

A close-up portrait of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, looking upwards and to the left. She is wearing a white collared shirt. The background is dark.

OKeeffe

**Paving the path for
economic prosperity
and livability**

It's not about being a Republican, a Democrat, Working Families or a Conservative.

It's about voting for the PERSON and not the PARTY that you know will represent you and give your voice value. And that means voting for someone who has put together a grassroots effort focused solely on returning this area back to the Valley of Opportunity rather than continuing to be the County with the second highest poverty rate in NYS.

When I was in elected office I voted exclusively for legislation that focused on moving my district forward regardless if it aligned with how my Party asked me to vote or not. You see I am not a career politician I am one of you.

And I promise I will be your voice.

I will work tirelessly to improve our quality of life, for all people and not just certain groups, through cost effective legislation and practical funding.

But, in order to be your voice I need to hear your opinions on issues that affect us all. Together we can make the positive difference we all deserve.

Read this over. Think about it. Send me your thoughts.

The Difference between a Politician & a Candidate

POLITICIANS may claim to be the voice of the people but too often they speak only for themselves and their well-heeled backers leaving the ordinary people as discarded pawns once their usefulness has expired. Politicians make a career out of working the system.

CANDIDATES are people like you and me whose goal is to make their community a better place to live, work and play. They believe in being in unison with the people they will represent.

I AM NOT A CAREER POLITICIAN.

I am a candidate for the NYS Assembly and
I will make a positive difference for us all.



Broome County

Inquiring Minds

OKEEFE ON THE STREET | 2024

Broome County used to be called the **Valley of Opportunity!**

We here in the 123rd district have some of the most beautiful landscapes, amazing people and businesses and a long history of great innovation.

Yet, we have not received the funding nor the legislation we need to move us forward toward a thriving economy and more livable community. NYS faces budget gaps that balloon to \$16.8 billion by 2028.

People are fleeing NYS because of the crime and the cost.

Failure to thrive stems from elected officials actions and misactions.

**“ THE MOST DIFFICULT THING IS
THE DECISION TO ACT.**

The quote is attributed to Amelia Earhart and it is just as true today as it was then. But difficult or not, **It is time to ACT. It is time to listen** to what is being said. **It is time to take a hard look** at what has been done! **It is time to make your voice heard.**

There is power in your voice. There is power in your vote. I am running because I believe together we can find the solution and turn Broome County back into a Valley of Opportunity.

NYS has the highest tax burden in the nation. What did we get for our money?

WE GOT THE NATION'S HIGHEST PAID STATE LEGISLATURE

When COVID hit people lost their jobs and businesses closed their doors and our State legislators voted themselves a 29% raise.

They are now the highest paid state legislature in the nation at \$142,000 plus they can hold another job at \$35,000.

Let's compare this to other State legislatures such as Florida where they are paid \$18,000 a year, Texas at 7200/yr, New Hampshire at \$100/yr and New Mexico at zero dollars/yr. Yes that's right – in NM they take no salary because their reason for being in office is to work for a better state and not to line their pockets.

The practice of having an employee set their own raises at whatever level and whenever they want is absurd. Our government has forgotten that we, the people, are the employer and the state legislators are our employees. We hire them through our vote. When in office I plan to introduce legislation to mandate raises for state legislatures be voted on by the people at the polls.

What do you think? Contact me at elect@lisaokeefe123.com

THE NEW NEW YORK ECONOMY

*“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...”*

That poem has become a joke. New York is destroying the very fabric of what makes us great. Broome County was built on people that embodied optimism, people that have worked tirelessly to send their kids to college. Rich, middle class, or poor people that believed in a better life for all. And yet we are being squeezed into a 1930s Depression lifestyle. This destruction of our future affects us all.

Did you know that The Wage Atlas Tool, a free online tool, shows that ONLY 1/2 of New Yorkers are making a living wage.

People are finding it harder to afford food. Food pantries have become a lifeline, especially for families with children. The Southern Tier has seen an increase of 40% in food distribution compared to 2022.

Yes these food pantries are necessary right now but this doesn't fix the problem, only the symptoms.

Inflation and taxation are crushing this valley of opportunity. It's a major factor in businesses leaving, retirees looking for places that won't rob them of their dignity, college graduates looking for work and finding it hard to even secure a fast food position.

Think about this, if you are making the same income that you made in 2021 then you are losing money. If you own a business staying open is harder because the cost of goods has skyrocketed. If you are retiring, can you afford to?

This needs to be fixed and not by another study that wastes time and taxpayers money. As I have mentioned on other pages...

**We need to make lawmakers accountable.
We need to do better!**

EDUCATION

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

From nurturing early education all the way through college, it's imperative to bolster both educational institutions and the students who embody our future. However, our government has regrettably retreated from furnishing the crucial funding required..

