

February 2024  
Special Edition

"All Politics Is Local" is a publication of the Mason Tenders' District Council of Greater New York & Long Island Political Action Committee. The MTDCPAC serves to represent the concerns of the members of the Mason Tenders' District Council's constituent local unions at the National, State and Local levels of government.



# ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL

## SPECIAL EDITION!

For Members living in NY's 3rd Congressional District

LABORERS ENDORSE TOM  
SUOZZI IN SPECIAL ELECTION

VOTE **UNION**  
ELECT TOM  
**S U O Z Z I**

**NY CONGRESS DISTRICT 3**  
**TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 2024**



LIUNA! NY



**Local 66**  
**General**  
**Building**  
**Laborers**

**Local 78**  
**Asbestos,**  
**Lead &**  
**Hazardous**  
**Waste**  
**Laborers**

**Local 79**  
**Construction &**  
**General Building**  
**Laborers**

**Local 108**  
**Recycling &**  
**General**  
**Industrial**  
**Laborers**

**Local 1261**  
**Lay Faculty**  
**Association**

**Mason Tenders**  
**District Council**  
**P.A.C.**

Joel Burgos  
Steve Flanagan  
Pawel Gruchacz  
Mike Hellstrom  
John Norbury  
Mike Prohaska  
Chaz Rynkiewicz  
Frederick "Fritz" Schneider  
Barrie Smith

Mike McGuire  
Director

Kris Kohler  
Assistant Director

Josh Slaughter  
LI Field Representative

Ari Espinal  
NYC Field Representative

**266 W. 37th Street**  
**7th Floor**  
**New York, NY 10018**  
**Telephone:**  
**212-452-9552**

**Elect Tom Suozzi TODAY!**

FOR CONGRESS ★ 2024

**SUOZZI**

***Let's Fix This!***



***for***

**TOM SUOZZI!**

ENDORSED BY  
NEW YORK STATE  
AFL-CIO



<https://suozziforcongress2024.com/>



FOR CONGRESS ★ 2024  
**SUOZZI**  
*Let's Fix This!*



VOTE FEBRUARY 13  
FOR CONGRESS ★ 2024  
**SUOZZI**  
*Let's Fix This!*

SPECIAL ELECTION  
VOTE FEBRUARY 13, 2024  
A STRONG LEADER  
TO REPLACE SANTOS  
**SUOZZI**  
*Let's Fix This!*



# ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

## Queens voters: VOTE EARLY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD - 9 AM TO 5 PM  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH - 9 AM TO 5 PM  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH - 9 AM TO 5 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH - 8 AM TO 4 PM  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH - 10 AM TO 8 PM  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH - 10 AM TO 8 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH - 8 AM TO 4 PM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH - 9 AM TO 5 PM  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH - 9 AM TO 5 PM

**St. Luke Roman Catholic Church**  
16-34 Clintonville St  
Whitestone NY 11357

**Korean Community Services**  
203-05 32 Ave  
Bayside, NY 11361

**Queensboro Community College  
"Z" Building**  
222-05 56 Ave  
Oakland Gardens, NY 11364

**Creedmoor Hospital**  
79-25 Winchester Blvd  
Queens Village, NY 11427

Find your designated  
early voting location at

[VOTERLOOKUP.ELECTIONS.NY.GOV](https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov)

FOR CONGRESS • 2024  
**SUOZZI**

## Nassau County voters: VOTE EARLY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD - 9 AM TO 6 PM  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH - 9 AM TO 6 PM  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH - 10 AM TO 7 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH - 6 AM TO 5 PM  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH - 10 AM TO 7 PM  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH - 10 AM TO 7 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH - 10 AM TO 6 PM  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH - 9 AM TO 6 PM  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH - 9 AM TO 6 PM

**Oyster Bay Ice Rink**  
1001 Stewart Ave, Bethpage, NY 11714

**Glen Cove City Hall**  
9 Glen St, Glen Cove, NY 11542

**Great Neck House**  
14 Arrandale Ave, Great Neck, NY 11023

**Hicksville Levittown Hall**  
201 Levittown Pkwy, Hicksville, NY 11801

**Massapequa Town Hall South**  
977 Hicksville Rd, Massapequa, NY 11758

**Nassau County Board of Elections**  
240 Old Country Rd, Mineola, NY 11501

**Plainview Mid-Island Y JCC**  
45 Manetto Hill Rd, Plainview, NY 11803

**Port Washington Public Library**  
1 Library Dr, Port Washington, NY 11050

**Gayle Community Center**  
53 Orchard St, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

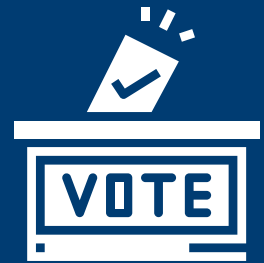
**Williston Park American Legion**  
730 Willis Ave, Williston Park, NY 11596

