



For Immediate Release

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## **Tara A. Scully Receives Strong Bipartisan Support in Campaign for Suffolk County Surrogate**

### **More than 3,600 Democrats and 2,400 Republicans Push for Judicial Integrity in Critical Election**

The Friends of Tara A. Scully announced that more than 6,000 voters registered in both major parties have signed petitions supporting the entry of the former Suffolk County Women's Bar association President into the race for Suffolk County Surrogate Court Judge.

“This strong show of bipartisan support shows that both Republicans and Democrats understand that this race is about protecting the integrity of the court, and not about political parties,” said James Walsh, a spokesman for the committee created to support Scully for Surrogate. “The voters are tired of the deal making that has allowed political leaders instead of voters to decide who becomes a judge in Suffolk County. The 3,600 Democrats and 2,400 Republicans who signed petitions supporting Tara’s candidacy are sending a message to the political bosses that the hijacking of the judicial selection process must end. The Surrogate’s Court is too important to Suffolk County families to be influenced by politics.”

With more than a decade of experience in the practice of law in the area of wills, trusts and estates, Scully has more experience in dealing with legal matters that come before the Surrogates Court than other candidates, and has been found qualified for the position by the Suffolk County Bar Association.

Scully was urged to enter the race after Suffolk Democrats nominated a Conservative party member who is the wife of the County Conservative party leader to be the Democrat candidate for the office as part of a cross-endorsement deal agreed to by party leaders. After 3,600 Democrats signed petitions to get Scully on the ballot, the Conservative dropped out of the race and Democrats moved to replace her with another

candidate who while registered as a Democrat, has in the past been supported by Conservatives in a pre-arranged cross-endorsement deal.

“By signing Tara Scully’s petitions to make a candidate for Surrogate on both major party lines, Suffolk County voters are saying no to the cross-endorsement deals that give party bosses more of say than voters have,” said Walsh.

The judicial selection process in Suffolk County has been the subject of a federal investigation and intense media scrutiny in recent years. A review of official records at the Suffolk County Board of Elections revealed 19 individual judicial races since 2002 in which the only candidates for judgeships were awarded all party lines and faced no opponents, meaning that judges elected were chosen directly by party leaders and voters had no say in the process. In other cases, qualified judges already serving on the bench were denied re-election as a result of cross-endorsement deals by party leaders.

“Tara Scully’s candidacy was sparked by [a call issued by a local editorial board](#) to stand up to the political bosses by challenging the cross endorsement deal that had local Democrats once again carrying petitions for a registered Conservative,” said Walsh. “Tara [responded to that challenge](#) and has received strong bipartisan support, with more than 3,600 Democrats and 2,400 Republicans signing her petitions. Clearly, the voters have had enough.”

Scully, a life-long resident of Suffolk County, lives in Setauket. She has been found qualified for the office by the Suffolk County Bar Association and has more of a decade of legal experience in the areas of wills, trusts, and estates. She has also served as President of the Suffolk Women’s Bar Association. For more information, visit [www.Tarascully.com](http://www.Tarascully.com).