- A first glance **Governor Hochul's education budget** proposal only appeared to increase the amount of aid to schools, but it ignored the inflation factor thereby planning **\$400 million in cuts**. This is an outrage.
- Did you know that NYS proposed **cutting the special education budget in half**.
- **Did you know** a greater percentage of the **education budget for grades k – 12 goes to the wealthiest school districts** rather than right here where we need it.
- **Did you know** that many teachers have to dig into their own pockets to provide the resources that the state fails to provide

Did you know we have some of the most brilliant and diverse minds graduating from our trade schools, SUNY Broome and Binghamton University and yet we do not have the resources to educate them as they deserve; nor due to a crucial gap in our economic development do we have the diversity of jobs to keep them in this area.

WE CAN, AND MUST, DO BETTER.



STOP THE GREAT OUTMIGRATION

**NYS is the 4th
costliest state to live
in! ~ Forbes**

**According to the
NY Sun: New York
State has the worst
economic outlook
in US for the 11th
consecutive year.**

**More than 10% of
NYS bridges are
structurally deficient.
The national average
is 7.5%.**

Shark Tank” investor Kevin O’Leary labeled **NEW YORK A “MEGA LOSER” STATE as investors make a mass exodus out of NY.**

This mass exodus of investors, businesses and people is being fueled by policies that have resulted in . . .

High Cost of Living: Housing costs, taxes, and expenses for necessities such as groceries and transportation is significantly higher in NY making it challenging for residents, especially those with lower incomes.

Crushing Tax Burden: New York has the highest tax burden in the nation which strain household budgets and discourage business investment.

High Crime Rates: Soft on crime legislation has impacted residents’ daily lives as they fear for their safety.

Bureaucracy and Regulation: New York is known for its complex regulatory environment and bureaucratic processes, which pose challenges for businesses, entrepreneurs, and individuals navigating licensing, permitting, and compliance requirements.

Traffic Congestion & Infrastructure Issues including crumbling roads and bridges.

Elder Abuse



If you have been the victim of abuse, exploitation, or neglect, you are not alone. 1 in 10 seniors in New York report being abused.

One statewide study estimated that for every elder abuse case reported to authorities, there are 23 cases that are unreported.

And this abuse may come from a stranger, a family member, a caregiver, an institution or the government itself. We need to increase penalties for crimes against the elderly!

Elder abuse, both physical and emotional, is a serious and widespread public health and human rights problem. It should be labeled as a hate crime.

Senior safety stands as a cornerstone of my legislative agenda when elected, prompting the immediate introduction of measures to institute a dedicated three-digit hotline.

This streamlined hotline will operate 24/7, staffed by trained professionals equipped to address concerns and offer guidance to callers.

Presently, the abuse reporting number, a long 10 digit number, is limited to extended weekday hours, underscoring the urgent need to extend support and protection to our seniors without delay.

Restoring dignity and safeguarding the well-being of our seniors is paramount.

It's troubling to witness the government's disregard, as highlighted by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli's audit, exposing unspent funds designated for senior citizen programs, notably during the COVID-19 crisis.

In light of this neglect, I am fully committed to relentless advocacy efforts, ensuring that our seniors are not forgotten and that they receive the vital support they urgently need and deserve.



The poverty rate in Broome County is 28% – well above the US poverty rate of 11.1%

Broome County has more than its' fair share of homeless, including students, veterans and the elderly. I visited many homes where they and their children volunteer at soup kitchens because our government is not doing enough to combat this problem.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE. I WILL NOT TURN A BLIND EYE.

MY PROMISE TO YOU

I will build out our economy and provide the resources we need to combat this problem through a multifaceted approach that addresses various factors contributing to economic hardship.

Stimulate Economic Growth: Foster a business-friendly environment through tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and investments in infrastructure. Support small businesses, entrepreneurship, and innovation to create job opportunities and increase household incomes.

Invest in Education and Workforce Development: Provide access to quality education, vocational training, and skills development programs to equip individuals with the tools they need to secure well-paying jobs and break the cycle of poverty. Investing in early childhood education, adult education, and job training initiatives can improve workforce readiness and promote economic mobility.

Ensure Access to Healthcare: implement healthcare reforms to reduce costs

Combat Food Insecurity: Ensure access to nutritious food is essential for reducing poverty and promoting health.

Increase Access to Affordable Housing

By implementing a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of poverty and promotes economic opportunity and social inclusion, we will reduce poverty and improve the well-being of our residents.



Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resources is Lacking

Mental health and substance abuse resources are essential components of a healthy and thriving community, supporting individual well-being, community safety, and social cohesion. Investing in these resources is not only a matter of compassion and human rights but also contributes to the overall health and resilience of society.

Those in the mental health and substance abuse field work tirelessly to help people in need but they are not given the resources they require from the state to combat this problem.

Providing the resources will: Promote Individual Health and Well-being. Early intervention and treatment will prevent the escalation of mental health crises, substance-related emergencies, and instances of self-harm or harm to others.

Access to resources such as counseling and family therapy will help families navigate the challenges of living with a loved one who has a mental illness or substance use disorder and strengthen relationships.

Untreated mental health issues and substance abuse can contribute to behaviors that pose risks to individuals and communities, such as violence, crime, and accidents.

