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### Issues and Voter Tendencies in the NY-22

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# Issues and Voter Tendencies in the NY-22

Eli J. Meltzer

## Introduction

- Congressional campaigns are often difficult for voters to follow and understand → an uninformed electorate voting for virtually unknown representatives.
- What are the major policy issues in the district? What are the stances of the 2020 congressional candidates running in NY-22? What have they done in previous terms in office?

## Methods

- Interviews with experts
- Literature review of political science peer-reviewed articles and scholarly books
- Regional news coverage

## Results

Top issues in the district:



- Opioid crisis
- Veterans (~50k in NY-22)
- Job loss
- Flooding
- Infrastructure
- Agriculture (specifically dairy)
- COVID-19

Voter influence theories:

- Fusion (multiple party endorsements on the ballot)
- Identity association with candidates (by race, sex, religion, economic prosperity, etc.)
- Voters’ ideological similarity to candidates (Republican, Democratic, for example)
- Issue accountability—ex. voting record (impeachment likely a divisive issue)

2020 election:

- Democratic nominee:
  - Rep. Anthony Brindisi
- Republican primary candidates (June 23<sup>rd</sup>):
  - Former Rep. Claudia Tenney
  - George Philips
  - Frank Sager
- If Tenney wins primary, the general election will be a rematch of 2018: Brindisi vs. Tenney.
- One of the most competitive districts in the United States.
- Party registration in 2016, ‘18, ‘20 all nearly identical, with significant % of independent/non-registered voters.

