Concealing Criminal Convictions On An Application To Join A Zoning Board.** “Torres also is facing a local felony charge that he concealed criminal convictions on his application to become a member of the Islip Zoning Board of Assessment Review. Torres has pleaded not guilty.” [Newsday, [12/14/15](#)]

**2020: Judge Dismissed The Case Against LaLota, Ruling That The “Termination Was Fair Game Under The Policymaker.”** “Plaintiff was hired in 2007 at the behest of the Suffolk County Republican Party Chairman, and in 2015 he was fired at the urging of the Suffolk County Republican Party Chairman. In the end, plaintiff held a position on the Board that demanded party loyalty and his termination was therefore fair game under the policymaker exception.” [Michael Torres v. Nicholas LaLota and Suffolk County Board of Elections, United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, Memorandum Decision and Order, [3/26/20](#)]

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**2016: LaLota Fired Two Suffolk Republican Town Chairmen And Declined To Comment On The Firings Other Than To Say It Was A “Personnel Matter”**

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**2016: LaLota Fired Two Suffolk Republican Town Chairmen And Declined To Comment On The Firings Other Than To Say It Was A “Personnel Matter.”** “A second Suffolk Republican town chairman in four months has been fired from the Suffolk Board of Elections. Tom Knobel, 60, the East Hampton Town Republican chairman, was terminated as a \$78,453-a-year elections forms processor after 16 years working at the board in Yaphank. Nicholas LaLota, the Republican elections commissioner, declined to comment on the reasons for the firing, saying only it was ‘a personnel matter.’ John Jay LaValle, Suffolk Republican chairman, did not return calls for comment Friday and several other town leaders said they were unaware of the move and it had not been discussed at a recent leaders' meeting. Knobel joins Smithtown Republican chairman Bill Ellis, who was fired as a \$120,400 a year deputy commissioner, and \$105,000 a year assistant deputy commissioner Michael Torres, secretary of the Suffolk Conservative Committee, who were fired in October after the minor party made a judicial cross-endorsement deal with Democrats.” [Newsday, [2/5/16](#)]

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**2019: LaLota Fired His Election Commission Deputy Without Explanation And Replaced Her With An Assistant Commissioner**

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**2019: LaLota Fired His Election Commission Deputy And Replaced Her With An Assistant Commissioner.** “Nicholas LaLota, the Republican commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, has replaced his deputy. LaLota said he was taking his administration ‘in a new direction’ after firing deputy Irene D’Abramo and replacing her with Erin McTiernan, who was hired as assistant commissioner earlier this year. McTiernan's promotion to the post - which pays about \$126,000 a year - was announced Friday.” [Newsday, [9/22/19](#)]

- **LaLota Declined To Say Why He Fired Her, Except That He Reevaluated Personnel And Saw “An Opportunity To Improve The Staff.”** “D’Abramo's last day was on Sept. 16. LaLota declined to say why he fired D’Abramo - who had been in the post for about a year - except that he reevaluated personnel and saw “an opportunity to improve the staff.” [Newsday, [9/22/19](#)]

## **LaLota Was Accused Of Disenfranchising Voters As An Elections Commissioner And Pushing Baseless Election Fraud Claims**

### **LaLota Was Accused Of Disenfranchising Voters When He Ended A Walk-In Absentee Voting Program**

#### **LaLota Suspended Walk-In Absentee Ballot Requests And Ordered GOP Election Workers To Process Absentee Requests On A First-Come, First-Served Basis, Even If That Meant People Could Have To Wait Hours To Vote**

**LaLota Ordered GOP Election Workers To Process Absentee Requests On A First-Come, First-Served Basis.** “Republican Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota has ordered GOP election workers to process absentee requests on a first-come, first-served basis, even if that means those who show up in person have to wait hours or return the next day while workers sort through hundreds of mailed-in requests. He said a surge in absentee ballots this year has the office swamped with work. But Democratic Elections Commissioner Anita Katz said the volume still is lower than in presidential elections, and could be handled while allowing in-person voters.” [Newsday, [10/23/18](#)]

**Newsday: LaLota’s Decision Could Mean “Those Who Show Up In Person Have To Wait Hours Or Return The Next Day While Workers Sort Through Hundreds Of Mailed-In Requests.”** “Republican Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota has ordered GOP election workers to process absentee requests on a first-come, first-served basis, even if that means those who show up in person have to wait hours or return the next day while workers sort through hundreds of mailed-in requests. He said a surge in absentee ballots this year has the office swamped with work. But Democratic Elections Commissioner Anita Katz said the volume still is lower than in presidential elections, and could be handled while allowing in-person voters.” [Newsday, [10/23/18](#)]

**LaLota Denied Republicans Were Trying To Depress Turnout.** “LaLota denied Republicans were trying to depress turnout. He said the Yaphank headquarters shouldn't be treated as a location for early voting, because New York State law has no provision for it. Also, walk-in voters are split between Democrats and Republicans, while mail-in absentee ballots so far have favored Democrats, LaLota said. “Taking these applications in the order that they're received does the most amount of good for the most amount of people,” LaLota said. “If Republicans wanted to suppress Democrat votes, they'd stall on processing mailed-in applications ... The fact that we process these applications on the same day is evidence to the contrary.” [Newsday, [10/23/18](#)]

**HEADLINE: “Suffolk Suspends Walk-Ins For Absentee Ballots, Citing Surge In Requests.”** [Newsday, [10/23/18](#)]

#### **The League Of Women Voters Of Suffolk County Said LaLota’s Decision Was “Disenfranchising Voters,” So The Walk-In Voters Process Was Restored**

**The Walk-In Voter Program Was Renewed After Complaints By The League Of Women Voters Of Suffolk County And A Request By The County Executive That The Board Of Elections Be Investigated.** “The Suffolk County Board of Elections reversed course Wednesday and will once again welcome walk-in voters seeking to cast absentee ballots on the spot at its Yaphank headquarters. Democratic Commissioner Anita Katz, who had opposed changing the policy, said: ‘I’m glad the situation was resolved. People should have an opportunity to vote in the most convenient way possible.’ After a Newsday story about the policy change [...] the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County reached out to the election commissioners. Also, County Executive Steve Bellone wrote a letter to the state Board of Elections on Wednesday, asking it to investigate the Suffolk BOE because the new policy was ‘disenfranchising voters.’” [Newsday, [10/24/18](#)]

**A Voter Sued The Board Of Elections, Arguing It Had “Created A Poll Tax” For Shelter Island Residents By Excluding The Town From Early Voting Locations**

**A Voter Sued The Suffolk County Board Of Elections, Arguing It Had “Created A Poll Tax” For Shelter Island Residents By Excluding The Town From Early Voting Locations.** “A state Supreme Court judge has dismissed a claim against the Suffolk County Board of Elections (BOE) that argued for an early voting location for Shelter Island. Shelter Island Town Supervisor Gerry Siller filed an Article 78 proceeding asking the court to review the BOE’s decision to exclude the town from early voting locations. The Hon. David T. Reilly, in a decision filed with the Suffolk County Court Clerk on Tuesday, found the BOE had not created a poll tax for Island voters, as Siller had argued. [...] Siller’s suit, filed September 29, was against Nicholas LaLota and Anita Katz, Suffolk County BOE commissioners representing the Republican and Democratic Parties respectively. Article 78 proceedings are used to review a decision or action (or lack thereof) of a state official. They can be filed by individuals or by other governmental entities.” [Shelter Island Gazette, [10/21/20](#)]

**LaLota Said They Did Not Open An Early Voting Location In Shelter Island Because Of A Shortage Of Resources, Not Because Of An Effort To “Suppress The Vote.”** “Early voting was rolled out to great fanfare last November, with polling places in each of the 10 towns open over nine days. For this year’s general election, BOE officials expanded the number of sites to 12 but provided no local early voting option for Shelter Island. At the time he filed the claim, Siller said early voting was popular here; nearly 40 percent of voters who cast ballots in person last year on Shelter Island did so during early voting. LaLota said in a letter to the Town Board that the bi-partisan decision to exclude Shelter Island was ‘motivated by a scarcity of resources, a desire to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of voters.’ It was not, he said, an effort to ‘suppress the vote.’” [Shelter Island Gazette, [10/21/20](#)]

**LaLota Claimed New York’s Election System Was “Vulnerable To Fraud” And Pushed Baseless Election Fraud Claims In 2016**

**LaLota Wrote An Op-Ed Calling Claiming A State Law Allowing Undocumented Immigrants To Get Driver’s Licenses Would Threaten Election Integrity.** “When applying to vote in New York, to prove one’s identity, an applicant must simply provide either their driver’s license number (DMV ID) or last four of their social security number (SSN). To have their application approved, the applicant must also check a box stating they are a U.S. citizen, which is on the honor system since County Boards of Elections that process the applications have no tools to verify this claim. The state’s new law allowing noncitizens to obtain DMV IDs, which cannot be distinguished from citizens’ DMV IDs, makes our democracy vulnerable to non-citizens voting in our elections.” [Babylon Beacon, Nick LaLota Op-ed, 9/8/19]

**2016: LaLota Claimed New York’s Election System Was “Vulnerable To Fraud.”** “Suffolk’s Republican Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota says the state’s election system is vulnerable to fraud because voters don’t have to show identification. But LaLota said he didn’t know of any cases of voter impersonation fraud in Suffolk County. He added, ‘There is no evidence of massive fraud in Suffolk County.’ LaLota first raised his concerns about the system’s vulnerability to the entertainment website TMZ in a story posted Tuesday, which said ‘voter fraud is a real concern.’ It cited LaLota as one of three election officials to back up the assertion. While the other two election officials subsequently told the nonprofit independent newsroom ProPublica they were not correctly quoted, LaLota stood by his comments. LaLota said he is concerned because the state has no voter ID law. Instead, poll workers check voters’ signatures at polling places against signatures on file.” [Newsday, [10/28/16](#)]

- **Newsday: LaLota Claimed New York’s Election System Was Vulnerable Because Voters Didn’t Have To Show Identification But Could Not Name Any Cases Of Voter Impersonation Fraud In New York.** “Suffolk’s Republican Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota says the state’s election system is vulnerable to fraud because voters don’t have to show identification. But LaLota said he didn’t know of any cases of voter impersonation fraud in Suffolk County. He added, ‘There is no evidence of massive fraud in Suffolk County.’”

LaLota first raised his concerns about the system's vulnerability to the entertainment website TMZ in a story posted Tuesday, which said 'voter fraud is a real concern.' It cited LaLota as one of three election officials to back up the assertion. While the other two election officials subsequently told the nonprofit independent newsroom ProPublica they were not correctly quoted, LaLota stood by his comments. LaLota said he is concerned because the state has no voter ID law. Instead, poll workers check voters' signatures at polling places against signatures on file." [Newsday, [10/28/16](#)]

- **LaLota Admitted "There Is No Evidence Of Massive Fraud In Suffolk County."** "But LaLota said he didn't know of any cases of voter impersonation fraud in Suffolk County. He added, 'There is no evidence of massive fraud in Suffolk County.' LaLota first raised his concerns about the system's vulnerability to the entertainment website TMZ in a story posted Tuesday, which said 'voter fraud is a real concern.' It cited LaLota as one of three election officials to back up the assertion. While the other two election officials subsequently told the nonprofit independent newsroom ProPublica they were not correctly quoted, LaLota stood by his comments. LaLota said he is concerned because the state has no voter ID law. Instead, poll workers check voters' signatures at polling places against signatures on file." [Newsday, [10/28/16](#)]

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**Election Experts "Criticized The Comments" LaLota Made About Potential Voter Fraud, Which "Came Less Than Two Weeks Before A Hotly Contested Presidential Election That Republican Nominee Donald Trump Has Warned Could Be Rigged"**

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**Election Experts "Criticized The Comments" LaLota Made About Potential Voter Fraud, Which "Came Less Than Two Weeks Before A Hotly Contested Presidential Election That Republican Nominee Donald Trump Has Warned Could Be Rigged."** "LaLota said in an interview he is not "worried" about fraudulent voting, but said he believes state law should change. 'That is the greatest vulnerability we have to our democracy in this election,' LaLota said. Suffolk poll workers are being trained to be vigilant when checking voter signatures, he said. Election experts and the board's Democratic commissioner criticized the comments, which came less than two weeks before a hotly contested presidential election that Republican nominee Donald Trump has warned could be rigged. Trump's assertions have drawn criticism from election experts and Democrats who say there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud. 'What he's talking about is impersonation fraud, which is extremely rare,' Rick Hasen, a professor specializing in election law at UC Irvine School of Law, said of LaLota. Because of the time and effort it would take to impersonate voters, 'it's a dumb way to steal an election,' Hasen said. In a review of cases since the 1980s for a 2012 book, Hasen was unable to find any such instance that swung an election. Suffolk Democratic Elections Commissioner Anita Katz said, 'There has never been an instance of voter fraud with the new voting machine. No commissioner, either Democrat or Republican, has made that suggestion until now.' On voter ID laws, she said, 'It's the job of the commissioner of the board of elections to encourage people to vote, not to make it harder for them to cast their ballots.'" [Newsday, [10/28/16](#)]

**LaLota Said His Comments Were Unrelated To Trump And Claimed That There Were Seven Cases In The Past Five Years Of Immigrants Applying For Citizenship Voting In Suffolk County.** "LaLota said his comments are unrelated to Trump's statements. He said there were seven cases in the past five years in which immigrants applying for citizenship were found to have registered and voted in Suffolk County. Voter rolls are checked by the Department of State when immigrants are applying for citizenship." [Newsday, [10/28/16](#)]

<b>LaLota Supported Voter ID Laws And Said "Let's Stop The Nonsense About All Voter ID Laws Being Racist Or Discriminatory"</b>
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**LaLota: "Let's Stop The Nonsense About All Voter ID Laws Being Racist Or Discriminatory."**



Nick LaLota ✓  
@nicklalota



In 2008, SCOTUS held that a Indiana law requiring voters to provide photo ID did not violate the US Constitution. The 6-3 opinion was supported by three conservatives, two moderates and one liberal. Let's stop the nonsense about all voter ID laws being racist or discriminatory.

