

For Immediate Release

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**Democratic Livingston County Prosecutor Candidate  
Responds to David Reader Campaign Press Release**

I appreciate Mr. Reader providing us with some background on his experience.

However, he misses the point I was making that being a prosecutor requires a unique set of skills and talents. Your family practitioner may be the best physician in general practice in the country, but you still wouldn't want him to perform your heart surgery.

Likewise, prosecutors are a very specialized form of trial practice – which is itself a specialized area of the law. Regarding the area of trial practice alone, prosecutors must convince juries to convict based on the highest standard of legal proof – beyond a reasonable doubt. This is far more difficult than television prosecutors make it out to be – especially when the only evidence you have is one victim's testimony. And that is only if your case even makes it to trial after you have argued against motions to suppress evidence, motions to quash the felony information, etc. Hearing a criminal case as a judge just isn't the same.

What I failed to find in Mr. Reader's background was any assertion that he has ever had to do any of this. It is very difficult to lead a team of lawyers who must do this every day if you have never had to do this yourself. Again, in law enforcement, would you really want your chief of investigations to be someone who has never led an investigation himself or herself? If Mr. Reader was really interested in learning the prosecutor's job, in the year since he retired from his judgeship, Mr. Reader could have worked or volunteered with a prosecutor's office and gained the necessary experience. He chose not to, and he must own that decision.

Additionally, as we probe Mr. Reader's experience, we must remember that rather than preside over the case himself, it was David Reader who appointed Theresa Brennan to handle the homicide case of Jerome Kowalski. And despite his hammering Prosecutor Vaillencourt for endorsing her, he has endorsed Theresa Brennan as well. Moreover, in a rather questionable move, he appointed a special prosecutor to handle an inquiry into Brennan's conduct then - within days - recused himself from hearing the case, citing a conflict of interest. Conflicts do not "magically" appear. If the conflict existed after he appointed the special prosecutor it was present when he appointed the special prosecutor, meaning he shouldn't have appointed the special prosecutor. (Judge Cavanaugh later vacated Judge Reader's appointment of the special prosecutor for this very reason.)

Indeed, rather than acting in a neutral and unbiased fashion, as a prosecutor should, regarding an unquestionably offensive tweet made about the city of Howell, Mr. Reader tried to use it to his political advantage by making false claims that Prosecutor Vaillencourt had denied authorizing charges in the case when it was actually still under investigation. When Mr. Reader was confronted with the falsity of his claim, rather than apologize for being misleading, his response was that if it "helps speed up (Mr. Vaillencourt's) decision, then so be it." Not only does this show an astonishing lack of comprehension regarding the investigation and charging process; it shows a willingness to distort the facts to achieve a desired outcome. So, thank you, Mr. Reader, for reminding us of your record.

I look forward to debating Mr. Reader at the League of Women's Voter Forum on September 21 and encourage other organizations whose members want to hear our positions on the issues to reach out to us to set up additional opportunities to lay out our qualifications and plans for the office.