**Yes We Can Community Center**  
141 Garden St, Westbury, NY 11590

FOR CONGRESS • 2024  
**SUOZZI**

## Know before you go.

Find your poll site, check your voter registration, see who's running in your district, and learn about your Absentee Ballot information all in one place!



<https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>

# WE ARE LiUNA!

*Feel the Power*



66, 78, 79

Come Out Heavy for Suozzi



# Laborers Endorse Tom Suozzi in Special Election

This Tuesday, there will be a Special Election held to fill the open seat in your neighborhood, the 3rd New York Congressional District of Queens and Nassau County. LIUNA-NY, along with the NYS Laborers PAC and the Mason Tenders' District Council PAC, have endorsed the strong-on-labor Tom Suozzi for this race. This was the seat held by the notorious scam artist Republican George Santos before he was expelled from Congress in disgrace in December. To learn more about Santos' "greatest hits", see the article called "Congressman ConMan" in tomorrow's update of *All Politics Is Local*.

Tom Suozzi has a long history of supporting labor in general and the Mason Tenders' in particular. Tom enjoyed a close relationship with former MTDC Business Manager Bobby Bonanza, and current District Council Business Manager Dave Bolger lives in the 3rd District and has his own relationship with Suozzi. Meanwhile, the MTDCPAC staff have known and worked with Suozzi and his people for many years. A definite, middle-of-the-road Democrat, Suozzi is exactly the type of candidate we look for: pro-union; good on jobs; tough on crime; strong on border security; and anti-tax. His policies in his 30+ years in public service have almost always had the result of putting our members to work. For more about Tom, see the piece below entitled "Who is Tom Suozzi?"

You are probably already aware of this election because of the enormous amount of money being spent on TV, mail, on-line advertising, campaign literature, etc. But why is so much money being put into just one of the 435 seats in the House? Because this particular race has national implications, most notably because of the race for the next Speaker of the House of Representatives. For more on this side of the race, see the article below called "It's ONE seat! Why so much action?"

Republicans have selected a virtual novice named Mazi Pilip to run against Suozzi, and one has to wonder, "Did they learn nothing from the George Santos fiasco?" Pilip, an Ethiopian refugee that holds both US and Israeli citizenships, has a political history consisting of exactly 26 months as a Nassau County legislator, with no State or Federal experience, and nothing more. Pilip is already embroiled in her own scandal: she submitted a required sworn financial statement to the Congressional House Ethics Committee that was rife with inaccuracies and misinformation, prompting questions and forcing her to amend the filing. Further, despite revealing a personal worth of possibly as much as \$5.2 million, she revealed that she and her husband owed the IRS a quarter of a million dollars in taxes in 2023. And finally, despite



## Laborers Endorse Tom Suozzi in Special Election (continued)

being the Republican nominee for this Congressional seat, it turns out she's actually a registered Democrat, and has been since 2012!

It's about time that our members who live in the 3rd District have proper representation in Congress. After having to deal with a year of nothing being done for the community because of Santos' criminal behavior (he's currently under a 23-count indictment for conspiracy, wire fraud, false statements, falsification of records, aggravated identity theft, and credit card fraud), Republican leadership seemingly wants to give another unqualified, ethically-challenged candidate a chance to make life worse for those residents living in the 3rd District.

Tom Suozzi, on the other hand, has extensive experience in local and federal government, giving him the chops to deliver for his constituents. Tom holds a law degree from Fordham University (Pilip has a Masters in Art from Tel Aviv University). Before entering politics, he was a law clerk in the federal District Court for the Eastern District of New York. In 1994 he was elected Mayor of Glen Cove, a position he held for four terms. As mayor, Suozzi focused on environmental cleanup of commercial and industrial sites, and redeveloping brownfield and superfund sites. This included the shuttering of the Glen Cove incinerator, and demolishing and redeveloping the defunct LI Tungsten Refinery grounds, a federal superfund site. These actions alone resulted in a cleaner, safer Glen Cove while simultaneously creating thousands of good, union construction jobs.

