



Northport Yacht Club

Water Quality Presentation

Meet our Panelists



Edward Romaine, Suffolk County Executive

Edward P. Romaine was elected Suffolk County Executive in November of 2023, the most recent chapter in a lifetime of service to the residents of Suffolk County. Prior to his election, Mr. Romaine served as Brookhaven Town Supervisor for 12 years, where he championed environmental and quality of life issues while significantly strengthening the Town's finances.

Well known for his fiscally conservative policies, Mr. Romaine achieved and maintained the Town's AAA credit with Standard & Poor's. Under his leadership, the Town complied with the New York State Property Tax Cap in each of his adopted budgets; achieved structurally balanced and sound budgets, established and increased Town-wide reserve funds; delivered four consecutive years of surpluses; and reduced \$31.1 million in pipeline capital debt.

Mr. Romaine has been a strong advocate for improving the quality of life for residents. Under his administration, Brookhaven embarked on a mission to clean up every neighborhood and demolished hundreds of abandoned "zombie" houses. He introduced a package of legislation that strengthened the Town's housing codes and aggressively prosecuted problem landlords who negatively impacted neighborhoods.

Mr. Romaine has also been a longtime champion of environmental issues. His initiatives include the completion of two solar arrays at facilities in Manorville and Holtsville generating 3.1 MW of DC power; removing more than 67 million pounds of green waste from the waste stream and converting it to garden mulch and compost; cutting Brookhaven's greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2020; and enacting legislation that will forever protect the Carmans River, which was unanimously approved by the Town Board and embraced by residents, environmentalists and the building community. Under Mr. Romaine's environmental policies, Brookhaven has annually been named a Tree City USA since 2016.

Supervisor Romaine began his career as a history teacher in the Hauppauge School District, where he taught for 10 years. In 1980, he entered public service as the Town of Brookhaven's first Commissioner of Housing and Community Development and was later appointed Director of Economic Development. As a member of the Suffolk County Legislature, serving from 1986 through 1989, Ed was known as a fiscal conservative, sponsoring cost-saving measures such as the Suffolk County Tax Cap. He established a record as a fighter for the environment by authoring Suffolk's first Clean Water Act.

In 1989, Ed Romaine was elected Suffolk County Clerk and served in that office for 16 years, taking an active role in increasing productivity and improving access to official records. He is recognized as a pioneer in the government's use of technology and was chosen "2001 New York State County Clerk of the Year."



Dr. Ryan B. Wallace, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies and Sciences, Adelphi University

Dr. Ryan B. Wallace is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences at Adelphi University, College of Arts and Sciences. He holds the following degrees: a Ph.D. in Marine and Atmospheric Science from Stony Brook University, an A.G.C. (Advanced Graduate Certificate) in Geospatial Science, an M.S. in Marine and Atmospheric Science, and a B.A. in Environmental Studies/Ecology with great distinction.

Dr. Ryan B. Wallace's research interests span a wide range of crucial environmental topics, including Climate change, Coastal oceanography, Environmental science, Geospatial science/geostatistics/remote sensing, Harmful Algal Blooms (biotoxins), Marine/aquatic biogeochemistry/ecosystem dynamics, Nutrient pollution/eutrophication, Ocean acidification, Ocean data analysis, Phytoplankton/macroalgal ecology/physiology, Sea level rise/storm surge/ surface/groundwater/nutrient load/numerical modeling, Sensor/telemetry development, Water quality, and Ecosystem restoration.

Dr. Wallace is a frequent presenter at marine science conferences and symposiums, such as the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF), Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) and the International Conference on Shellfish Restoration (ICSR).

Some recent grants that he is working on include topics such as 'Science-driven solutions: Supporting future oyster efforts in Hempstead Harbor (NY)', '*Putting the Oyster back in Oyster Bay (NY)*', '*Retention of Earth Science Trainees through Opportunities in Restoration and Environmental Sciences*', '*Coastal acidification and harmful dinoflagellate blooms: interactions and emerging implications for marine ecosystems and organisms*'



David Ansel, Vice President of Water Protection, Save the Sound

After three decades as a lawyer in private practice (Loeb & Loeb, Thacher Proffitt & Wood), David joined Save the Sound in 2022 to pursue full-time his lifelong interests in environmental law, protection, and policy.

