

Low Turnout Expected For Queens Primaries

By CRAIG McGUIRE

While many political experts are anticipating low turnout at the polls during this year's primaries, there are some hot Queens races to watch.

"We are expecting a 20 percent turnout citywide, which should hold true for Queens," said Daniel DeFrancesco, the executive director of the New York City Board of Elections. "Normally 25 percent of (registered voters) turn out for the primaries."

And, according to Amy Beissel, executive director of the League of Women Voters, not only will participation be down, but interest as well.

"This year, the requests we have received for information on candidates and voter registration have been moderate," Beissel explained.

DeFrancesco attributes the apathy of New Yorkers to the public's perception of the available posts.

"There are not many leadership fights in this year's elections," said DeFrancesco. "It is the fights in the political organization that

draws the voters."

However, there are some Queens contests drawing attention.

For the second time in four years, incumbent Assemblyman Denis Butler will square off against

man Charles Rangel, whose district encompasses parts of Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan.

Rangel is fending off insurgent Adam Clayton Powell IV, a two-term City Councilman and son of Harlem's first black House member, whom Rangel defeated to secure the seat in 1970.

In the 37th Assembly District, incumbent Catherine Nolan

and her opponent Pamela Fisher rolled up their sleeves early and have traded political body blows from the outset.

Throughout the campaign, Nolan has contended that Brooklyn Assemblyman Vito Lopez is seeking to expand his power base across the border into Queens through Fisher.

But Fisher, director of the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Center, has repeatedly refuted the claims, calling Nolan's charges a ploy to "instill fear that the minorities are coming."

"I don't like them and they don't like me," explained Nolan. "But everybody has a right to run."

Marching into his Democratic primary with a war chest dwarfing that of his opponent, incumbent Governor Mario Cuomo is expected by most to smother Democratic candidate Lenora Fulani.

On the Republican front, gubernatorial candidate George Pataki has already looked passed his rival for the nomination.

In several interviews Pataki has



Voters will make choices in primaries for a variety of federal and statewide offices on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Tribune Photo by Iir Goff

Cuomo."

However, he'll first have to defeat Rochester attorney and former state GOP chairman Richard Rosenbaum.

"I'm on the verge of pulling the

greatest upset in New York politics - ever," Rosenbaum has predicted.

According to a poll released earlier this week by the Quinnipiac College of Hamden, Conn., the four-way Democratic Primary race for attorney general is the closest, if not most obscure, race of this year.

Receiving the nod from 11 percent of those polled, incumbent G. Oliver Koppell is in a close three-way battle with Karen Burstein

percent), and Eliot Spitzer (7 percent). Fifty-six percent of the voters were undecided.

Low voter turnout is not the only decrease noticed by Board of Election officials this year.

"We have seen significantly less petition challenges this year," said DeFrancesco. "This is due in large part to election reforms passed in recent years that have made it more difficult to have candidates thrown off the ballot."

However, that didn't stop some from trying.



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PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, Sept. 13
Polls Open from
5:30 a.m. until 9 p.m.