In 2002, Tom began an eight-year stint as Nassau County Executive. Unfortunately, he assumed office amid a fiscal crisis: by 1999, Nassau was on the brink of financial collapse—the county faced a \$300 million annual deficit and was billions of dollars in debt. It was during this time that Tom built his reputation as a fiscally-responsible, moderate Democrat. While in office, Suozzi cut spending and reduced borrowing and debt. He also oversaw 11 county bond upgrades over two years, eliminated deficits in Nassau, and accumulated surpluses. In 2005, *Governing Magazine* named him one of its

Public Officials of the Year, calling him "the man who spearheaded Nassau County, New York's, remarkable turnaround from the brink of fiscal disaster."

Suozzi narrowly lost the 2009 County Executive election to Republican Ed Mangano. It's notable that in 2022, Mangano was convicted of multiple counts of accepting bribes and kickbacks during his time in office in exchange for official government action, and for conspiracy to obstruct justice. He was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison and ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine.

Tom went into private law practice for several years, but never lost his zeal for helping the people

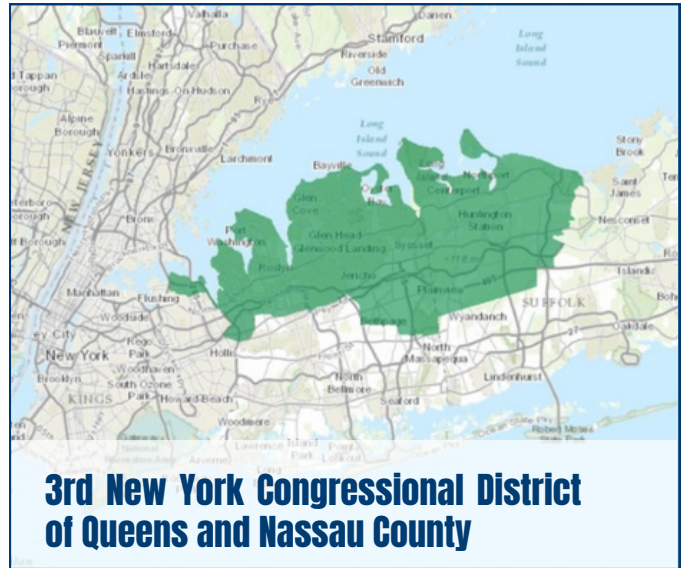
of New York, launching an unsuccessful bid to become Governor (losing the Democratic primary to Eliot Spitzer) in 2006. Tom jumped back into politics again in 2016, running for and winning the 3rd Congressional District seat, the same position he's running for again this Tuesday. He was re-elected several times, until 2022, when he gave up the seat to run for Governor against Kathy Hochul in the Democratic Primary.

**Suozzi is exactly the type of candidate we look for: pro-union; good on jobs; tough on crime; strong on border security; and anti-tax.**

During his six years as a Congressman, Tom was vice-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus, which comprised 22 Democrats and 22 Republicans, a bipartisan group dedicated to making Congress work for the people, not for themselves. He also co-chaired the Long Island Sound Caucus and co-chaired the Quiet Skies Caucus. In Congress, Suozzi authored legislation to restore the state and local tax (SALT) deduction, which was capped at \$10,000 in 2017 by Donald Trump. This tax "increase" cost the citizens of the 3rd District tens of thousands of dollars in no-longer-deductible tax payments annually. He established a group from the New York congressional delegation for the repeal of the SALT cap, but unfortunately, the effort was not successful, and the SALT cap remains at \$10,000. However, we are confident that if New York's Hakeem Jeffries becomes the next leader of Congress, along with New York's Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, many of the wrongs perpetrated on New York by national Republicans will be reversed in short order.

## Laborers Endorse Tom Suozzi in Special Election (continued)

It is clear that there is one, and only one, candidate in this race with the government experience, the history of supporting the middle class, and the strong relationship with organized labor necessary to turn the 3rd District around and give its governance back to the people of Nassau and Queens, instead of national special interests who have no knowledge of what it takes to be true New Yorker. That candidate is Tom Suozzi, a true New Yorker. We urge you to vote for Tom this Tuesday, February 13th in the 3rd Congressional District Special Election.



## Who Is Tom Suozzi?

Thomas Richard Suozzi was born August 31, 1962 in Glen Cove. He is a politician, attorney, and accountant who served as the U.S. Representative for New York's 3rd congressional district from 2017 to 2023. He was the County Executive of Nassau County from 2002 to 2009. And he had previously served eight years as the Mayor of Glen Cove.