4:21 PM · Mar 27, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [3/27/21](#)]

**LaLota Supported Voter ID Laws Because He Believed They Would “Decrease Fraud And Build Confidence In Elections.”** “She added the bills are a good first step in the fight for more rights for voters, but added that it should have happened a while ago. In the future, she would like to see elections moved out of schools for safety concerns, a bipartisan issue in New York. LaLota has also promoted this solution, and has additionally called on legislators to create a Voter ID bill similar to Indiana, which he believes will decrease fraud and build confidence in elections. A 2005 Indiana law required voters in person to present a United States or Indiana photo ID. Voters who do not have an ID can cast a provisional ballot and visit the appropriate government office within 10 days and bring a photo ID or sign a statement saying they cannot afford one.” [Suffolk County News, 1/24/19]

**LaLota Acknowledged That Voter ID Laws Could Function Like A Poll Tax But Said There Were Ways To Avoid This.** HOST: “I mean obviously the rub against voter ID laws has always been that this is some form of a poll tax because it forces people that may not have the means to incur some expense in order to vote or it's some attempt to drive down voter turnout among people that are likely to vote Democrat. Obviously, you're a Republican, so I'll ask you the question: what do you think of the objections to voter ID laws?” LALOTA: “I'm very much aware of that criticism and I'm sympathetic towards it. There have been some states who have used voter ID as a veiled attempt to do what you just said, however there's an Indiana voter ID law that has passed Supreme Court scrutiny 6-3 – even one of the liberal justices voted and validated it to say that the Indiana law is constitutional and it doesn't suppress anyone's right to vote and what Indiana did is before they made photo voter ID required they had numerous ways to have folks from all different communities sign up for a government ID. I think they even had mobile vans go to communities, offering folks from those communities to sign up for an ID to ensure that they had the thing to register to vote and to actually cast a ballot, so I understand and agree there are some states who used this as a way to suppress impoverished people's votes especially, but there's a right way to do it and the right way is the Indiana law.” [WABC, [10/2/20](#)] (AUDIO, 7:20)

**LaLota Said “Election Fraud Waters Down The Will Of Legitimate Voters And Reduces Confidence In Our Great Democracy”**

**LaLota: “Election Fraud Waters Down The Will Of Legitimate Voters And Reduces Confidence In Our Great Democracy.”**





Nick LaLota   
@nicklalota



Election fraud waters down the will of legitimate voters and reduces confidence in our great democracy. Perpetrators must be held accountable.

6:48 PM · Apr 22, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [4/22/22](#)]

### LaLota Compared People Waiting In Line For Hours To Vote To Black Friday Shoppers

**LaLota Compared People Waiting In Line For Hours To Vote To Black Friday Shopping Lines.** “Nearly 40,000 Long Islanders endured chilly temperatures, drizzling rain and hourslong lines Monday to cast their ballots for president on the first weekday of early voting on Long Island. Nassau and Suffolk County residents lined up in the dark Monday morning, armed with folding chairs, books and hot coffee, up to three hours before more than two dozen early voting locations opened their doors, elections officials said. ‘The process is working, but Long Islanders seem to want to camp out two or three hours ahead of time,’ said Suffolk Board of Elections Republican Commissioner Nick LaLota. ‘This is like Black Friday to a lot of people. That’s fine. We welcome the business.’ In total, 15,492 Suffolk residents cast ballots at the county’s 12 early voting sites Monday - a nearly 900% increase from the third day of early voting in 2019 and nearly exceeding the more than 20,000 ballots cast in-person in the county over the entire weekend, LaLota said. The Suffolk Board of Elections, LaLota said, processed an early voter every 1.94 seconds Monday until polls closed at 3 p.m.” [Newsday, [10/27/20](#)]

**LaLota Claimed “The Process Is Working” Despite Long Islanders Arriving Hours Before Early Voting Locations Opened.** “‘The process is working, but Long Islanders seem to want to camp out two or three hours ahead of time,’ said Suffolk Board of Elections Republican Commissioner Nick LaLota. ‘This is like Black Friday to a lot of people. That’s fine. We welcome the business.’ In total, 15,492 Suffolk residents cast ballots at the county’s 12 early voting sites Monday - a nearly 900% increase from the third day of early voting in 2019 and nearly exceeding the more than 20,000 ballots cast in-person in the county over the entire weekend, LaLota said. The Suffolk Board of Elections, LaLota said, processed an early voter every 1.94 seconds Monday until polls closed at 3 p.m.” [Newsday, [10/27/20](#)]

### 2019: LaLota Complained About Changes To Voting Laws That Made It Easier To Vote

**2019: LaLota Complained About Changes To Voting Laws That Made It Easier To Vote.** “Jarret Berg, from Vote Early NY, noted that Nassau County, which has over 100, 000 fewer residents than Suffolk, has 15 polling places designated for early voting and allows voters to use any of the stations, regardless of the township it’s located in. Board of Elections’ response Nick LaLota, the Republican commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, responded to a request for comment, stating that ‘with less than six months in between the passing of the most expansive changes to New York’s election laws in decades and the state-mandated implementation of those changes, Albany acted hastily by requiring county Boards of Elections to implement these rushed changes in 2019.’ The changes, he said, while popular with the public and good for our democracy, should have been allowed to be implemented with more lead time, like in 2020 or 2021. Other states, he explained, had up to three years to

implement early voting programs. In response to the changes, Suffolk is working to revamp training programs with thousands of inspectors who will staff about 1, 500 early voting shifts and 5, 000 Election Day shifts, LaLota promised. ‘With all of these new changes, it was my goal to ensure that we have our staff properly trained and prepared to oversee the early voting process,’ he added. ‘If the Legislature gave us more time so as to ensure proper training, we would have been open to more sites, but unfortunately, that was not the case.’” [Suffolk County News, 9/5/19]

**Suffolk County News: LaLota Criticized Election Reforms That Were “Popular With The Public And Good For Our Democracy.”** “Board of Elections’ response Nick LaLota, the Republican commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, responded to a request for comment, stating that ‘with less than six months in between the passing of the most expansive changes to New York’s election laws in decades and the state-mandated implementation of those changes, Albany acted hastily by requiring county Boards of Elections to implement these rushed changes in 2019.’ The changes, he said, while popular with the public and good for our democracy, should have been allowed to be implemented with more lead time, like in 2020 or 2021. Other states, he explained, had up to three years to implement early voting programs. In response to the changes, Suffolk is working to revamp training programs with thousands of inspectors who will staff about 1, 500 early voting shifts and 5, 000 Election Day shifts, LaLota promised. ‘With all of these new changes, it was my goal to ensure that we have our staff properly trained and prepared to oversee the early voting process,’ he added. ‘If the Legislature gave us more time so as to ensure proper training, we would have been open to more sites, but unfortunately, that was not the case.’” [Suffolk County News, 9/5/19]

### **LaLota “Echoed” Complaints That The CARES Act Did Not Provide Enough Money To Cover Additional Election Expenses, Including Voter Outreach, In 2020**

**New York Times: LaLota “Echoed” Complaints That The CARES Act Did Not Provide Enough Money To Cover Additional Election Expenses, Including Voter Outreach, In 2020.** “But some election officials acknowledged that they were uncertain how much this election year would cost. ‘I’ll be candid: I don’t think my finance department has figured out what we spent yet,’ said Kristen Z. Stavisky, the Democratic Party’s commissioner of elections in Rockland County, northwest of the city, noting the ‘astronomical’ cost of postage of thousands of applications and postage-paid return ballots. ‘The CARES grant could never cover everything that we’re paying for.’ Nicholas LaLota, the G.O.P. commissioner in Suffolk County on Long Island, echoed that, estimating that the county would incur about \$2 million in expenses in this year’s election, including spending some \$150,000 on things like hand sanitizer and extra pens to keep polling places clean. An executive order from Mr. Cuomo also required the counties send ‘an informational mailer to every Suffolk household that has a voter in it,’ something Mr. LaLota said cost \$1 million alone in a county with more than one million registered voters. ‘Ultimately, Suffolk County is going to have to pay a rather large bill,’ Mr. LaLota said.” [New York Times, [10/2/20](#)]

### **LaLota Was Nearly Sanctioned After He Filed A Frivolous Lawsuit In An Attempt To Remove A Candidate From The Ballot**

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#### **LaLota Avoided Sanctions In The State’s Supreme Court And Agreed To Not Engage In Legal Maneuvers He Used In Trying To Remove A Candidate From The Ballot**

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**LaLota Avoided Sanctions In The State’s Supreme Court And Agreed To Not Engage In Legal Maneuvers He Used In Trying To Remove A Candidate From The Ballot.** “Nicholas LaLota, Suffolk’s Republican elections commissioner, avoided sanction last week in state Supreme Court, but his attorney agreed LaLota will not in the future engage in the same legal maneuvers he used in trying to thwart the Conservative nomination of newly elected Southampton town board member Julie Lofstad.” [Newsday, [2/2/16](#)]

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**LaLota Went To Court In A Last-Minute Suit To Block A Candidate On The Conservative Line After Earlier Agreeing The Nomination Was Valid**

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**LaLota Went To Court In A Last-Minute Suit To Block A Candidate On The Conservative Line After Earlier Agreeing The Nomination Was Valid.** “Silverman had made a motion for sanctions after LaLota went to court in a last-minute suit to block Lofstad on the conservative line after earlier agreeing the nomination was valid even though he opposed it. Then he failed to show up in court to defend his position even though Justice John Leo ordered a special Saturday court hearing in the case.” [Newsday, [2/2/16](#)]

**Newsday: A New York State Supreme Court Judge Held A “Rare” Court Hearing To Decide If LaLota Should Be Sanctioned For Filing A Frivolous Lawsuit.** “The judge also ordered a rare court hearing to decide if Republican county elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota should be sanctioned for filing a frivolous lawsuit. [...] Leo, a Democrat, ordered the sanction hearing for Monday after LaLota had filed a lawsuit trying to knock Lofstad off the Conservative ballot, and then failed to appear at an unusual Saturday hearing. Leo had requested that LaLota appear to ‘take the stand in support of his allegations.’ Leo said Lawrence Silverman, attorney for Democratic elections Commissioner Anita Katz, called for sanctions because LaLota ‘chose to absent himself . . . and . . . provide a self-serving hearsay affidavit . . . which was utterly insufficient.’ Leo called LaLota’s legal action, ‘an improper and baseless attempt to insert himself into the electoral process and circumvent . . . the requirements of election law.’” [Newsday, [1/20/16](#)]

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**LaLota Filed A Complaint Against The State Supreme Court Judge, Alleging That The Judge Should Have Recused Himself Because His Actions Were “Reprehensible And Demonstrated A Clear Bias”**

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**LaLota Filed A Complaint Against The State Supreme Court Judge, Alleging That The Judge Should Have Recused Himself Because His Actions Were “Reprehensible And Demonstrated A Clear Bias.”** “Suffolk’s Republican Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota filed a complaint Tuesday against State Supreme Court Justice John Leo with the state Judicial Conduct Commission, claiming the judge’s actions in a recent elections case was ‘reprehensible and demonstrated a clear bias’ toward him. LaLota, in a three-page letter, said Leo’s actions put him at ‘an extremely unfair disadvantage’ because he refused to even consider recusing himself from the case even after admitting he had a close relationship with Democratic attorneys in the case who had supported his election and given money to his judicial campaign in 2012. ‘He should have recused himself,’ LaLota said. ‘Justice Leo’s friends and political allies should not be appearing in front of him on election law cases.’” [Newsday, [2/2/16](#)]

## **LaLota Was A Threat To New Yorkers’ Reproductive Rights**

### **LaLota Was “Proud” To Be Endorsed By The Suffolk County Republican Party, Which Had A Platform That Included Measures That Would “Effectively Outlaw Abortion”**

**LaLota Was Endorsed By The Suffolk County Republican Party.** “Last week, members of the Suffolk County Republican Committee unanimously endorsed Nick LaLota, chief of staff to the county Legislature’s Presiding Officer Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst), in the race for New York’s 1st Congressional District.” [TBR News Media, [3/3/22](#)]

**LaLota: “I’m Proud That I Have Been Unanimously Nominated By More Than 500 Committeemen From The Suffolk County Committee And From All Of Suffolk County’s 10 Towns.”** “‘I’m proud that I have been unanimously nominated by more than 500 committeemen from the Suffolk County committee and from all of Suffolk County’s 10 towns,’ LaLota said in a phone interview. “I intend to represent them well on the ballot.” [TBR News Media, [3/3/22](#)]

**As Of May 2022, The Suffolk County Republican Party Listed The Republican National Committee’s 2016 Platform As Its Platform.**

## OUR PLATFORM

With this platform, we the Suffolk County Republican Party reaffirms the principles that unite us in a common purpose. We believe in American and most especially, Suffolk exceptionalism. Suffolk County is unlike any other place on earth. The Republican Party was created to abolish slavery. Today, we defend our legacy of equality by empowering the individual and fighting against the evils of socialism.

