

Primary Races Begin

By CRAIG McGUIRE

While a large portion of incumbent Queens lawmakers will pass through the upcoming primary's uncontested, several of the primary races are beginning to heat up.

According to a tentative New York City Board of Elections-Public Candidates List, challengers have begun their push to upset seated legislators throughout the borough.

While many may not consider it a close challenge, the primary contest for the 37th Assembly District (AD) may turn out to be one of the hottest races on September 13, Primary Day.

Freshman Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan has excelled in Albany, securing an appointment as the head of the Assembly's Labor committee, but she may be in store for a fight from Democratic challenger Pamela Fisher.

Like many other political areas in New York City, the boundaries

of the 37th AD cross borough borders. While Nolan's power-base is rooted in eastern Queens, her opponent remains poised just over the border on DeKalb Avenue in East New York, preparing a campaign to wrest control back into the borough of Kings.

Incumbent State Assemblyman Denis Butler may also be in for a battle this year. Hailing from the 36th AD, which covers Astoria, Long Island City, and part of Jackson Heights, Butler's area boasts a significant Greek-American population. If challenger Kimon Thermos is able to get this portion of the 36th AD to turn out for the primary, voters may see a whole new race in northern Queens for the November elections.

In southeastern Queens, the incumbent in the 29th AD, Assemblywoman Cynthia Jenkins, has always faced a challenge in the primary. Serving her constituents
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Primary Races Get Underway

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since 1983, Jenkins, reputed to be a non-conformist, may have to rely upon the merits of her legislative career to carry her when she faces challengers James Blake and William Scarborough.

Elected in a special election earlier this year when then State Assemblyman Alan

Hevesi left office to become New York City's Comptroller, first-term Assemblywoman Melinda Katz will have her hands full in September. Not only will she have to contend with a primary challenge from Perry Tischler, but Katz will also have to devote some of her energies to the election for District Leader in the 28th AD Part B,

where she is also a contender.

While these and other Queens incumbents are sure to be embroiled in tight competition for votes, Queens voters in several districts will only have one choice in both this year's primary and general elections.

For the second time in the last three elections, Republican/Conservative/Right-To-Life State Senator Frank Padavan from District 11 will not face a Democratic opponent.

In other elections for senate seats, incumbents candidates George Onorato, from District 14, and Serphin Maltese in District 15 will also face no opposition.

In the Assembly, incumbents Brian McLaughlin from the 25th AD, Vivian Cool from the 32nd, Ivan Lafayette from the 34th AD, and Jeffrion Aubry from the 35th AD will all run unopposed.

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