

# North Shore Council Race (from front)

Tabacco's name will appear on some ballots, in spite of his opponent's petitions, any past or present rulings by the Board of Elections and Thursday's decision by the state Supreme Court. Absentee ballots included Tabacco's name because he was on the still in at the time of their production. In order for the vote to count though, Tabacco would have to win his plea on Thursday. Otherwise, the absentee voter, or any voter for that matter, would have write in Tabacco in order to cast a valid ballot.

Tabacco said he planned to pursue his political ambitions whether or not he wins Tuesday's election. He called his endeavor a "learning experience" and said that the process has taught him much about the political system.

"The barriers to entry are extremely high," he said. "If I didn't have the resources available that I have, I would have been out of this race a month ago. But low and behold a well-financed candidate has opportunities and has options."

If elected, Tabacco said he would consider reforming the some the current election practices, specifically the need for candidates to obtain signatures. He also criticized the lack of independent representation on the Board of Elections.

If he loses, Tabacco has plenty to fall back on. Tabacco owns three businesses, one of which is a web-based media outlet. He films a daily web-cast each morning from his downtown Manhattan office, just a few doors down from the New York Stock Exchange. He said that his experience in the financial industry made him particularly qualified for the position, given the recession.

According to the biography on his campaign's

## Candidates for the 49th District

(Name)	(Party/Affiliation)
Kenneth C. Mitchell	Experience Now
John A. Tabacco	No Tax
Tony Baker	Prepared to Lead
Donald R. Pagano	Donald R. Pagano
Deborah L. Rose	Debi Rose
Paul D. Sariyan	Together We Can

web site, Tabacco has lived on Staten Island for 41 years. Tabacco graduated from St. John's University. In his prioritizing his commitment to education, he placed it second only to public safety. He lamented the closing of firehouses as a result of the city's looming deficit. Once public safety initiatives are in place, he said, educating citizens is the next most important thing.

"I would be one of the chief advocates of the Peter Vallone scholarship," he said.

While the city has "periodically diminished the funding" of the scholarship, according to Tabacco, he calls the increased demand "a testament to the education system."

Tabacco says that his disappointment with the current state of politics served as a catalyst for his decision to run this campaign. He believes that voters have been disenfranchised as a result of the many protests against him.

"Any effort to limit voter choice tells you a lot about the candidate," said Tabacco. "Maybe the cynicism goes so deep that people have called in favors from all levels of government to make sure that a new idea and a new face doesn't penetrate the ranks too far. Because they don't want regular, independent type people representing them."