



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Rosendale Town Councilwoman Jen Metzger
to challenge State Senator Bonacic**

ROSENDALE, NY – Rosendale Town Councilwoman Jen Metzger is officially launching her campaign to challenge State Senator John Bonacic for New York's 42nd District.

Metzger said she understands first-hand the challenges faced by families in rural communities, and she is done waiting around for State Senators to do their jobs.

"We can only do so much at the local level," said Metzger, a Democrat. "Fully funded schools, healthcare for all, and a clean energy economy that creates good local jobs will remain out of reach unless our state representatives are willing to fix New York's broken tax system and pass legislation that helps working families. But year after year, they continue to serve the wealthy and well-connected at the expense of the rest of us."

Metzger has served more than a decade in local government and is also the Director of Citizens for Local Power, a non-profit organization working to transform energy policy and help communities transition to a more affordable, locally-based clean energy economy. Metzger has helped dozens of local governments across the political spectrum save energy and taxpayer dollars. She also led efforts to organize municipal leaders from Albany down through Orange County to oppose the Pilgrim Pipelines project, which would have carried millions of gallons of crude oil through rivers, aquifers, farms, and communities of the Hudson Valley every day. She is currently fighting for a reduction in Central Hudson's customer charges, which are among the highest in the country.

"All of us in the Catskills and Hudson Valley deserve a fair chance to keep our homes, grow our businesses, swim in our rivers, and achieve our full potential. I'm running for State

Senate because our pay-to-play state legislators have failed us. It's time to replace them with representatives who will get the job done."

Jen Metzger has launched a new website for her campaign, jenmetzger.com, and voters can also find her on social media at [facebook.com/JenMetzgerNY](https://www.facebook.com/JenMetzgerNY) and on Twitter @JenMetzgerNY.

Metzger holds a PhD in political science from Rutgers University. In her last two elections, she was endorsed by the Democratic and Working Families Parties, as well as by the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation AFL-CIO. Jen and her husband, John, have lived in Rosendale for 17 years, where they are raising their three sons.

District 42 includes part of Ulster, Orange, and Delaware counties, and all of Sullivan county, and has been represented by Republican John Bonacic since 1998.

ENDORSEMENTS

Mike Hein, Ulster County Executive, said, "Jen Metzger knows exactly how to make government work for the people, and has the dedication and vision required to best serve our citizens. She engages in partnership, not for political gain, but for progress. Whether it's environmental protection, fighting for school funding, or protecting our seniors and veterans, I have every confidence that Jen will be exactly the kind of leader our community needs in Albany."

Zephyr Teachout, former candidate for U.S. Congress and New York Governor, said, "Jen is a fearless, committed, funny, smart, and compassionate community leader. I've known her for years, and she gets impossible things done with the kind of public spirit we need more of. She knows her own values, but also knows how to listen to people she disagrees with. When she's in the Senate, she's not going to keep quiet if party bosses tell her to; she's progressive AND independent, and she can't be bought or silenced."

James Skoufis, New York State Assembly Member, said, "Jen Metzger's work to help create a locally-based clean energy economy in the Mid-Hudson region will generate good jobs, protect our air and water, and provide true energy security. She has also been a strong voice for our residents and small businesses at the Public Service Commission, fighting to reduce utility fixed charges that are among the highest in the country. Jen is absolutely committed to improving the lives of people in our district, and I have no doubt she will be an effective partner in state government."

Kevin Cahill, New York State Assembly Member, said, "Jen Metzger is a principled and active leader, the kind of person we need in the New York State Senate. Her record promoting clean, renewable energy professionally and on the Town Board in Rosendale

displays the commitment and insight she will bring to this office. Now more than ever we need progressive voices in the New York State Senate who represent our values and have the skills to enact real reform. I'm confident that Jen has the stamina to win this election and the character to be a true partner in Albany pursuing an agenda which champions the working families and individuals of our area."

Sparrow Tobin, City of Middletown Alderman, said, "Jen Metzger is a tireless advocate for workers, teachers, students, and families. She is committed to protecting our right to an honest day's pay for an honest day's work, to fixing the broken school funding system that pits taxpayers against teachers and students, and to ensuring that every family has access to health care that doesn't cost more than the mortgage. Her impressive track record of results as an elected official and community leader speaks for itself. Jen will make an immediate, positive difference in our state government."

Elliott Auerbach, Ulster County Comptroller, said, "It is easy to stand up and lend my support to Jen Metzger for Senate. Our district is sorely in need of clearing out the "good old boys" clubhouse that has been controlled by a culture of entitlement. Jen grew up in local government, understanding that the Hudson Valley deserves a Senator ready for public service driven by all of the people's interests, not politics as usual, riddled with pay to play politicians. Whether it is clean energy, clean rivers or clean, healthy and safe communities, Jen's dedication to local government, to infrastructure improvement, to good jobs and living wages will begin to restore economic vitality to the District. I am excited to stand with Jen and ask you to join me."

Neil Bettez, Town of New Paltz Supervisor, said, "I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with Jen Metzger on a number of projects in our communities that work to save both the environment and taxpayer dollars. She's an intelligent, incisive, and inclusive leader who brings together diverse voices and perspectives, and she has an unwavering determination to see projects through to their conclusion. Her presence in Albany would be a great benefit to the 42nd Senate District."

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator, said, "Jen Metzger is one of the smartest, most diligent, caring and effective elected officials I know. With her profound depth of knowledge on a wide range of issues, she will ensure social justice, promote public health and safety, protect the environment, and foster a rapid but thoughtful transition to a thriving renewable energy economy and a sustainable future for our young people and generations to come."

Donna Schick, Sullivan County Democratic Committee Chair, said, "Jen Metzger is a highly qualified Democratic woman with the utmost integrity and intellect. She has an impressive combination of academic credentials and many years of on-the-ground experience in public service. Her work on the Rosendale Town Board has demonstrated her commitment

to her community and her ethical approach to government. Jen's passion and expertise around environmental issues have made her a leader in the state to other town and county officials. All the while, she remains grounded in her role as a wife and a mother connecting to families throughout the region. Jen is our shining star and her time is now."

Frank Cardinale, Ulster County Democratic Committee Chair, said, "We are extremely fortunate to have someone like Jen Metzger step up to run for State Senate in the 42nd District. Jen has the experience, work ethic and energy we desperately need to not only provide the kind of representation the people of the 42nd District deserve, but also to help bring a much needed change to the political culture in Albany. In addition to her outstanding work in Rosendale town government, Jen is widely recognized and respected for her work on environmental issues and consumer advocacy. Jen is clearly the right candidate at the right time."

Ashley Dittus, Ulster County Young Democrats President, said, "Jen is a perfect candidate for New York State Senate. She is smart, multi-talented, and has proven to be a dynamic force in our community. She is committed to her constituents and fair minded, assets that will serve her well in Albany. This November voters across the 42nd Senate District will have the chance to elect a strong, independent voice in Jen Metzger and I encourage them all to vote for her. "

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