We affirm — as did the Declaration of Independence; that all are created equal, endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights of **life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness**.

[Learn More](#)

### SUFFOLK BUSINESSES

The businesses who are here on Long Island are the backbone to our society. They create the jobs that make Suffolk County thrive. They will work to build our crumbling infrastructure. It's time we STOP THE TAX INSANITY and let Suffolk companies get down to business.

### SUFFOLK FAMILIES

It's the hard-working people who wake up everyday, who proudly work and sacrifice to make a better life. They need to keep more money in their pockets. Keeping the family unit strong is a cornerstone of the Republican platform. Strong families make for a #StrongSuffolk.

### SUFFOLK INNOVATION

We believe that the Entrepreneurial Spirit is the key to a healthy economy. When the government gets out of the way, we witness the creative American Spirit build a bigger and better future. With Suffolk tech centers and science labs the future is TODAY!

### SUFFOLK COMMUNITIES

We've all had enough of the gang violence and drug addiction that plagues our communities. We are taking Suffolk back. Together with the Suffolk Police, civics, churches and community organizations. We want to work in harmony with our private institutions—we can bring the soul back to Suffolk!

[Suffolk County Republican Party, accessed [5/3/22](#); Republican National Committee Platform, [2016](#)]

**Republican National Committee's 2016 Platform Included Measures That Would "Effectively Outlaw Abortion."** "We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide health care,' the 2016 GOP platform says. 'We urge all states and Congress to make it a crime to acquire, transfer, or sell fetal tissues from elective abortions for research, and we call on Congress to enact a ban on any sale of fetal body parts.' No state or federal investigations thus far, even those led by anti-abortion officials like Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, have found evidence that Planned Parenthood did anything illegal or that it '[sold] fetal body parts.' But that hasn't stopped House Republicans from holding endless investigations into the matter, which critics have called a 'witch hunt.' It also hasn't stopped numerous states from passing laws aimed at restricting fetal tissue donation — which is legal, and which is part of important research that could cure diseases from Alzheimer's to Zika. The Republican platform has long called for a constitutional amendment that would give full 'personhood' rights to fetuses at any stage of development, and this year was no different. But because this amendment would effectively outlaw abortion and many forms of contraception, it's extreme enough that even conservative states like Mississippi have repeatedly rejected similar measures at the ballot box." [Vox, [7/27/16](#)]

**2020: LaLota Criticized His Democratic Opponent For New York State Senate "On Issues That Are Likely To Become A Cornerstone Of Every GOP State Candidate This Year—Bail Reform, Immigration And Abortion"**

**2020: LaLota Criticized His Democratic Opponent For New York State Senate "On Issues That Are Likely To Become A Cornerstone Of Every GOP State Candidate This Year—Bail Reform, Immigration And Abortion."** "Navy Veteran and Suffolk County Republican Commissioner of Elections LaLota announced his candidacy for New York Senate District 8 in the 2020 election. He is seeking the seat currently held by Senator John Brooks, a Democrat. LaLota lost no time in criticizing Brooks on issues that are likely to become a cornerstone of every GOP state candidate this year—bail reform, immigration and abortion. 'With State Senate Democrats like John Brooks supporting giving driver's licenses and taxpayer funded college tuition to illegals, voting to legalize ninth month abortions, and stripping judges of their discretion to require criminal defendants post bail for crimes such as escaping jail, drug sales, second degree manslaughter and house burglary, it is clear Long

Island's South Shore needs a new voice who can stand up to radical New York City and Albany Democrats,' said LaLota." [Amityville Record, [2/19/20](#)]

**February 2020: LaLota Would “Be Sharing His Plans For Fixing Albany’s Messes Such As Legalized Late-Term Abortion.”** “In addition to graduating from the Naval Academy, Nick is a cum laude graduate from Hofstra University's Zarb School of Business and holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA). With an interest in law making, Nick has extensively studied the law and has been pursuing a law degree part-time while also serving his community and his family as a father.’ One party rule in Albany has led the Empire State down a dark path,’ LaLota said. ‘As State Senator, I will be a tireless advocate to make sure Long Island becomes safer, cleaner, and more affordable for all, so that our children may enjoy the same privilege of living and raising a family here, just as we did.’ [...] LaLota plans to spend the upcoming months meeting with and talking to residents about their concerns with the radical direction State Democrats have taken, and will be sharing his plans for fixing Albany's messes such as legalized late-term abortion, bail reform, and prioritizing treatment of illegal aliens over the citizens of New York. Voters can find out more about Nick on social media and at NickLaLota.com” [Suffolk County Republican Party, accessed [5/3/20](#)]

*\*NOTE: Review of Wayback Machine archives showed two saved versions of LaLota’s website from 2020 in November and December, but both showed the website was out of commission. [Wayback Machine, archived [2020](#)]*

## **LaLota Was A Top Aide To Republican Legislators Who Opposed Abortion Rights**

### **LaLota Was Chief Of Staff To New York State Sen. Phil Boyle, Who Opposed Codifying Roe V. Wade In New York State Law**

**LaLota Was Chief Of Staff To New York State Sen. Phil Boyle From 2010-2014.** “The Amityville village board race gives voters a choice between two candidates, incumbent Nick LaLota and Wesley Powell, and the outcome will preserve or end a three-member majority on the board. LaLota, part of a majority that includes Mayor James Wandell and Deputy Mayor Jessica Bernius, has often provided the administration's public voice for initiatives like term limits for trustees and a freeze on base pay for some police officers. The chief of staff for State Senator Phil Boyle (R-Bay Shore), LaLota, 35, ran the Amityville First campaign that elected Wandell and Bernius last year and was appointed by Wandell when Deputy Mayor Peter Casserly resigned. He is a member of that party.” [Newsday, [3/11/14](#)]

- **LaLota “Focus[e]d On Strategy, Public Policy, Budgetary And Political Matters At Boyle’s Office.”** “Wandell appointed LaLota to fill the seat vacated when Peter Casserly resigned last month with two years remaining in his term. LaLota will serve the remainder of that term. An Amityville resident for two years who grew up in Bay Shore, he focuses on strategy, public policy, budgetary and political matters at Boyle’s office. He has an MBA from Hofstra University.” [Newsday, [4/8/13](#)]

**2013: Boyle Opposed Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s “Women’s Agenda,” Which Would Have Strengthened Abortion Rights And Codified Roe V. Wade In New York State Law.** “Sen. Phil Boyle, one of two Republicans that groups have been pressuring to back a 10-point ‘women’s agenda,’ said Monday he would not support a controversial part of the proposal that strengthens abortion rights. Proponents said the proposal merely codifies under state law the abortion rights currently guaranteed on the federal level by the Roe v. Wade court decision. The proposal has been the lightning rod of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s women’s agenda, which includes other widely supported ideas such as reducing human trafficking and cracking down on sexual harassment.” [Newsday, [6/10/13](#)]

**Boyle: “I Can’t Support The Governor’s Proposal Because It Doesn’t Meet My Requirements On Banning Late-Term And Partial-Birth Abortions.”** “Though the proposal wouldn’t expand abortion rights under federal law, the Catholic Conference and others say it would increase abortion protections under state law. Boyle (R-Bay Shore) said the abortion plank doesn’t address key issues for him. ‘My position has been and always will be that I



want a ban on late-term and partial-birth abortion,' Boyle said. 'I can't support the governor's proposal because it doesn't meet my requirements on banning late-term and partial-birth abortions.'" [Newsday, [6/10/13](#)]

**Women's Groups Released Ads To Pressure Boyle Into Supporting Abortion Rights.** "Women's groups recently released ads trying to pressure Boyle and Sen. Joseph Robach (R-Rochester) as possible swing votes on the issue. The bill has strong support in the Democrat-led Assembly, but faces long odds in the politically split Senate. Senate co-leader Dean Skelos (R-Rockville Centre) has said he would block the measure from coming to the Senate floor for a vote." [Newsday, [6/10/13](#)]

**Boyle: "I Have Been Very Clear Over The Years: We Should Ban Partial-Birth Or Late-Term Abortions, And I Am Against Taxpayer Funding For Abortions."** "Mr. Cuomo and women's-rights groups have begun a pressure campaign against a group of Republican senators to extract their support, including Phil Boyle of Long Island, Joseph Robach of the Rochester area, John Bonacic of Orange County and Mark Grisanti of the Buffalo area. Ads went up over the weekend targeting some of those senators, funded by a coalition of women's groups. Mr. Boyle, a freshman senator, said he was aware he was being targeted with a series of radio commercials but said he hadn't been contacted by Mr. Cuomo's office. 'I have been very clear over the years: We should ban partial-birth or late-term abortions, and I am against taxpayer funding for abortions,' he said. 'But,' he added, 'I am willing to see what the governor proposes.'" [Wall Street Journal, [6/2/13](#)]

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### **LaLota Was Chief Of Staff To And "Best Friends" With Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey, Who Was Criticized Over The "Harshness" Of His "Political Attacks" On The Issue Of Abortion**

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**2021: LaLota Stepped Down As The Republican Commissioner Of The Suffolk County Board Of Election To Be Chief Of Staff To Republican Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey.** "Nicholas LaLota, the Republican commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, said he is stepping down with a year left in his term to serve as a top aide to the new Republican majority in the Suffolk County Legislature. LaLota will serve as chief of staff to Legis. Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst), who is expected to become legislative presiding officer in January after a Republican wave at the ballot box on Nov. 2 flipped control of the legislature from Democrats. 'It's a huge opportunity,' LaLota, 43, of Amityville, said. 'I look forward to running a tight ship so that we can deliver the right services at the right price to Suffolk County taxpayers.'" [Newsday, [12/10/21](#)]

### **LaLota Said McCaffrey Was "One Of My Best Friends."**



Nick LaLota  
@nicklalota

Pleased to have the support of one of my best friends in politics— Kevin McCaffrey— as I make this run for State Senate. I was honored to be a small part of his campaigns winning two 52/48 races and now I'm looking forward to him being by my side down the stretch this year!



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [2/19/20](#)]

**2019: McCaffrey's Opponent Was "Upset About The Harshness Of The Political Attacks During The Primary Especially On The Issue Of Abortion."** "Gargiulo's decision to suspend his campaign came to light after Rich Schaffer, the Suffolk County Democratic chairman, sent an email to party members last week announcing the cancellation of a \$150-a-head Gargiulo fundraiser set for July 11 in Lindenhurst. Schaffer said Gargiulo re-evaluated his campaign after the primary loss diminished his chances of winning on just the Democratic line. Gargiulo was upset about the harshness of the political attacks during the primary especially on the issue of abortion, which he opposes because of his Catholic faith." [Newsday, [7/15/19](#)]

**McCaffrey Said He Had "No Regrets" About Attacking His Political Opponent Tom Gargiulo, Who Was A "Retired Teacher Who Was Active In Church Work," Over His Stance On Abortion, Even Though Gargiulo Did Not Support It.** "Gargiulo was upset about the harshness of the political attacks during the primary especially on the issue of abortion, which he opposes because of his Catholic faith. 'It really hurt, and it was hard for me,' said Gargiulo, a retired teacher who is active in church work. He said he plans to send a letter to Conservative voters to make clear his stand. McCaffrey said he has 'no regrets' about his campaign, adding that Gargiulo — by accepting the Democratic ballot line — 'had to expect some of the splatter' from the party's liberal stands on such issues as late-term abortion and voting rights for felons. 'I never really wanted to campaign against Tom,' said McCaffrey, who has known Gargiulo for 30 years. 'I'm just glad it came to this happy ending.'" [Newsday, [7/15/19](#)]

**Amityville Record: "Gargiulo Is Charging That McCaffrey Smeared His Name And Reputation In The Letter By Insinuating That He Supported Full Term Abortions."** "Democratic candidate, Tom Gargiulo, who is a registered Conservative, is charging that his Republican opponent, Kevin McCaffrey made disparaging remarks about him in a letter he sent to Conservatives before the Conservative primary in June. Gargiulo had been given the nod to run on the Conservative line, but McCaffrey challenged him and won the line. Gargiulo is charging that McCaffrey smeared his name and reputation in the letter by insinuating that he supported full term abortions." [Amityville Record, 10/23/19]