David is the vice president of Save the Sound's Center for Water Protection, where he oversees the regional non-profit's Water Quality program—which includes the Unified Water Study, the seasonal bacteria monitoring program in the western Long Island Sound, and the ELAP-certified John & Daria Barry Foundation Water Quality Lab in its Larchmont office—as well as its bi-state Soundkeeper team who focus on pollution response and marine habitat.

David also leads the organization's policy and advocacy work in Albany, in New York City, and at the county and municipal levels. He engages with the Governor's office, state, county, and local legislators, agency staff, and other environmental NGOs to address a range of priority issues: increasing clean water infrastructure

funding, improving wastewater and stormwater management, utilizing green infrastructure to build resilient coastlines and communities, reducing nitrogen pollution, diminishing plastic pollution, restoring habitat, eliminating PFAS and toxic chemicals from everyday household products, and accelerating New York State's transition off fossil fuels in order to fight climate change at its source.

David grew up in and around New Haven, CT, where his relationship with Long Island Sound and passion for environmental protection began. He received a B.A. in Political Science from Boston University and a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where he was the Senior Articles Editor of the Environmental Law Journal and had a clerkship in the Environmental Civil Enforcement Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. David has also served as a member of the Sub-Committee for Environmental Law of the New York City Bar Association, and he's held Board and Trustee positions at leading environmental non-profits including Riverkeeper, the Waterkeeper Alliance, and the Westchester Land Trust.



Adrienne Esposito- Executive Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Adrienne is the Executive Director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), a non-profit organization working in NY and CT to protect natural resources and public health. CCE has 3 offices and conducts research, lobbying, and public education on diverse environmental campaigns. Such campaigns include groundwater protection, land use planning, coastal water protection, estuary and ocean protection, protection of Great Lakes, toxic waste remediation, pesticide reduction, renewable energy campaigns, protection of Long Island Sound and the South Shore Estuary, clean air, and public health issues. She is Co-Director with Huntington Town Supervisor Edmund J. Smyth of the Northport Harbor Water Protection Committee.

Adrienne has worked on numerous environmental campaigns for over 35 years. She has crafted campaigns to engage the public on environmental protection issues, including, but not limited to, upgrading failing sewage treatment systems, protecting drinking and surface water, remediating toxic plumes, stewardship of land and water, supporting large-scale renewable energy projects, reducing pesticide application, and more. She holds a degree in Geology and Environmental Science from CW Post University.



Joseph M. Pokorny, P.E. - Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Operations

Mr. Pokorny has been employed by the Suffolk County Water Authority since 1995. Starting in the Production Control department overseeing maintenance operations on all SCWA water production and storage facilities, Mr. Pokorny was promoted in 1997 to Chief Engineer, responsible for the budgeting, planning, design and construction of all of SCWA's production, storage and treatment facilities. He then served as Acting Director of Distribution in the Construction and Maintenance department where he oversaw the installation of all pipeline construction, rehabilitation and repair work associated with SCWA's 5900-mile distribution system. Prior to working for SCWA, Mr. Pokorny worked for eight years for the Long Island Lighting Company in its Electrical Engineering department, where he worked on a variety of projects from fossil and nuclear power plants to small wastewater treatment plants. He also worked for five years as engineering manager for two systems integration companies designing various automation systems for water, wastewater and transportation systems throughout the Northeast United States. Mr. Pokorny has served as the Chairman of the Long Island Water conference and remains active within the organization. Mr. Pokorny also serves as Vice-Chair of the AWWA Water Utility Council. Mr. Pokorny earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Manhattan College, a Masters in Business Administration from St. John's University and is a licensed professional engineer in the State of New York.



Kevin McDonald- LI Policy Advisor, Nature Conservancy

Since 2004, Kevin McDonald has been a senior policy advisor for the Nature Conservancy, working on developing ballot initiatives to benefit the environment in Suffolk County. Mr. McDonald has been involved in 12 environmental ballot propositions over the last 25 years and is responsible for more than \$2 billion in new public funding. At the Nature Conservancy, Mr. McDonald is responsible for strategy and government relations efforts to identify and secure public funding to support land protection, habitat restoration, and environmental management initiatives across Long Island. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Accounting from St. John's University and is a native Long Islander.