

Bronxville Resident Rene Atayan to Run for New York State Assembly

Written by Staff



July 13, 2010: "I'm off and running," said longtime Bronxville resident **Rene Atayan**, who earlier this week announced her intentions to run for the New York State Assembly seat against incumbent **my Paulin** **A**

Her candidacy became solidified earlier this month after receiving **support from all of the Republican chairs** in the 88th Assembly district, which includes Eastchester, Tuckahoe, Bronxville, Pelham, Pelham Manor, Scarsdale, and portions of White Plains and New Rochelle.

"I'll work diligently," she stated, to emphasize the message that, if elected, **"reducing the property tax burden for the families of this district and the state will be job number one."**

Her first order of business, however, is to finish collecting the necessary 500 signatures required by New York State to get on the ballot. The deadline is July 15. Atayan is no stranger to this task, currently serving as the Chairwoman of the Bronxville Republican Committee where she has overseen the collection of many a signature for the mayor and village trustees.

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A graduate of Michigan State University, Rene earned a Bachelor of Science degree and began her career in Detroit in sales and process engineering. Changing careers, she moved to New York and joined Time Inc. in a sales-training program and was eventually transferred to Chicago with *Sports Illustrated*. After moving back to New York a second time, she married her beau of three years, Chris Atayan ... although the relationship actually began when they met on the swim team as eight-year-olds!

They moved to the Bronxville P.O. in 1991 and into Bronxville proper a few years later. During this time, Atayan worked for 14 years in the *Sports Illustrated* division of Time Inc. and later the *Money/Fortune Group* in sales and sales development. She is currently self-employed and works with a variety of clients ranging from the WTA (Women's Tennis Association), to FAC (Fiber Artists Collective).

Chris and Rene have two kids in the Bronxville School: **Alina**, going into 10th grade, and **Ara**, going into sixth grade. Chris is currently serving on the Bronxville School Board of Trustees.

In the midst of raising a family, Atayan has managed to be active in the community affairs, particularly in the field of emergency management and preparedness. She is an **Eastchester FEMA citizens corps trainer**, was a sergeant in the auxiliary police of the NYPD 24th precinct, an active participant in the **American Red Cross WTC Relief** after 9/11, and the representative from Bronxville to the **EVAC board**, the volunteer ambulance service that covers Eastchester.

She has also been active in the **Junior League**, having served as chair of its Public Policy committee, and at the **Chapel School**, serving on the Chapel School Service Learning Committee.

In discussing her reasons for running, Atayan explains, "**Taxes have escalated beyond people's ability to pay** , including long-term residents who have built this Village, and Westchester County. New York is hemorrhaging residents, most of whom have paid the bulk of its taxes. Moreover," she adds,

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"we will soon be an 'upside down state,' with more people receiving aid than paying in. It's a scenario that is worse than bankruptcy. Residents should keep their hard-earned money; local municipalities should govern, plan, and operate without state interference."

Besides taxes, another great concern of hers is "**unfunded state mandates**," whereby the state requires local governments to supply certain services but does not fund them, leaving it to local taxpayers to carry the burden. "State mandates are crushing local municipalities," Atayan states, "and as we speak, Albany is promoting yet another borrowing scheme. We must stop accruing more debt and cut spending."

Atayan is also critical of the **New York state budgetary process**. "The state's budget is three months late," she laments, "tying up tens of thousands of dollars we have already paid into the system; our tax money is being held hostage when it could be back in our district working for us."

As for her opponent, Atayan has this to say, "Amy Paulin is an entrenched 10-year incumbent. While she may be well meaning and has spent a lot of time at her job, her approach has been ineffective. We can no longer afford someone who will not advocate on the taxpayer's behalf. She is a willing participant in Albany's dysfunction."

In thinking about the coming election, Atayan notes that, "I'm not a career politician. I've worked in an industrial setting, a corporate setting, and currently work from home, allowing me to raise our two children and also know what's very much needed to right this great ship called New York."

If she gets on the ballot, Atayan looks forward over the next four months (**election day is November 2**) to speaking with the many people who make up this district to learn more about their concerns and suggestions. "Hopefully people in the Village will be forthcoming with their thoughts, and I would greatly appreciate their support come November," she added.

Pictured here: Candidate for New York Assembly Rene Atayan.

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Photo by A. Warner