**McCaffrey Said Democrats' "Radical Agenda" Included "Permitting Late-Term Abortions."** "In the letter, sent out to all Conservatives as part of his campaign for the Conservative line, McCaffrey stated: 'If you want to prevent Democrats from taking over your Conservative Party, and pushing their radical agenda, which includes allowing felons to vote from prison and permitting late-term abortions, to name a few, please consider writing in my name in the June 25th Conservative Party Primary.' In response, McCaffrey said he was making members of the Conservative party aware of the political positions of the Democrats and that by accepting the Democratic nomination, Gargiulo was also accepting their political views." [Amityville Record, 10/23/19]

**Gargiulo's Father, Who Was A Church Deacon, Said McCaffrey's Political Attacks Over Abortion Were Causing "Turmoil" In His Family.** "McCaffrey, who has known Gargiulo and his family for over 30 years, said Gargiulo can't have it both ways, which is what his letter was intended to point out to Conservative voters as they headed to the polls in the primary. 'I was saying that my opponent, who claims to be conservative, has accepted the democratic nomination, and the democrats are the ones who support X, Y and Z,' said McCaffrey. 'He wanted to accept the votes but not the ideology, but and you can't say "I want their votes" but I want nothing to do with their radical leftagenda' Gargiulo's father, Deacon Andrew Gargiulo, a chaplain at Charles Resurrection Cemetery in Farmingdale, is now writing a letter of his own, addressed to 'fellow conservatives.,' stating that he believes his son's loss in the primary was a direct result of McCaffrey's letter. is slated to be sent out to voters before election day November 5th. He said that McCaffrey has caused a great deal of harm and turmoil to the Gargiulo family, not only because of the family's history with the Catholic Church, but also because Andrew Gargiulo and his wife lost their son Andrew at 10 months old due to illness. 'We are truly a religious family and absolutely do not believe in abortion and what my son's opponent said about him and our family is truly a disgrace,' wrote Andrew Gargiulo. 'When my son was walking door-to-door constituents were asking him why he would want an unborn child killed at nine months- you can imagine how my son felt.' Gargiulo points out correctly that the Suffolk County legislature does not make nor enforce abortion laws. The Legislature sets county policies, reviews the administration of government, appropriates funding, levies taxes, and reviews and adopts the annual budget." [Amityville Record, 10/23/19]

## Health Care

### **LaLota Called For Cutting Health Benefits For Part-Time Village Officials, Including An Elderly Woman, Despite Warnings That The Employees “Depend On The Benefits And Will Sue To Protect Them”**

**Amityville Record: LaLota “Raised Controversy And Criticism” With “The Wandell Administration’s Decision Last Year To Revoke Health Insurance Benefits From Former Village Officials.”** “LaLota has largely been the face of the Amityville First Party, taking on leadership positions with regard to the Village’s finances and other key aspects of Village government. He has raised controversy and criticism, particularly with regard to his dealings with the Amityville Police Department and with the Wandell administration’s decision last year to revoke health insurance benefits from former Village officials.” [Amityville Record, 1/4/17]

**The Wandell Administration “Revoke[d] Health Insurance Coverage From Three Village Officials And A Former Employee.”** “Wandell said that many of the improvements made under his administration are directly related to the ‘leadership of our budget officer Nick LaLota.’ ‘He comes with financial discipline,’ said Wandell. ‘He looked at our budget, found places to save money and is a true asset to the Village.’ But the opponents said the changes have come at a cost. ‘They don’t know how to treat people,’ said Siry, who referred to the administration’s poor working relationship with the police department and its decision to revoke health insurance coverage from three Village officials and a former employee. ‘There are ways to get things done while still treating people with respect and dignity, which is something my opponent and the Wandell administration lacks.’ LaLota countered that management decisions made by the Wandell administration have allowed it to ensure low taxes and a high quality of life. ‘Yes we have had difficult conversations, such as the question of health care for former employees, but those savings will be reinvested into the programs that make Amityville great for all residents,’ he said. ‘The Amityville First party has the interest of the community at heart. We are looking to move forward with common sense and frankly that is the only message that will get this guy, who is (originally) from Bay Shore and who doesn’t come from here, elected.’” [Amityville Record, 3/15/17]

**LaLota Called For Cutting Health Benefits For Part-Time Village Officials Despite Warnings From That The Employees “Depend On The Benefits And Will Sue To Protect Them.”** “The budget funds health benefits for former part-time village officials, but only through October. LaLota and Wandell have said that cutting those benefits will save the village \$100,000 a year, though some of the former officials have said they depend on the benefits and will sue to protect them.” [Newsday, [4/30/15](#)]

**LaLota Said “Amityville Will Move Ahead With The Proposal And May File A Suit Of Its Own To Recoup Money Already Paid Out.”** “Some of the six officials are well into retirement age and say the cut would be ruinous for them. ‘I am very disappointed in the village,’ said Carol Ketcham, a secretary to the village assessor for 20 years who served until 1998. ‘I’m retired, I’m on a fixed income, and for them to do something like this.’ Others have said they will sue if the benefits are cut, but trustee Nick LaLota, the village’s budget officer, said Amityville will move ahead with the proposal and may file a suit of its own to recoup money already paid out. ‘We’re on very solid legal ground with the actions we’re taking, and the village is considering a lawsuit of its own,’ he said.” [Newsday, [4/16/15](#)]

**The Wandell Administration Informed The Employees, Including “An Elderly Woman,” They Would Be Losing Their Health Care Benefits In Letters Sent Out At “Christmas Time.”** “Wandell attributed the leadership of LaLota, who assumed the role as chief budget officer when he was appointed to the board in March 2013, for turning the Village finances around. ‘There is no question that the overall financial improvement of the Village is due directly to the work of the budget officer, Nick LaLota,’ said Wandell, whose team points to a reduction in the Village’s debt of 18 percent compared to three years ago. ‘We had a turnaround of a \$750,000 deficit to almost a \$500,000 surplus, a \$1.5 million swing,’ he said. ‘And, we have done this while still providing services.’ ‘We

challenged ourselves to keep within the tax cap but not take away any services that our residents deserve,' said Bernius. One way the administration has done that, she said, is by realigning Village Hall staff, combining duties and responsibilities and hiring part-time employees. They also did it by taking some unpopular and, according to some, punitive moves. The Wandell administration wiped off approximately \$100,000 in annual costs for health care benefits for former employees and officials, challenging the legality of board resolutions that set those benefits in place. 'There was a better way to do that,' said Kevin Smith. 'They sent out letters at Christmas time advising those former officials and employees, and one of the people was an elderly woman.'" [Amityville Record, 3/1/17]

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**Editorial: "The Administration, And LaLota In Particular, Publicly Opposed And Made Caustic Comments" About Former Village Employees, "Making It Appear That They Were Doing Something Illegal By Taking Health Care Benefits From The Village Based On A Legitimate Agreement"**

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**Editorial: "The Administration, And LaLota In Particular, Publicly Opposed And Made Caustic Comments" About Former Village Employees, "Making It Appear That They Were Doing Something Illegal By Taking Health Care Benefits From The Village Based On A Legitimate Agreement."** "They also sought to save \$100,000 a year the Village was spending to pay for health care coverage of former Village officials and a former employee. The administration, and LaLota in particular, publicly opposed and made caustic comments about these individuals-his neighbors-making it appear that they were doing something illegal by taking health care benefits from the Village based on a legitimate agreement made by an administration years ago. The former officials and employee were not part of that decision." [Amityville Record, Editorial, 3/15/17]

**LaLota Said He Supported Letting Medicare Negotiate Lower Drug Prices For People Age 65 And Older And Maintaining Protections For Pre-Existing Conditions**

**LaLota Said He Supported Letting Medicare Negotiate Lower Drug Prices For People Age 65 And Older.** "In Congress, I will work with Republicans and Democrats to lower prescription drug prices, continue to require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions and protect people from surprise medical bills. I will also support a system that allows for Medicare to negotiate prices for its members 65 years and up. These price negotiations will not only protect seniors from predatory pricing, it will cause prices to come down for those who need it most." [Nick LaLota for Congress, accessed [4/28/22](#)]

**LaLota Said As A Member Of Congress, He Would "Continue To Require Insurance Companies To Cover Pre-Existing Conditions And Protect People From Surprise Medical Bills."** "In Congress, I will work with Republicans and Democrats to lower prescription drug prices, continue to require insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions and protect people from surprise medical bills. I will also support a system that allows for Medicare to negotiate prices for its members 65 years and up. These price negotiations will not only protect seniors from predatory pricing, it will cause prices to come down for those who need it most." [Nick LaLota for Congress, accessed [4/28/22](#)]

## Jan. 6 Riot

**LaLota Said It Was "A Disgrace That The Media And DC Politicians Show More Interest In January 6<sup>th</sup>" Than The Day That 13 Soldiers Died In Afghanistan**

**LaLota Said It Was "A Disgrace That The Media And DC Politicians Show More Interest In January 6<sup>th</sup>" Than The Day That 13 Soldiers Died In Afghanistan.**



Nick LaLota   
@nicklalota



What a disgrace that the media and DC politicians show more interest in January 6th than August 26th—the date 13 brave service members died in Afghanistan.

8:26 AM · Nov 16, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [12/16/21](#)]

### LaLota On Jan. 6 Rioters: “Lock Them Up.”



Nick LaLota   
@nicklalota



Those who trespassed, overran police check points and destroyed property at our nation’s capital yesterday do not represent those who truly believe in our Constitution and law and order. Lock them up.



10:29 AM · Jan 7, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [1/7/21](#)]

## Budget Issues

**LaLota Said He Opposed Build Back Better Because “It Will Be Paid For By More Inflation And High Taxes”**

**LaLota Opposed Build Back Better Because “It Will Be Paid For By More Inflation And High Taxes.”**





Nick LaLota  @nicklalota · Sep 29, 2021

Sheesh, I hope America doesn't fall for this alternate reality nonsense. Five trillion never equals zero. And, it will be paid for by more inflation and higher taxes— not just on the 1%. ...



President Biden  @POTUS · Sep 25, 2021

United States government official

My Build Back Better Agenda costs zero dollars.

Instead of wasting money on tax breaks, loopholes, and tax evasion for big corporations and the wealthy, we can make a once-in-a-generation investment in working America.

And it adds zero dollars to the national debt.

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [9/29/21](#)]

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## **BBB Would Invest In Child Care, Improve Energy Efficiency, Lower Drug Prices For Seniors, And Cut Taxes For Most Families**

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**Roosevelt Institute: Build Back Better Act Would Invest In Child Care, Creating Jobs And Allowing Parents To Get Back To Work.** “Convenient, affordable childcare is a major obstacle for working parents, illuminated even more so by school and daycare closures during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately impacted women’s labor force participation. Increasing the capacity of industries in order to curb inflation of specific prices requires increasing the supply of labor. The Build Back Better Act invests in existing and new childcare facilities in underserved areas and provides subsidies to make childcare more affordable for qualifying households. Together, these investments would increase the supply of childcare, create new jobs, and allow parents to get back to work. [Roosevelt Institute, Fact Sheet, [9/28/21](#)]

**Center For American Progress: Build Back Better Act Would Invest In Clean Electricity And Energy Efficiency, Reducing Energy Costs By \$500 Per Year For The Average Household.** “Build Back Better helps break the United States’ dependence on fossil fuels—an industry that’s particularly vulnerable to extreme weather, which has and will continue to be exacerbated by climate change—consumer energy costs will be reduced. Specifically, proposed investments in clean electricity and energy efficiency will make energy costs more affordable, saving the average household approximately \$500 a year in reduced energy costs. This much-needed investment in clean energy would come at a time when energy prices have pushed up inflation for consecutive months.” [Center for American Progress, [11/16/21](#)]

- **E&E News: The Budget Resolution Set “The Stage For Unprecedented Investments To Tackle Climate Change And Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”** “Senate Democrats unveiled a \$3.5 trillion budget resolution this morning, setting the stage for unprecedented investments to tackle climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” [E&E News, [8/9/21](#)]

**The Build Back Better Deal Lowered Drug Prices For Seniors By Reducing Co-Pays And Establishing A \$2,000 Out-Of-Pocket Limit In Medicare Part D.** “Pelosi celebrated the drug-pricing agreement: ‘For a generation, House Democrats have been fighting to deliver real drug price negotiations that will lower costs. With today’s agreement on strong lower drug price provisions for the Build Back Better Act, Democrats have a path forward to make good on this transformational agenda for our seniors.’ She said the deal will lower drug prices for seniors, reduce their out-of-pocket co-pays and establish a \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit for seniors’ expenses in Medicare Part D. The bill would also halt price hikes above inflation, which would affect all Americans, she said.” [NBC News, [11/2/21](#)]

**FactCheck.Org: “In The First Year Of Biden’s Proposed Budget, 2022, Nearly Nine Out Of 10 Households Would See A Tax Cut.”** “In the first year of Biden’s proposed budget, 2022, nearly nine out of 10 households would see a tax cut, according to the Tax Policy Center.” [FactCheck.org, [9/24/21](#)]