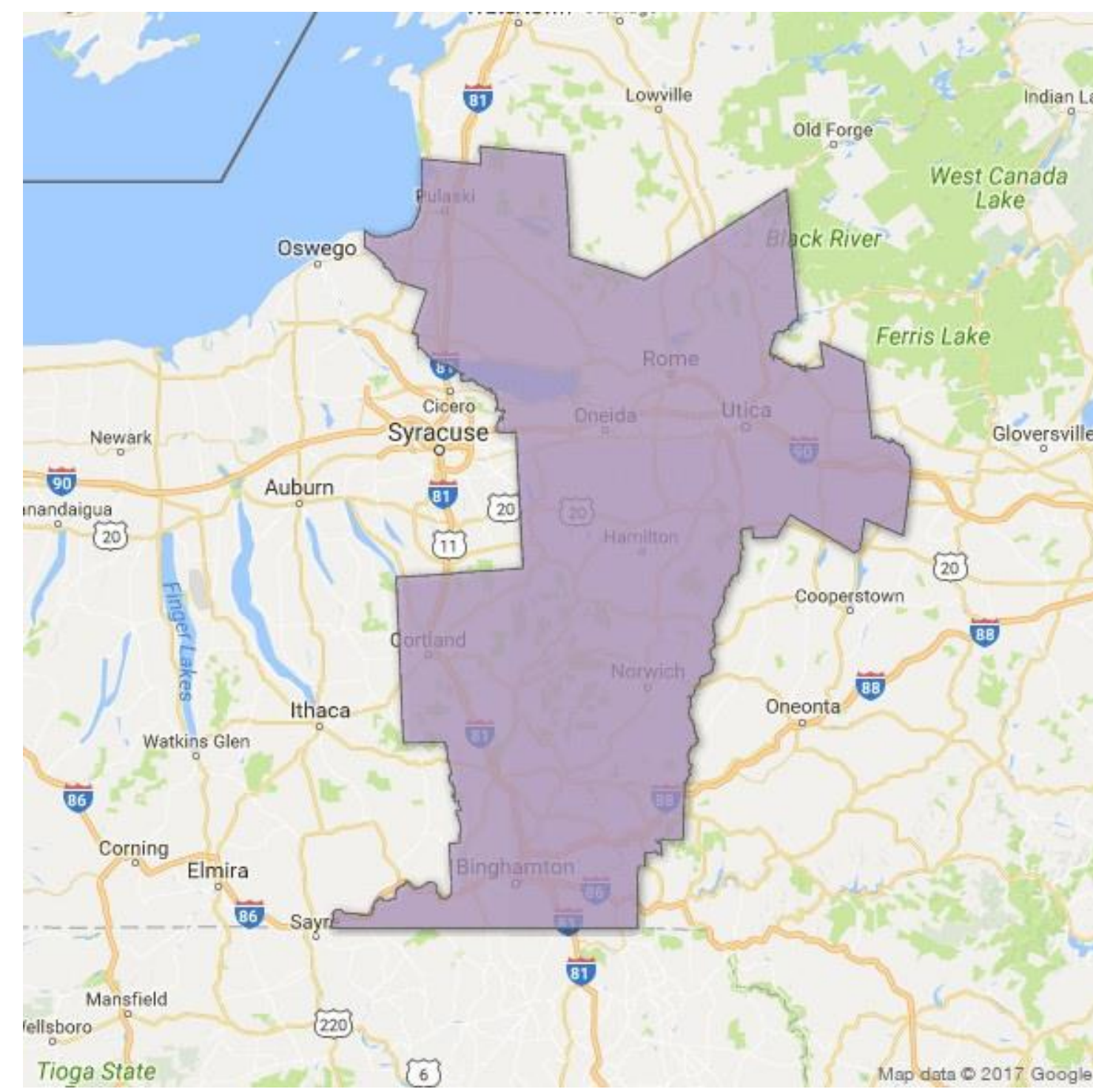
Candidates	Legislative Record					
	Opioid crisis	Veterans	Population loss → job loss	Flooding	Infrastructure	Agriculture (dairy)
<div>Anthony Brindisi (2019-present)</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposed amendment in bill to prevent fentanyl shipments from China, reducing opioids in NY-22.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bill aimed at preventing veteran suicides signed into law by President Trump.</li><li>• Created programs to honor veterans.</li><li>• Proposed bill for cremated veterans’ benefits.</li><li>• Proposed bill to help disabled veterans.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SPOONSS Act (in the 2019 NDAA) passage secured an exclusive flatware contract with the U.S. Defense Dept. for Sherrill Manufacturing in the district.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appealed to FEMA after they denied aid for homeowners after massive Halloween floods.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Says he co-sponsored Fair Allocation of Highway Funds Act, to deliver an additional \$400 million to NY in infrastructure funding.</li><li>• Procured \$272 million for Rome, NY, Air Force lab.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduced the Seeding Rural Resilience Act to assist farmers’ mental healthcare.</li><li>• Introduced bill to allow dairy farmers to hire temporary agricultural workers for at least three years.</li></ul>
<div>Claudia Tenney (2017-2019)</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sponsored and cosponsored multiple bills in Congress to help prevent opioid abuse.</li><li>• Obtained funding for substance abuse prevention in NY-22.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Passed bill to increase VA oversight and transparency.</li><li>• Co-sponsored bill to prevent veteran opioid abuse.</li><li>• Introduced bill to expand burial benefits for veterans.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• #RenewNY22 Growth Plan. Worked with local manufacturers to increase jobs.</li><li>• Sponsored the SPOONSS Act in 2017.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reached out to President Trump after the 2017 Mohawk Valley floods for federal disaster declaration.</li><li>• Appealed to FEMA to reconsider aid denial to homeowners.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voted for omnibus spending bill that included money for infrastructure in NY-22.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-sponsored WHOLE MILK Act to bring whole milk back to public schools, helping dairy farmers.</li></ul>

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## Conclusion

- Brindisi often re-introduced Tenney’s bills.
- Brindisi was more productive in office: four bills signed into law vs. Tenney’s zero.
- Brindisi seems to have done more for the district, despite Republican Senate & president.
- During Brindisi’s term, Democrats held majority in House; during Tenney’s term, Republican majority.
- Prediction to win election: Anthony Brindisi, due to overall productivity for district, accessibility to constituents in office.



NY-22

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