

Antonacci first major-party candidate from CNY to run statewide in 60 years



Onondaga County Comptroller Robert Antonacci Brett Carlsen | bcarlsen@syracuse.com (*Brett Carlsen*)

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SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Onondaga County Comptroller Bob Antonacci is the first major party candidate from Onondaga County to run for statewide office in a general election since 1954.

[The New York Republican Party designated Antonacci](#) earlier this week to run for state comptroller against incumbent Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, a Democrat.

In 1954, Frank DelVecchio, then the Onondaga County district attorney, ran for state comptroller on the Republican Party line.

DelVecchio lost to Arthur Levitt. He was later appointed by Gov. Thomas Dewey to serve as a Supreme Court justice.

The Onondaga County Board of Elections researched its archives and institutional memory back to 1978 and came up with no names.

There are other candidates to note here:

First, [Howie Hawkins, of Syracuse, is running on the Green Party line](#) against Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat. Hawkins also challenged Cuomo four years ago. He also ran for U.S. Senate in 2006 against Hillary Clinton.

In 1974, former Mayor Lee Alexander sought the Democratic Party nomination to run for U.S. Senator from New York, but he lost to former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Sen. Jacob Javits, a Republican, won re-election that year.

None of those candidates have won.



Gov. Nathan Miller, of Cortland *Courtesy of Onondaga Historical Association*

In fact, the only candidate we could find to win statewide office from Central New York is **Gov. Nathan Miller, a Republican from Cortland.** He became governor in 1920.

Antonacci said he can point to Central New York's educational system, its work ethic, the county's high bond rating and good fiscal management as he campaigns across the state.

"It brings a sense of pride to the region that someone is going to be out there talking at a very high level about state policy," Antonacci said.

Antonacci will join the other two Republicans running for statewide office at a press conference in Syracuse this afternoon. Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino is running for governor and Chemung County Sheriff Christopher Moss is the GOP candidate for lieutenant governor.

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