### LaLota Said He Would “Rein In The Federal Budget” If Elected To Congress

**LaLota Said He Would “Rein In The Federal Budget” If Elected To Congress.** “LaLota said, if elected, he would work to, ‘rein in the federal budget’ in order to control taxes and inflation, ensure the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is properly funded and staffed and end all COVID-19 mandates and executive orders after 45 days, unless a legislative body approves their extension. ‘The federal government touches a lot of aspects of Long Islanders’ lives, and I think they need a strong independent voice fighting in Washington’ for them, LaLota told Newsday.” [Newsday, [2/22/22](#)]

**LaLota Said Lee Zeldin’s Successor Must “Have The Courage To Slash Federal Spending.”** “In announcing his run for Congress Tuesday, Mr. LaLota wrote that the issues facing Congress require strong leaders. ‘Lee Zeldin’s successor must respect Americans’ freedoms, understand the impact of national security decisions and have the courage to slash federal spending that is causing inflation — the hidden tax.’” [Riverhead News-Review, [2/23/22](#)]

**LaLota: “Congress Has Been Too Caught Up In Its Current ‘Free Stuff’ Spending Spree To Realize The Impact It’s Having On Future Generations.”** “As Congressman, I would support measures to make drastic cuts to our bloated agencies, and lower government’s operating costs. Congress has been too caught up in its current ‘free stuff’ spending spree to realize the impact it’s having on future generations. Congress needs to be taking action NOW to start working towards a sustainable budget going forward.” [Nick LaLota for Congress, accessed [4/27/22](#)]

### LaLota Opposed Biden’s FY 2023 Budget Proposal And Said “The Solution Is Simple — In Order To Curb Inflation, We MUST Stop Big Government Spending”

**LaLota Opposed Biden’s FY 2023 Budget Proposal And Said “The Solution Is Simple — In Order To Curb Inflation, We MUST Stop Big Government Spending.”**



[Facebook, Nick LaLota, [4/21/22](#)]

### LaLota: “Washington’s Overspending Is A Significant Factor In America’s Inflation Problem.”



A good leader knows the first step towards fixing a problem is acknowledging you have one and the President needs to recognize that Washington’s overspending is a significant factor in America’s inflation problem.



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [3/13/22](#)]

### LaLota: “We Would Have Less Inflation If Congress’s Spending Bills Couldn’t Exceed 100 Pages.”



Nick LaLota @nicklalota

We would have less inflation if Congress’s spending bills couldn’t exceed 100 pages. ✂️ 🐷

10:27 PM · Mar 10, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Retweets 1 Like

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [3/10/22](#)]

### LaLota Called For The Senate To Approve Nominees To The Federal Reserve Who Would Increase Interest Rates

**LaLota Called For The Senate To Approve Nominees To The Federal Reserve Who Would Increase Interest Rates.** “First, we must recognize monetary policy has been too loose for too long. While many of us enjoy low interest rates, we should have learned from the Alan Greenspan era that when interest rates are kept so low for a long period of time, bubbles tend to be created, then burst. Such was the case with the 2008 housing bubble and subsequent collapse of financial markets and record-high unemployment. The Federal Open Market Committee (aka the Fed) must be more mindful of its mandate ‘to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment and stable prices’ To that end, the Senate (who is responsible for confirming members of the Fed) must be more diligent in confirming those who will be loyal to the dual-mandate.” [Nick LaLota for Congress, accessed [4/28/22](#)]

### COVID-19 Regulations And Mandates

**If Elected To Congress, LaLota Said He Would Work To “End All COVID-19 Mandates And Executive Orders After 45 Days, Unless A Legislative Body Approves Their Extension”**

**If Elected To Congress, LaLota Said He Would Work To “End All COVID-19 Mandates And Executive Orders After 45 Days, Unless A Legislative Body Approves Their Extension.”** “LaLota said, if elected, he would work to, ‘rein in the federal budget’ in order to control taxes and inflation, ensure the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is properly funded and staffed and end all COVID-19 mandates and executive orders after 45 days, unless a legislative body approves their extension. ‘The federal government touches a lot of aspects of Long Islanders’ lives, and I think they need a strong independent voice fighting in Washington’ for them, LaLota told Newsday.” [Newsday, [2/22/22](#)]

### **LaLota Supported A Court Ruling That Found Gov. Cuomo And Mayor De Blasio Were Wrong To Limit Attendance At Church Services During The Pandemic**

**LaLota Supported A Court Ruling That Found Gov. Cuomo And Mayor De Blasio Were Wrong To Limit Attendance At Church Services During The Pandemic.** “Rightfully so, local governments have facilitated peaceful rallies, neighborhood walks and protests. Government has done so through the temporary closure of some roads, providing security and advertising same. The First Amendment protects the freedom of speech and local governments are correct to give that right value by spending resources to protect it. Unfortunately, some governments have chosen to give more support to these rallies, walks and protests than to other inalienable rights like the free exercise of religion. This double standard is evident when social distancing restrictions are imposed on some religious gatherings and not recent rallies, walks and protests. Fortunately, late last week, a federal judge ruled Gov. Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio were wrong to limit worship services while condoning mass protests. Sadly, this double standard has now reached our beautiful Village of Amityville.” [Amityville Record, Nick LaLota Op-ed, 7/3/20]

### **LaLota Said Biden “Usurped” The Power Of The Legislature With An Executive Order Requiring Executive Branch Employees To Be Vaccinated**

**LaLota Said Biden “Usurped” The Power Of The Legislature With An Executive Order Requiring Executive Branch Employees To be Vaccinated.** “Despite this, throughout time, Presidents and Governors of both parties have usurped the powers meant for the Legislative branches. In July of 2021, without a public hearing, sworn testimony or debate by Elected Officials from both political parties, President Biden signed an Executive Order to require all federal executive branch workers to be vaccinated. Likewise, despite almost every other nearby state canceling their school mask mandate, New York Governor Hochul continues to require school children to wear a mask while in school. This mandate is in spite of the evidence which shows children are far less likely to acquire and spread covid. If the President or a Governor wants a long-term rule - law - that affects the freedom of the people, he or she must go through the Legislative Branch. Having locally elected officials weigh in on these matters will ensure that whatever rule is being offered has sufficient ‘buy-in’ from the communities and is subject to public debate. As a Member of Congress, I will support a law that automatically sunsets any Executive Order or Mandate forty-five (45) days after it is issued and bar it from being extended without passing both the House of Representatives and the Senate.” [Nick LaLota for Congress, accessed [4/28/22](#)]

### **LaLota Said COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements In New York City Were Hypocritical**

**LaLota Said COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements In New York City Were Hypocritical.**

### Unvaccinated athletes to be OK'd to play in NYC, source says

By Barbara Barker and Matthew Chayes  
SPORTS Updated March 24, 2022 12:34 am



Kyrie Irving sits courtside during a game between the Knicks and Nets at Barclays Center on March 13. Credit: Kathleen Malone-Van Dyke

MEMPHIS — Kyrie Irving, who turned 30 on Wednesday, is going to get one big birthday present from New York City Mayor Eric Adams Thursday, according to a source with knowledge of the plan.



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [3/24/22](#)]

## LaLota Said School Children Were “Tens Of Times” Less Likely To Catch And Spread COVID-19 Than Adults

### LaLota Said School Children Were “Tens Of Times” Less Likely To Catch And Spread COVID-19 Than Adults.



Nick LaLota @nicklalota · Feb 17

The science tells us that school age children are tens of times less likely to both acquire and spread covid than adults. Despite this reality, NY State Democrat leadership requires our children to be masked— while they celebrate unmasked. #UnmaskOurKids



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [2/17/22](#)]

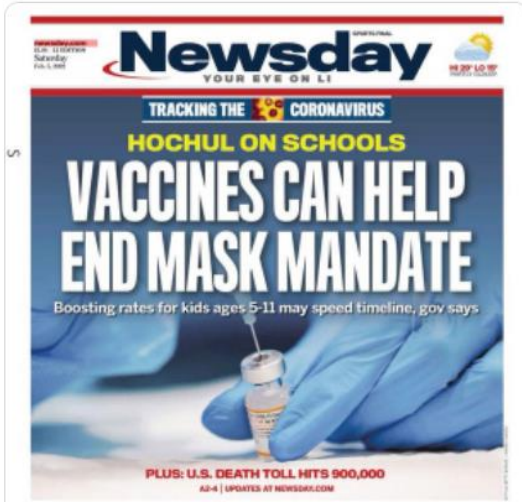
- **Medical Study Found Kids Were “Half As Susceptible To COVID-19” Compared To Adults.** “A new model from researchers in Israel found that kids are half as susceptible to COVID-19 compared to adults. The report published Thursday, Feb. 11, in PLOS Computational Biology also found that people under 20 are less likely to transmit the virus to other people. Growing evidence has showed that COVID-19 affects kids and younger people differently. Children experience lower infection rates, accounting for less than 10 percent of cases in the United States.” [Healthline, [2/11/21](#)]

### LaLota Said Gov. Hochul Saying That Increased Vaccination Rates Among Children Would Speed Up The Timeline For Ending The School Mask Mandate Was A Form Of Coercion.





Gov. Hochul should NOT tie ending her school mask mandate to increased vax rates among 5-11 yr. olds. Those family health care decisions shouldn't be coerced. Rather, the State Legislature should intervene and use metrics like ICU bed availability to help us get back to normal.



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [2/5/22](#)]

### LaLota Said Forcing Fully Vaccinated People With COVID To Isolate Meant The “Cure” Was “Worse Than The Illness”

LaLota Said Forcing Fully Vaccinated People With COVID To Isolate Meant The “Cure” Was “Worse Than The Illness.”



Nick LaLota ✓  
@nicklalota

The cure shouldn't be worse than the illness.



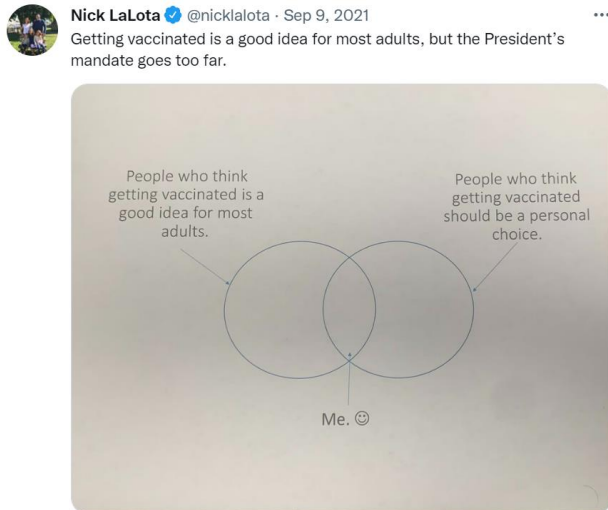
Marco Rubio ✓ @marcorubio · Dec 18, 2021

If they keep forcing fully vaccinated people with no symptoms to isolate for 10 days over a variant that causes mild symptoms the damage to small business & our economy will far exceed the death & hospitalization rate  
[washingtonpost.com/food/2021/12/18/...](https://www.washingtonpost.com/food/2021/12/18/)

8:45 PM · Dec 18, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [12/18/21](#)]

LaLota: “Getting Vaccinated Is A Good Idea For Most Adults, But The President’s Mandate Goes Too Far.”



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [9/9/21](#)]

## Foreign Policy

### LaLota Praised The President Of El Salvador For Mass Arrests, Despite Criticism That He Was Undermining Civil Liberties

LaLota Praised The President Of El Salvador For Mass Arrests In The Country.



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [4/20/22](#)]

**HEADLINE: “In El Salvador, the President Cracks Down on Civil Liberties, and Is Beloved for It.”** [New York Times, [4/28/22](#)]

**El Salvador’s Government Was “Suspending Key Civil Liberties Guaranteed In The Constitution And Allowing Children As Young As 12 To Be Tried As Adults For Gang Affiliation,” Leading To Denunciation**

**From Human Rights Groups.** “It has been four weeks since the shoemaker vanished from his hometown, hauled away in handcuffs by Salvadoran police. The family of the man, Heber Peña, 29, has gathered business receipts and signatures from clients to prove he makes his money honestly. They fear he is now stuck in an overcrowded prison, accused of being a gang member. Even so, the cobbler’s family still sees the benefits of the police crackdown that led to his arrest — and admires the leader behind it: President Nayib Bukele. ‘Apart from this,’ said Caleb Peña, Heber’s brother, ‘everything the president has done is magnificent.’ Mr. Peña is one of more than 18,000 Salvadorans imprisoned in recent weeks, after a spike in killings in March led the government to declare a state of emergency, suspending key civil liberties guaranteed in the Constitution and allowing children as young as 12 to be tried as adults for gang affiliation. Human rights groups have denounced the actions as violations of fundamental freedoms. U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken urged the Salvadoran government to ‘uphold due process and protect civil liberties.’” [New York Times, [4/28/22](#)]

### **LaLota Said Putin Invading Ukraine Could Have Been Prevented If Biden And Western Powers Had Implemented Sanctions Sooner**

**LaLota Said Putin Invading Ukraine Could Have Been Prevented If Biden And Western Powers Had Implemented Sanctions Sooner.**



Nick LaLota  
@nicklalota

...

