

## **Bramnick, Munoz our choices in 21st District**

The 21st Legislative District offers an incumbent in this year's election who has been serving in Trenton for nearly seven years, watching the state's problems deepen while doing little of anything to stop it.

Sounds like the kind of official we've been urging voters to push out of the Statehouse, doesn't it?

But there's a key difference here: Jon Bramnick is a Republican. And far from being one of the sycophantic Democrats who have been marching together toward the abyss, Bramnick has been one of the voices beating the drums for change, albeit to no avail.

Bramnick isn't an incumbent to kick to the curb. He's one to keep as a potential Republican leader if the GOP ever regains a Trenton foothold. He receives our endorsement, along with running mate Nancy Munoz, who this year took over the Assembly seat of her husband, Eric Munoz, who died in March.

Voters actually have little choice. Democrats Norman Albert and Bruce Bergen have become perennial ballot placeholders for the party in the district; at least one of them has run in the last four legislative elections including this year's, and they are reprising their 2007 team. Their campaigns are almost entirely non-existent.

But that shouldn't diminish the support for Bramnick in particular. More than most of his colleagues, Bramnick exhibits a necessary disdain for the closed culture and lack of perspective from Trenton lawmakers. One of his pet initiatives—which has unsurprisingly gone nowhere- is to open up legislative sessions to public comment. It would frankly be refreshing to see Bramnick in a position of some influence in the Statehouse.

Munoz's legislative resume isn't well established, but her support for many of the cost-cutting initiatives so overdue in state government is a big step in the right direction. Another point in her favor is the teamwork exhibited by her 21st District colleagues. Bramnick, Munoz and Sen. Tom Kean Jr. are unusual in that they work out of the same district office, not a common thing across the state. It provides some one-stop shopping for constituents while also underscoring a cooperative spirit among the legislators that goes beyond party-line votes and rhetoric.

Bramnick and Munoz receive our endorsements in the 21st District.

*The 21st Legislative District covers parts of four counties, including Warren and Watchung in Somerset County; and Westfield in Union County.*