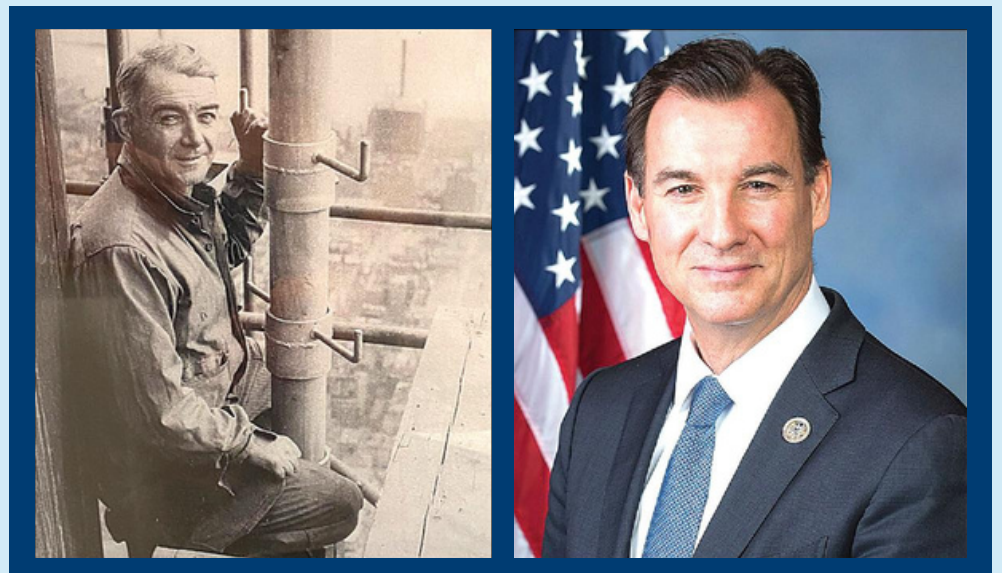
Tom is the youngest of five siblings. His father, Joseph A. Suozzi, who was born in Ruvo del Monte, Italy, was an attorney. His mother, Marguerite (née Holmes), was an operating room nurse at Glen Cove Hospital, who was of Irish and English descent.

Suozzi graduated from Chaminade High School in 1980. He attended Boston College, graduating in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He became a certified public accountant two years later. He then earned a law degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1989.

Suozzi and his wife Helene (née Wrotniak) married in 1993 and are Roman Catholic. They live in Glen Cove and have three children. One of them, Joseph, played baseball at Boston College and is in the minor-league system of the New York Mets.

## Tom and Gramps ▶

**Tom comes from a union family. His grandfather was an electrician on the Empire State Building!**





# It's ONE seat! Why so much action?

## How Nassau & Queens Became the Center of American Politics...For a While

One word: **Speaker**. The 3rd Congressional District of New York is drawing enormous attention from political parties, activists and voters from all over the country and it's all about who will become Speaker of the House of Representatives when 118th Congress is seated on January 3, 2025.

The Speaker of the House acts as the leader of the U.S. House of Representatives. Every two years,

the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives vote on the Speaker on the first day of each new Congress. Both of the major political parties nominate one candidate for the position of Speaker. The candidate from the majority party usually wins.

The way Congress is structured, nothing can be accomplished without a Speaker. The Speaker controls the agenda; decides which legislation is allowed to advance; and determines who chairs committees. Without a Speaker in place, urgent matters cannot be addressed.

## How They Voted

# AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS



### REP. THOMAS SUOZZI

New York District 3



Democrat  
202-225-3335

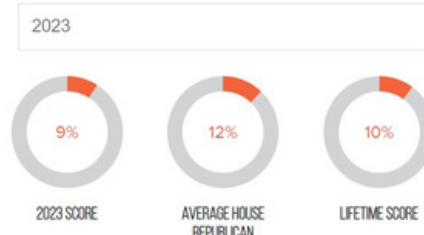


### REP. MIKE JOHNSON

Louisiana District 4



Republican  
202-225-2777

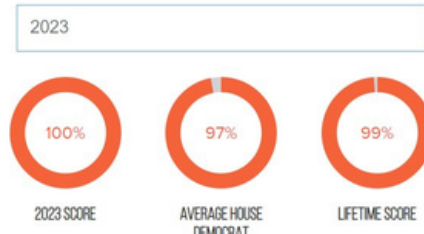


### REP. HAKEEM JEFFRIES

New York District 8



Democrat



The voting records on legislation to help working people as compiled by the AFL-CIO. Our candidate Tom Suozzi, who voted with us 94% of the time; Mike Johnson, the Republican Speaker of the House, who voted with workers only 10% of the time; & Hakeem Jeffries, slated to be the next Democratic Speaker of the House, whose labor voting record stands at 99%!"