What is happening in Ukraine was predictable and as such, it was preventable. Weeks ago, the President should have worked with the Europeans to impose harsh sanctions on Russia as they amassed troops on the border. Listen to me talk about this and more here:

 LI News Radio @linewsradio · Feb 24

CD-1 Candidate @nicklalota joins @JayOliverLINews to announce his run for Zeldin's soon to be vacant seat.  
#gop #RedWave #zeldin #election #congress  
[soundcloud.com/jvcbroadcastin...](https://soundcloud.com/jvcbroadcastin...)

11:33 AM · Feb 24, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [2/24/22](#)]

### **LaLota Said “Biden Was Wrong Not To Leave A Contingent Of About 1,000 US Troops In Afghanistan”**

**LaLota: “Biden Was Wrong Not To Leave A Contingent Of About 1,000 US Troops In Afghanistan.”** “As someone who was deployed to a region that harbors terrorists, I understand and support keeping bases and troops in and near different ‘hot spots’ in the world. President Biden was wrong not to leave a contingent of about 1,000 US troops in Afghanistan to advise and assist the Afghan Government and Military to prevent the Taliban from retaking Afghanistan.” [Nick LaLota for Congress, accessed [4/27/22](#)]

**LaLota On The Afghanistan Withdrawal: “Anti-Western Unconventional Military Forces Who Plan To Bring Death To America Remain In Afghanistan- Plotting Every Day. We Just Surrendered Our Ability To Keep A Close Eye On Them.”**



Despite the headlines, the longest war didn't end yesterday. Anti-Western unconventional military forces who plan to bring death to America remain in Afghanistan- plotting every day. We just surrendered our ability to keep a close eye on them.



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [8/31/21](#)]

## Immigration

### 2015: After A “Contentious” Meeting, LaLota Signed A Letter Opposing Relocating Syrian Refugees In Amityville That One Trustee Said Was “Overreacting”

**After A “Contentious” Meeting, LaLota Signed A Letter Opposing Relocating Syrian Refugees In Amityville That One Trustee Said Was “Overreacting.”** “Following a contentious workshop meeting last week, the Wandell administration signed a letter to the United States Department of State opposing any plans to relocate Syrian refugees in the United States and ‘specifically to Amityville.’ ‘Reports stating of the suicide bombers involved in the terrorist attacks on Paris entered through Greece amid Syrian refugees are gravely concerning for a community like ours that has been told it might be a landing spot for a number of Syrian refugees. Though we are empathetic to innocents who seek escape from the hardships of war, we urge you to keep that war away from communities like ours,’ the letter, which was signed by Amityville Village Mayor James P. Wandell and Trustees Jessica Thole Bernius and Nick LaLota, stated. Trustees Dennis Siry and Kevin Smith declined to sign the letter. In a heated exchange at the meeting, Smith said that the letter was overreacting.” [Amityville Record, 11/25/15]

**Trustee Who Refused To Sign The Letter Said It Sent The Message To Refugees That Village Did Not “Want You In Our Backyard.”** ““My thinking is that I don't see Amityville getting any more than a few (refugees) and if everyone does their part that is what we are about, helping each other,” said Smith, adding that he believed the message in the letter as, ‘I don't want you in my backyard.’ ‘Aren't we about providing safety for our residents?’ countered LaLota sharply. ‘I am not saying I am against it (the letter),’ Smith responded. “I am just concerned about the wording and the message it sends.’ ‘You have had this 72 hours,’ said LaLota. ‘Do you want to take another week for this while our residents become more fearful?’ ‘No, again I am concerned about the wording,’ Smith said ‘So propose something else,’ LaLota snapped back. ‘Don't be so impulsive,’ said Smith. ‘I am impulsive about protecting our residents,’ said LaLota. As the debate continued, there was discussion about tabling the issue, to which Wandell responded: ‘We are not tabling this. It will have three signatures and you can write your own letter,’ he told Smith and Siry, ending the debate.” [Amityville Record, 11/25/15]

## Affordable Housing

## LaLota Opposed A Bill That Would Legalize Apartments Almost Everywhere In New York

### LaLota Opposed A Bill That Would Legalize Apartments Almost Everywhere In New York.



Nick LaLota   
@nicklalota

...

For decades, families have moved from Brooklyn and Queens to Long Island to enjoy the suburban life. They did so expecting safe neighborhoods and streets + schools that aren't overcrowded. This far-left bill supported by the Governor puts that in jeopardy.



Senator Brad Hoylman  @bradhoylman · Jan 27

This anti-housing attitude is exactly why we have a homelessness crisis in New York.

As the author of S.7574 I'm proud to stand with Governor Hochul, and allies from across the political spectrum, in the fight to legalize apartment buildings across New York. 🙌🏡🙌🏡 [twitter.com/Tom\\_Suozi/sta...](https://twitter.com/Tom_Suozi/sta...)

5:08 PM · Jan 27, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [1/27/22](#)]

**S. 7574 Would “Legalize Multi-Family Residential Construction Almost Everywhere In The State, Remove Parking Minimums, And End Minimum Lot Sizes In Some Parts Of The State.”** “The New York State Legislature this legislative session will consider a full suite of planning and zoning reforms. New York State Senator Brad Holyman (D-Manhattan) recently introduced Senate Bill S7574, which would legalize multi-family residential construction almost everywhere in the state, remove parking minimums, and end minimum lot sizes in some parts of the state. [...] Holyman is quoted throughout the article explaining the reasoning behind the bill—including a mention of a study by researchers at the NYU Furman Center, ‘which found that New York has some of the most exclusionary zoning in the country, particularly in the suburban enclaves of Westchester and Long Island.’” [Planetizen, [12/14/21](#)]

## Gas Prices

### LaLota Took Credit For The Suffolk County Legislature Suspending The Gas Tax On Gas Over \$3 Per Gallon

**LaLota Took Credit For The Suffolk County Legislature Suspending The Gas Tax On Gas Over \$3 Per Gallon.**





Nick LaLota @nicklalota

Coming soon to a Long Island 🗽 station near you: NO TAX ON GAS OVER \$3 PER GALLON! As Chief of Staff to the Suffolk Legislature, I am proud to have helped craft and usher through the legislation which will provide Long Islanders a little relief at the pump!



11:12 AM · Apr 13, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, 4/13/22]

### LaLota Criticized Biden For Opening America's Strategic Petroleum Reserves

LaLota Criticized Biden For Opening America's Strategic Petroleum Reserves.



Nick LaLota @nicklalota

The SPR exists to ensure 🇺🇸 vehicles (esp. military) have 🗽 when there is a supply disruption or war.

A POTUS who opens the SPR to lower 🗽 prices w/o simultaneously allowing for the safe extraction of 🇺🇸 🗽 while a nuclear power is waging war in Europe puts 🇺🇸 at greater risk.

3:30 PM · Mar 31, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, 3/31/22]

### Bail Reform

### LaLota Opposed Bail Reform In New York

LaLota Opposed Bail Reform In New York.



[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [3/3/20](#)]

**New York’s Bail Reform Ended Cash Bail “For All But The Most Violent Crimes And Exceptional Circumstances.”** “Last year, Democrats on Long Island were swept out of county office amid Republican attacks on New York’s new bail laws, which ended cash bail for all but the most violent crimes and exceptional circumstances. The election defeats in suburban Nassau County, along with the victory of crime-fighting New York City Mayor Eric Adams, proved a wake-up call for state Democrats. Now they’ve agreed to a deal that will to scale back some of those 2019 bail reforms as a national surge in crime stokes fears of further state and federal election losses in the November midterms.” [Politico, [4/11/22](#)]

## Veterans Issues

**LaLota Said He Would “Ensure The U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs Is Properly Funded And Staffed” If Elected To Congress**

**LaLota Said He Would “Ensure The U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs Is Properly Funded And Staffed” If Elected To Congress.** “LaLota said, if elected, he would work to, ‘rein in the federal budget’ in order to control taxes and inflation, ensure the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is properly funded and staffed and end all COVID-19 mandates and executive orders after 45 days, unless a legislative body approves their extension. ‘The federal government touches a lot of aspects of Long Islanders’ lives, and I think they need a strong independent voice fighting in Washington’ for them, LaLota told Newsday.” [Newsday, [2/22/22](#)]

**LaLota Opposed Shutting Down The Northport, Long Island VA.**



With such a large amount of Veterans on Long Island and the nation's solemn duty to provide them care, we must not allow Washington to shutter the Northport VA!



9:50 PM · Mar 28, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

[Twitter, @NickLaLota, [3/28/22](#)]

## Professional History

### 2000-2007: LaLota Was A Surface Warfare Officer In The United States Navy

**2000-2007: LaLota Was A Surface Warfare Officer In The United States Navy.**



Surface Warfare Officer

United States Navy

2000 - 2007 · 7 yrs

Managed a number of divisions throughout the Operations and Weapons Systems departments, with up to 75 direct reports. Completed three deployments and worked directly with Navies of nine foreign countries. Awarded Commendation and Achievement Medals for Leadership and Performance.

[LinkedIn, Nick LaLota, accessed [5/2/22](#)]

### 2007-2009: LaLota Was A Trader At GH Traders/Hoya Capital

**2007-2009: LaLota Was A Trader At GH Traders/Hoya Capital.**



Trader

GH Traders / Hoya Capital

2007 - 2009 · 2 yrs

Specialized in financial products including US Treasuries, Commodities and Stock Indexes.










[LinkedIn, Nick LaLota, accessed [5/2/22](#)]

**2009-2010: LaLota Was A District Representative For Democratic Rep. Steve Israel, Though His LinkedIn Did Not Mention His Title Or The Member He Worked For**

**March 2009-July 2010: LaLota Worked For Democratic Rep. Steve Israel As A District Representative.**

**Nicholas Joseph Lalota (Nick), Congressional Staffer - Salary Data**

Alternate Name: Nick Lalota

EMPLOYING OFFICE	START DATE	END DATE	POSITION	AMOUNT	NOTES	PDF
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	07/01/10	07/31/10	District Representative	\$2,597.22	Other Compensation	
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	07/01/10	07/31/10	District Representative	\$1,833.33		
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	04/01/10	06/30/10	District Representative	\$13,749.99		
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	01/03/10	03/31/10	District Representative	\$13,444.44		
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	01/01/10	01/02/10	District Representative	\$305.55		
<b>2010 subtotal:</b>				<b>\$31,930.53</b>		
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	10/01/09	12/31/09	District Representative	\$14,500.00		
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	08/01/09	09/30/09	District Representative	\$4,866.66		
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	07/01/09	08/31/09	Employee, Part-time	\$4,000.00		
Former Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY)	03/30/09	06/30/09	Employee, Part-time	\$6,066.67		
<b>2009 subtotal:</b>				<b>\$29,433.33</b>		

[Legistorm, accessed [5/13/22](#)]

**November 2010: Nancy Pelosi Tapped Rep. Israel To Join The “Party’s Leadership Ranks” And Chair The DCCC.** “Rep. Steve Israel will head up the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee for the 2012 election cycle, a move that will vault the 52-year-old New Yorker into his party’s leadership ranks during what promises to be a political season for House Democrats. Israel was tapped by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) for the DCCC on Friday, according to Democratic insiders. Pelosi has also considered Reps. Joe Crowley (N.Y.) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Fla.) for the DCCC post, but chose Israel instead, the sources said.” [Politico, [11/19/10](#)]

**Politico: “Israel Has Been A Top Loyalist To Pelosi” And “He Helped Rally Support For Her To Transition To Minority Leader.”** “Israel has been a top loyalist to Pelosi over the last few years, and since Democrats lost control of the House on Nov. 2, he helped rally support for her to transition to minority leader in the next Congress.” [Politico, [11/19/10](#)]

**As Of 2022, LaLota’s LinkedIn Said He Was A “Veterans’ Advocate” At The U.S. House of Representatives, Representing A “Member Of Congress” On Veterans’ And Military Issues.**



**Veterans Advocate**  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 2009 - 2010 · 1 yr

Represented Member of Congress in day-to-day coordination with Federal Agencies (VA, DOD, etc.) in order to improve Federal Government response to Veterans and Military issues. Personally assisted local Veterans recoup \$400k in retroactive compensation and benefits.

[LinkedIn, Nick LaLota, accessed [5/2/22](#)]

**2010-2014: LaLota Was Chief of Staff, Long Island Director To New York State Senator Phil Boyle**

**2010-2014: LaLota Was Chief of Staff, Long Island Director To New York State Senator Phil Boyle.****Chief of Staff, Long Island Director**

New York State Senate

2010 - 2014 · 4 yrs

Albany, New York Area

As Chief of Staff to a NYS Senator (2013-14), was Senior advisor on strategy, public policy, budgetary and political matters. Directed staff in communications strategy, constituent services, outreach and intergovernmental relations. Campaign consultant in 2012 and campaign manager in 2014, winning both times.