Improving Productivity and Economic Stability:

Communities with robust mental health and substance abuse resources are better equipped to respond to and recover from challenges such as natural disasters, economic downturns, and other crises.

We must provide the resources needed to help every person become a more productive member of society where they can aid in our economy and live a more full and happy life. They are an important part of the equation when we talk about making a community more livable and thriving.

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Suicide Help Line **988**

Suicide Prevention Life Line
800-273-8255

UHS 24 Hr Addiction Crisis
607-762-2257

CPEP (Psychiatric Emergency)
607-762-2257

Crime Victims Hotline
call : **607-722-4256**
text: **607-725-8196**

Domestic Violence Hotline
800-942-6906
Text: **844-997-2121**

Poison Control **800-222-1222**

Animal Poison Control
888-426-4435

NYSEG Emergency

Electric800-572-1131
Nat Gas 800-572-1121

Fire Department

Binghamton.....607-772-7132
Endicott607-785-3341
Endwell.....607-785-0985
Johnson City.....607-729-9512
Vestal.....607-754-3414
West Corners607-785-4185
W. Endicott.....607-785-0731

Police Department

Binghamton.....607-723-5321
Endicott.....607-785-3341
Johnson City.....607-729-9321
Vestal.....607-754-2386



Our Veterans

In the tapestry of our nation's history are intricately woven the threads of sacrifice, valor, and the unwavering commitment by the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of our armed forces to ensure that freedom of our people and our nation is secured.

World leaders, past and present Presidents and the every day man and woman echo throughout time the highest appreciation for those who served . But these brave men and women deserve more than our timeless unison of vocal appreciation and thanks for their service – they deserve action by those in office.

And yet there are those in elected office who claim to support the veterans but their voting records do the opposite.

And for those who have actually supported the veterans –

**I SAY
THERE IS MORE WE CAN DO.**

Crafting legislation that prioritizes and benefits veterans is an imperative duty that reflects a society's commitment to honoring and repaying the debt owed to those who have selflessly served in the defense of their nation.

As the daughter of a dedicated 20-year Air Force veteran, I am deeply committed to ensuring that our veterans receive the legislative support and resources they deserve. To achieve this, I would initiate inclusive panel discussions with both the VA and local veterans, actively listening to their concerns and experiences. By leveraging their insights, along with thorough research and data analysis, I would craft legislation that addresses their needs effectively. Notably, if I were in elected office, I would have considered it an honor to sponsor Assembly Bill A2965A, which grants a real property tax exemption to veterans with 100 percent service-connected disabilities.

I will never falter in ensuring they receive the recognition and assistance they deserve.

Laws that needs to be repealed.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE LAW ARTICLE 245

(Discovery) established new, accelerated time frames for the sharing of evidence between the prosecution and defense during the pretrial period that puts witnesses at risk.

With NYS Criminal Procedure Law 2453, an accused robber or rapist or someone who has committed another type of heinous act can be ticketed and released. 35 days later while the accused is walking free and waiting for months before trial, he or she is given the names and home addresses of the witnesses. How safe does that make the witness feel? And remember this is different then the Constitution's right to face the witness where you see the witness in court and can cross examine the witness. This is when the accused is free and walking around with your information in his or her pocket knowing you stand between him/her possibly going to jail or being free. With this law the accused may also be granted the right to come into your home again after being arrested so he or she can better build their defense. This makes you the victim twice!

**CATCH AND RELEASE AND
SOFT ON CRIME LEGISLATION
MAKES VICTIMS OF US ALL.**

Write me at Elect@LisaOKeefe123.com, and let me know your thoughts!

Imagine going home to find the authorities have hauled off your spouse, your child, or your neighbor without an explanation.

Doesn't it sound like something that only happens in 3rd world countries!

LAW 10 NYCRR 2.13

Is triggered by a determination of the Commissioner of Health and may be directed towards anyone that the Commissioner deems appropriate.

There is no requirement that the subject individual be afflicted with or a carrier of the disease.

The commissioner determines the terms of isolation including its location and duration. This law authorizes the Commissioner to utilize local law enforcement to enforce isolation orders.

Another law was already on the books.

In 1954 our State legislators were careful to balance the rights of individuals with the safety of the public when enacting Public Health Law Section 2120 for obtaining a quarantine or isolation order. This gave authorities the right to quarantine people to protect society. It did not step on our constitutional rights.

Why do you think politicians in Albany asked for more authority?

USE YOUR VOICE FOR CHANGE

It's time for effective leadership to guide us back to the Valley of Opportunity - a thriving, safe & livable area.

Contact me to discuss concerns or forward thinking ideas or to ask to be part of a panel to discuss topics that affect you personally.

Panels will be held to discuss such topics as seniors, education, veterans, economy, healthcare, mental health, prescription drugs, substance abuse, the environment and more.

**Together we can make the positive
difference we all deserve.**

Email: **Elect@LisaOKeefe123.com**

Or call: **607-312-0792**

Your thoughts and opinions are confidential.
The deadline to respond is October 25, 2024.