As Long Island Director (2010-12), led a 4-person team responsible for coordination among the New York State Senate Republican Conference's nine local State Senators and their 2.8 million constituents, optimizing community outreach, local press and constituent services. Helped the "Long Island Nine" earn re-election in 2012.

[LinkedIn, Nick LaLota, accessed [5/2/22](#)]

**2021: LaLota Stepped Down As The Republican Commissioner Of The Suffolk County Board Of Election To Be Chief Of Staff To Republican Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey**

**2021: LaLota Stepped Down As The Republican Commissioner Of The Suffolk County Board Of Election To Be Chief Of Staff To Republican Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey.** “Nicholas LaLota, the Republican commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, said he is stepping down with a year left in his term to serve as a top aide to the new Republican majority in the Suffolk County Legislature. LaLota will serve as chief of staff to Legis. Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst), who is expected to become legislative presiding officer in January after a Republican wave at the ballot box on Nov. 2 flipped control of the legislature from Democrats. ‘It’s a huge opportunity,’ LaLota, 43, of Amityville, said. ‘I look forward to running a tight ship so that we can deliver the right services at the right price to Suffolk County taxpayers.’” [Newsday, [12/10/21](#)]

**Political Career****2013: LaLota First Became An Amityville Trustee After Being Appointed By His Former Boss Mayor James Wandell**

**2013: LaLota First Became An Amityville Trustee.** “The Amityville Village board of trustees meets today [...]. The session is the first regular meeting for new Mayor James Wandell and new trustees Jessica Bernius, Kevin Smith and Nick LaLota.” [Newsday, 4/8/13]

- **LaLota Was Appointed By Mayor James Wandell.** Wandell, Bernius and LaLota have been a majority voting block on the village board against Smith and trustee Dennis Siry. Soon after his election in 2013, Wandell appointed LaLota to a vacancy on the board left by Peter Casserly who resigned following his run for mayor. LaLota, 38, had run the campaign for Wandell’s ticket. [Newsday, [12/28/16](#)]

**LaLota Ran Wandell’s Campaign For Mayor As Part Of The Amityville First Party.** “The Amityville village board race gives voters a choice between two candidates, incumbent Nick LaLota and Wesley Powell, and the outcome will preserve or end a three-member majority on the board. LaLota, part of a majority that includes Mayor James Wandell and Deputy Mayor Jessica Bernius, has often provided the administration’s public voice for initiatives like term limits for trustees and a freeze on base pay for some police officers. The chief of staff for State Senator Phil Boyle (R-Bay Shore), LaLota, 35, ran the Amityville First campaign that elected Wandell and Bernius



last year and was appointed by Wandell when Deputy Mayor Peter Casserly resigned. He is a member of that party.” [Newsday, [3/11/14](#)]

**2013: LaLota Attended A Meeting Of A Majority Of Trustees In Violation Of The New York State Open Meetings Law.** “An informal meeting of four Amityville trustees this month likely violated the state's open meetings law and could cause political fallout down the road, the executive director of the New York State Committee on Open Government said. The June 3 meeting, held at village hall with department heads to discuss matters including preparations for opening the municipal beach damaged during superstorm Sandy, was not publicly announced, and trustees failed to invite one of the five board members, Kevin Smith. Mayor James Wandell, in an interview last week, described the meeting as informational, said no votes were taken and that Smith had not been deliberately excluded. ‘He may not have gotten the memo . . . We’re a new board. I will take responsibility on that.’ [...] Smith -- whose vote against the 2014 budget this spring was a source of friction with the Amityville First bloc of Wandell and trustees Jessica Bernius and Nick LaLota -- said he learned about the meeting afterward from fellow trustee Dennis Siry.” [Newsday, [6/26/13](#)]

**2014: LaLota Was Elected To The Amityville Board Of Trustees And Was Nominated To Be Suffolk County GOP Election Commissioner**

**2014: LaLota Was Elected To The Amityville Board Of Trustees And “The Cost Of The Village Police Department” Was A “Centerpiece Of His Campaign”** As Part Of The Amityville First Party. “More than 2, 000 people came out to vote in Amityville giving Amityville Trustee Nick LaLota a victory over his opponent Andy Powell. While the results have not been certified, unofficial results show that LaLota beat Powell by approximately 80 votes in one of the biggest elections in recent times. ‘The results show that it is obvious that the public believes we are doing a good job,’ said LaLota to supporters who gathered at the Cornucopia to celebrate his victory. ‘We will continue to fight to make our financial situation better for years to come so that people can buy a home here and live here in this beautiful Village.’ Powell, of the Union Party, and some of his supporters stopped by the Cornucopia to congratulate LaLota, a candidate of the Amityville First Party which now maintains the majority on the board with Mayor James P. Wandell and Trustee Jessica Bernius. [...] Part of the campaign focused on the cost of the Village police department, particularly salaries and pension costs. LaLota made the issue a centerpiece of his campaign as he pressed to have the department open its contract, accept concessions, freeze salaries of higher paid officers and bring salaries of new officers higher ‘so they can afford to live in the Village,’ he has said. That issue caused tremendous divides in the community, which was also on people's minds as they headed to the polls. ‘I am here to vote because I love our police officers,’ said one woman who asked that her name not be used.” [Amityville Record, [3/26/14](#)]

**November 2014: LaLota Was Nominated To Be Suffolk County GOP Election Commissioner.** “Amityville trustee Nick LaLota said he will keep his position in village government after being nominated last week for Suffolk County GOP election commissioner. State law bars most public officeholders from also being in the commissioner's job but exempts village officers. LaLota, 36, said the new job would not present a conflict of interest. ‘It was an easier decision to make knowing that I could keep both roles,’ he said. LaLota, who makes \$7,000 a year as a village trustee, but voluntarily returns 20 percent of that to the village, was tapped Friday by Suffolk Republican chairman John Jay LaValle for the \$137,651-a-year county commissioner's job, where he would replace Wayne Rogers.” [Newsday, [11/17/14](#)]

- **LaLota Oversaw Over 60 Employees On The Election Commission.** “As commissioner, LaLota would oversee 60 employees, the administration of elections and registration of voters. While LaLota said he would keep the Amityville post, he plans to resign from his current position as chief of staff to state Sen. Phil Boyle (R-Bay Shore) around Jan. 1 and begin the new job almost immediately, he said. His appointment to the Board of Elections awaits approval by the county legislature.” [Newsday, [11/17/14](#)]

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**2015: LaLota Won Re-Election To The Amityville Board Of Trustees**

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**2015: LaLota Won Re-Election To The Amityville Board Of Trustees.** “In Village Hall, Clerk-Administrator Diane Sheridan took in the ballots and counted them. Figures showed that voters approved the fire department service award proposition, 414 to 251. Trustee Dennis Siry of the Hometown Party garnered 544 votes while Trustee Nick LaLota of the Amityville First Party got 472 votes. Both trustees won four-year seats. Absentee ballots included votes for Mickey Mouse, Stephannie Andrews-Sales, Nick Cifuentes and former Village Mayor Emil Pavlik.” [Amityville Record, 3/25/15]

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**2017 LaLota Unsuccessfully Ran For Mayor Of Amityville**

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**2017: LaLota Unsuccessfully Ran For Mayor Of Amityville**

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**In 2017, LaLota Unsuccessfully Ran For Mayor Of Amityville.** “It was only a village election and no one uses major party labels. But Suffolk Democratic chairman Rich Schaffer this week called the Amityville mayor's race, in which Suffolk Republican county Elections Commissioner Nicholas LaLota was beaten, his sweetest political win in 16 years. LaLota, 38, a bright but brash U.S. Naval Academy graduate who serves as the county's top GOP elections official, said he was ‘very disappointed’ by his loss. But LaLota said he will not deny his ‘political DNA’ by retreating on controversial issues. ‘I don't mind standing up for what I believe and I don't mind being for what's right even if it's unpopular,’ he said. [...] In a record turnout that drew 47 percent of voters, Dennis Siry, a village trustee, won by 228 votes. [...] LaLota remains a trustee with two years left on his term.” [Newsday, [3/25/17](#)]

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**LaLota Faced Criticism For Promoting One Of His Campaign Events At A Trustee Board Meeting**

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**LaLota Faced Criticism For Promoting One Of His Campaign Events At A Trustee Board Meeting.** “The campaign also has become part of trustees meetings, with residents querying board members about claims made in mailings about disciplinary actions involving village police officers. And, at Monday’s meeting, LaLota announced details about a campaign appearance. ‘I was outraged,’ said Joan Donnison, president of the Bay Village Civic Association. ‘I knew it was the last meeting before the election and there would be some kind of partisan stuff going on. I was not surprised but I was appalled.’ LaLota said that board meetings had to serve as political arenas because no candidate forums have been held. ‘I think there are many residents who have been misinformed by mailings sent by outsiders and the doubt that’s been created has culminated in them having to turn to ask their questions here at meetings,’ LaLota said. Siry called LaLota’s plug for a campaign event ‘inappropriate.’ ‘A board meeting should just be a board meeting,’ Siry said. ‘It’s not fair to the residents.’ Donnison said the nasty tone of the campaign in part caused the civic association board to vote unanimously to not hold a candidate forum for the first time in eight years. ‘We were not going to put ourselves in the middle of it,’ she said, noting that she worries about lasting harm to the village’s reputation. ‘This is just not what Amityville is at all.’” [Newsday, [3/17/17](#)]

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**LaLota Said He Spent About \$25,000 While His Opponents Spent Three Times That Amount**

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**LaLota Said He Spent About \$25,000 While His Opponents Spent Three Times That Amount.** “LaLota said his campaign spent about \$25,000, and estimated his foes spent three times that amount, although they have yet to file any campaign expense reports with the village clerk as required. LaLota backers say his opponents used ‘scare tactics’ by saying LaLota wanted to disband village police — a charge LaLota says is untrue. They also called Schaffer’s campaign effort retribution for LaLota’s refusal to back off the effort to create town council districts.” [Newsday, [3/25/17](#)]

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**Suffolk County Democratic Party Chairman: “Politicians Don’t Usually Accumulate So Many Enemies By Age 38. It’s Nick’s One Legitimate Accomplishment”**

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**Suffolk County Democratic Party Chairman: “Politicians Don’t Usually Accumulate So Many Enemies By Age 38. It’s Nick’s One Legitimate Accomplishment.”** “LaLota backers say his opponents used ‘scare tactics’ by saying LaLota wanted to disband village police — a charge LaLota says is untrue. They also called Schaffer’s campaign effort retribution for LaLota’s refusal to back off the effort to create town council districts. ‘I’m not a sellout,’ LaLota said. ‘I know I’m right on the issues. People are taxed way too much and officials don’t exercise enough discretion on contracts.’ Schaffer dismissed such charges, and said LaLota’s harsh rhetoric and hard-line stands hurt him. ‘Politicians don’t usually accumulate so many enemies by age 38,’ Schaffer said. “It’s Nick’s one legitimate accomplishment.” [Newsday, [3/25/17](#)]

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### **LaLota Stepped Down As Budget Officer For The Village After Losing His Mayoral Election**

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**2017: LaLota Stepped Down As Budget Officer For The Village Due To A Disagreement With The Mayor.** “Candidates can talk about what they will do, but I can show what I did, said Whalen. ‘I helped the Siry administration put together a zero percent budget in 11 days after Trustee Nick LaLota decided to that he would no longer be undertaking that job following the election last year,’ said Whalen. ‘And we will be bringing forward another zero percent budget this year.’ LaLota countered that Whalen is taking too much credit for last year’s budget, saying it was almost 90 percent complete when he handed it over to the Siry administration. His decision to step down as budget officer, a post he held since 2013, was due to a disagreement with Mayor Siry on discretionary spending. LaLota wanted to hire new Quality of Life officers, while the Siry administration wanted more money to go to pay raises, he said. ‘These differences are what led me to withdraw my name and led Mr. Whalen to assume the post,’ said LaLota. ‘When I stepped up, Mr. LaLota may have completed 90 percent of the budget but he refused to give me any excel sheets or other paperwork on it,’ countered Whalen. ‘I don’t know what he is talking about.’” [Amityville Record, 3/7/18]

**LaLota Stepped Down As The Village's Budget Officer After Losing His Mayoral Election.** “Siry said that if the PBA makes any endorsement of Whalen it would be because they believe he would be the best choice for the Village. ‘He (Whalen) will do what he believes is in the best interest of the Village,’ said Siry, who added that Whalen has a wealth of experience about the Village and has been an asset on the board since his appointment. ‘When Nick (LaLota) stepped down as the Village’s budget officer after the elections, it was Whalen who stepped up and worked very hard to make sure the residents had a solid budget that was under the tax cap and put taxpayers first.’ LaLota said he has heard from at least five people that they would like to run. Efforts to reach out to prospective candidates for comment were not successful. But one may be Joe Morin, a volunteer with Amityville Little League, and a local painter. He ran unsuccessfully for the board in 2013 under the New Wave Party and was a supporter of LaLota in his unsuccessful bid for mayor in March 2017.” [Amityville Record, 1/24/18]

**LaLota Said He Stepped Down As Budget Information Officer Because He Did Not Want To Work On A Budget He Would Not Support When It Came Up For A Vote.** “As reported earlier in the Record, the Village’s budget information officer was Trustee Nick LaLota, Siry’s opponent in the race for mayor. Last Wednesday, five days before the budget hearing, LaLota stepped down from that assignment saying he could not work on a budget that he would likely not be able to support when it came up for a vote. ‘I found myself in a position where I was forming a flawed budget that I would ultimately vote against,’ he said at that time. Later in the week, he added that he is pleased that the board is maintaining more than 80 percent of his budget and that he looks forward to working with the board to finalize the plan.” [Amityville Record, 4/36/17]

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### **2019: LaLota Chose Not To Seek Re-Election To The Amityville Board Of Trustees**

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**2019: LaLota Chose Not To Seek Re-Election To The Amityville Board Of Trustees.** “The outcome was not unexpected. Nonetheless, it was appreciated. ‘I couldn’t be happier to be reelected as trustee for Amityville once again,’ said Tom Whalen. ‘Considering there was not really a race, I think we had a very good turnout,’ said Mike O’Neill, who won a four-year seat on the Amityville Village Board Tues., March 19. O’Neill will replace Trustee Nick LaLota, who chose not to seek re-election. In addition, Trustee Tom Whalen won his first four-year term.” [Amityville Record, 3/27/19]

**LaLota Said He Was Stepping Down So He Could Focus On Finishing Law School.** “Yet, after careful consideration, I have decided not to run for re-election this March. Rather, I intend to focus on finishing Law School where I expect to graduate from Hofstra in December of 2020. While my name won't appear on Village ballots this March, I intend to remain involved - offering my help to the Siry Administration when it's wanted and criticism when it's needed. I am eager to see the Board advance endeavors initiated by the Wandell Administration. Amityville must continue revitalizing our downtown while keeping our historic charm - without awarding developers tax breaks subsidized by Village property owners. The Board must continue to fund drainage projects and road repair to improve our quality of life and our property values. Alas, Amityville must make financial choices, which allow us to always stay within the property tax cap- because Long Island's property taxes are the biggest threat to our property values. Though in just a few weeks I won't be serving on the Village Board, maybe we'll run into each other at one of the Village's fine eateries. I'll be the guy with the big smile on his face with my awesome wife and three beautiful daughters right nearby.” [Amityville Record, 1/16/19]

**2020: LaLota Was A Rumored Candidate In New York's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District Then Ran For New York State Senate After He “Failed To Get The GOP Nod” To Run For Congress**

**2020: LaLota Was A “Possible GOP Candidate” In New York's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District.** “In the 2nd Congressional District, where Rep. Peter King (R-Seaford) is not seeking reelection, Democrats are expected to nominate Jackie Gordon, 55, a former Babylon Town Board member and a retired Army lieutenant colonel from Copiague. Gordon raised \$400,025 in the first quarter of 2020 and has \$535,529 cash on hand, according to her new FEC filings. Among Republicans: Assemb. Andrew Garbarino, of Sayville, the GOP designee, raised \$150,543 in the first quarter of 2020, according to his filing. Assemb. Michael LiPetri, of South Farmingdale, who announced in February he would seek the GOP nomination, raised \$161,270 during the filing period. Nick LaLota, of Amityville, the Suffolk Republican elections commissioner and a possible GOP candidate, reported raising \$8,116 during the same time period.” [Newsday, [4/29/20](#)]

**LaLota Ran For New York Senate After “He Failed To Get The GOP Nod To Run For GOP Rep. Peter King's Seat” In New York's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District.** “LaLota's run comes after he failed to get the GOP nod to run for GOP Rep. Peter King's seat. Assemb. Andrew Garbarino (R-Sayville) got the nomination. LaLota said he would resign from the BOE if elected to the Senate and return if he loses.” [Newsday, [2/23/20](#)]

**2020: State Appellate Court Ruled LaLota Running For New York State Senate While He Was An Elections Commission Was A Conflict Of Interest**

**LaLota Announced He Would Enter The Primary Against Andrew Garbarino, The Republican Candidate Tapped To Run For U.S. Rep. Peter King's Seat In New York's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, But Later Withdrew.** “NYS Assemblyman Michael LiPetri announced that he will be waging a primary challenge against Andrew Garbarino, the GOP candidate tapped to run for Congressman Peter King's seat in the 2nd Congressional District in November. Two other Republicans, Nick LaLota of Amityville, and Nancy Hemendinger of Babylon, also announced they were waging a primary challenge for the nomination, but have since withdrawn. LaLota is now running on the Republican line against Democrat NYS Sen. John Brooks, while Hemendinger said her candidacy divided my extended family.” [Babylon Beacon, [2/27/20](#)]

**HEADLINE: “GOP taps Nick LaLota to square off against John Brooks in NYS 8th Senate District”**  
[Amityville Record, [2/19/20](#)]

**2020: State Appellate Court Ruled LaLota Running For New York State Senate While He Was An Elections Commissioner Was An “Obvious Conflict Of Interest” And Removed Him From The Ballot.** “The Court of Appeals declined to hear a lawsuit in which Republicans tried to substitute Norman Sammut for Nick LaLota. That lets stand a midlevel court ruling disqualifying Sammut — meaning the GOP will have no candidate in the race

unless it somehow gets a federal court to intervene, which is considered unlikely. Monday’s decision appears to be the final chapter in a tangled tale to challenge Brooks (D-Seafood) in a district that covers parts of Nassau and Suffolk counties. Republicans originally nominated LaLota, a Suffolk County elections commissioner. But the court disqualified him, ruling he couldn’t run for Senate because of an obvious conflict of interest — a candidate cannot also serve as a commissioner in charge of counting the votes. LaLota said he was taking a leave of absence as commissioner, but the court ruled that didn’t remove the conflict.” [Newsday, [8/24/20](#)]

**2022: LaLota Announced His Campaign For Congress In New York’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District**

**February 2022: LaLota Announced His Campaign For Congress In New York’s 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.** “Suffolk County Republicans have nominated Nicholas LaLota, the Suffolk County Legislature’s chief of staff and a former Republican county elections commissioner, as their candidate in the 1st Congressional District. Party officials over the weekend picked LaLota, 43, of Amityville, to seek the House seat of Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-Shirley), who is running for governor of New York, party chairman Jesse Garcia told Newsday Tuesday. LaLota, a former U.S. Navy officer and Amityville Village Board member, also is expected to receive the nomination of the Suffolk County Conservative Party, Conservative chairman Mike Torres said. LaLota said, if elected, he would work to, ‘rein in the federal budget’ in order to control taxes and inflation, ensure the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is properly funded and staffed and end all COVID-19 mandates and executive orders after 45 days, unless a legislative body approves their extension.” [Newsday, [2/22/22](#)]

**Election Results**

**LaLota - 2014 Amityville Trustee Election Results**

Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Nicholas LaLota	1,146	52%
Wesley Powell	1,064	48%

[Newsday, [3/20/14](#)]

**LaLota - 2015 Amityville Trustee Election Results**

Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Nicholas LaLota	472	46%
Dennis Siry	544	54%

[Village of Amityville, Election Results, [3/18/15](#)]

**LaLota - 2017 Mayoral General Election Results**

Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Nicholas LaLota	1260	46%
Dennis Siry	1488	54%

[Newsday, [3/22/17](#)]

**Campaign Finance**

**LaLota Raised A Total Of \$73,325.01 And Spent A Total Of \$43,736.01 In His Run For State-Level Office**

According to the New York State Board of Elections, LaLota raised \$73,325.01 and spent \$43,736.01 in his run for New York State Senate.

**LaLota State Campaign Finance History**

Year	Candidate (Office Sought) or Committee	Raised	Spent
2020	LaLota for New York	\$73,325.01	\$43,736.01



	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$73,325.01</b>	<b>\$43,736.01</b>
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[New York Board of Elections, accessed [4/29/22](#)]

*\*NOTE: Thousands of LaLota’s disbursements came after a state court ruled he was ineligible to run for state Senate due to his position as a Suffolk County Elections Commissioner.*

**As Of April 2022, LaLota Raised \$282,198.44 And Spent \$15,495 In His 2022 Run For Federal Office**

According to the Federal Election Commission, LaLota raised \$282,198.44 and spent \$15,495 in his 2022 run for federal elected office.

LaLota Federal Campaign Finance History			
Year	Candidate (Office Sought) or Committee	Raised	Spent
2020	LaLota for Congress	\$166,846.39	\$166,846.39
2022	Nick LaLota for Congress	\$282,198.44	\$15,495
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$449,044.83</b>	<b>\$182,341.39</b>

[Federal Election Commission, accessed [4/28/22](#); accessed [4/28/22](#)]

**Personal Political History**

**Personal Political Donations**

**LaLota Has Given \$11,543.42 To Federal Political Candidates, Including \$958.42 In In-Kind Contributions And \$10,000 In Loans To Himself**

According to the Federal Election Commission, LaLota has given \$11,543.42 to federal political candidates, including \$958.42 in in-kind contributions and \$10,000 in loans to himself.

LaLota Political Giving History - Federal			
Date	Candidate (Office Sought) or Committee	Party	Amount
2010	ActBlue (Earmarked for Ben Leming)	D	\$50
2019	LaLota For Congress (In-Kind – Emails)	R	\$131.22
2019	LaLota For Congress (In-Kind – Postage)	R	\$70
2019	LaLota For Congress (In-Kind - Food and Beverage)	R	\$440
2019	LaLota For Congress (In-Kind – Parking)	R	\$47.20
2019	LaLota For Congress (Candidate Loan)	R	\$1,000
2019	LaLota For Congress (Candidate Loan)	R	\$1,500
2019	LaLota For Congress (Candidate Loan)	R	\$7,500
2019	WinRed (Earmarked for Ortt For Congress)	R	\$100
2020	LaLota For Congress (In-Kind - Food and Beverage)	R	\$270
2020	WinRed (Earmarked for NRSC)	R	\$100
2020	WinRed (Earmarked for NRSC)	R	\$100
2020	WinRed (Earmarked for Joni for Iowa)	R	\$100
2021	America Reloaded	R	\$25
2021	WinRed (Earmarked for Dan Crenshaw for Congress)	R	\$100

2021	WinRed (Earmarked for Texans for Morgan Luttrell)	R	\$10
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,543.42</b>

[FEC, Individual Contribution Search, accessed [4/28/22](#)]

**2010: LaLota Contributed \$50 To Ben Leming.** In June 2010, LaLota contributed \$50 to Ben Leming through ActBlue. [FEC, Individual Contribution Search, accessed [5/10/22](#)]

**Ben Leming Was A Democrat Running For Congress In Tennessee.** “Marine Capt. Ben Leming of Murfreesboro has filed a petition to run as a Democrat for the congressional seat being vacated by Rep. Bart Gordon. Adviser Jeff Clark told The Associated Press on Monday that Leming, 34, got permission from the secretary of the Navy to file his candidacy, but can't actively campaign until his active duty ends May 1. Gordon, a Democrat, is retiring after 13 terms in the seat that represents 15 counties ranging east from Nashville's fast-growing suburbs to the Cumberland Plateau.” [Memphis Daily News, [3/31/10](#)]

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### LaLota Has Given \$17,545.73 To State And Local Level Political Candidates And Committees

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**According to New York’s State Board of Elections, LaLota has given \$17,545.73 to state and local candidates and committees.** [New York State Board of Elections, accessed [4/29/22](#)]

*\*NOTE: For full list of state and local political contributions, see spreadsheet saved to the drive.*

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### 1996 – 2021: LaLota Voting History

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LaLota Voting History (1996-2021)	
Year	Description
2021	Voted in the general and primary elections
2020	Voted in the general and primary elections
2019	Voted in the general election
2018	Voted in the general election
2017	Voted in the general and primary elections
2016	Voted in the general and primary elections
2015	Voted in the general election
2014	Voted in the general election
2013	Voted in the general and primary elections
2012	Voted in the general election
2011	Voted in the general election
2010	Voted in the general and primary elections
2009	Voted in the general election
2008	Did not vote
2007	Did not vote
2006	Did not vote
2005	Did not vote
2004	Did not vote
2003	Did not vote
2002	Did not vote
2001	Did not vote
2000	Did not vote
1999	Voted in the general election
1998	Did not vote
1997	Did not vote

1996	Voted in the general election [VoteBuilder, accessed 4/29/22]
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## Public Records

### Criminal And Traffic Violation Record

As of April 2022, LaLota was not associated with any criminal or traffic violations. [Nexis Criminal Records search, accessed 4/27/22]

*NOTE: Further research necessary to determine whether LaLota has a criminal record.*

### Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens

As of April 2022, LaLota was not associated with any bankruptcy, judgments, or liens. [Nexis Bankruptcy, Judgments, & Liens search, accessed 4/27/22]

*NOTE: Further research necessary into whether LaLota or their associated entities had bankruptcies, judgments or liens.*