## It's ONE seat! Why so much action? (continued)

The current balance of power in the House stands at 221 Republicans, 213 Democrats, and 1 vacancy. If the Democrats flip just four seats in this year's midterm elections, that would change the balance to an equal 217 members for each party. In the result of tie votes, Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, casts the deciding vote. The extremely slim margin of control is what makes the Representative from the 3rd so important. Winning this one race would mean the Democrats will have reduced the Republican margin of control by 25% with just one election, while an opposite outcome allows the Republicans to maintain their current majority levels. That's why the two national parties have spent more than \$17.6 million on this one race alone so far!

For those of us in organized labor, the three main powers of the Speaker make the position all important. Imagine a scenario where we have a Speaker who is anti-union. One whose agenda would be anti-union, and who would only allow anti-union legislation to advance, and who would only appoint anti-union activists to key committees. It wouldn't be good for us, would it? Unfortunately, that is exactly where we are today.

The Republicans currently control the House, and, after 19 rounds of voting over 9 months in 2023, they finally settled on Mike Johnson of Louisiana to lead the House of Representatives. Mike Johnson, whose career in Congress shows he votes against unions an astounding 90% of the time (even worse than other Republican Members of the House, who vote anti-union 88% of the time on average). Mike Johnson, who has voted consistently with the most extreme elements of his party—and been a driving force behind resolutions that would cut trillions of dollars from Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and the Affordable Care Act. He has voted against the infrastructure packages that put our members and other trades to work, and opposed legislation that raises wages and helps workers join a union. His election to Speaker has meant legislating against working people.

It is widely understood that if the Democrats can swing just four seats in their favor during this year's regularly scheduled elections (and only three if Suozzi wins the Special), the next Speaker of the House will be our friend, Brooklyn's own Hakeem Jeffries. Hakeem Jeffries, whose career in Congress shows he votes in favor of unions an almost perfect 99% of the time (even better than other Democratic Members of the House, who vote pro-union 97% of the time on average).

So, for one party, this race is about disempowering and disenfranchising working people and unions; and for the other party it's about strengthening the position of workers and unions, providing funding for hundreds of thousands of construction workers to go to work, preserving Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, and making the tax system fairer for working people. This is why this race has taken on such enormous importance...it comes down to having the ability to either help or hurt working people. **To help working people, we urge you to elect Tom Suozzi this Tuesday, February 13!**

**Politicians make the laws  
that affect our lives.**

**GET OUT AND**

**Vote**

**LiUNA!**

*Feel the Power*

# Congressman ConMan

**Mazi Pilip, who is running against Tom Suozzi, with her friend, indicted conman and disgraced Congressman George Santos** ▶



As we all well know by now, the former holder of the 3rd Congressional District, Republican George Santos, was expelled from the House of Representatives in December for numerous ethical and criminal violations...only the sixth person—over 234 years and 11,000 members—ever expelled from the House. Mr. Santos apparently lied about every facet of his life during the campaign, from his education, to his personal life, to his employment record. Virtually every part of it was either completely or partially fabricated. Among some of the more outrageous lies he told were:

- When allegations surfaced that he had been a drag queen back in his native Brazil, Santos vehemently denied them. Then multiple photographs emerged that proved he was lying.
- He claimed that he was the producer of the Broadway show Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark. Oddly, that show is known to be one of the biggest flops in Broadway history. Why one would lie about being the producer of one of the biggest theatrical failures in history, no one knows, but Santos did.

- Santos has described himself as both a Jew and also a devout Catholic.
- He claimed to have been a member of the champion volleyball team at Baruch College. Except the Baruch volleyball team never won a championship. And Santos wasn't on the team. As a matter of fact, Santos never even attended Baruch.
- Claimed to be a struggling landlord during COVID, saying that he was not accepting rent during the crisis on any of the 13 apartments he and his family own. Except it turns out that Santos doesn't own 13 apartments. As a matter of fact, he owns no property whatsoever.
- On his education, Santos claimed to have attended the prestigious Horace Mann Prep School in Riverdale, attained a Bachelor's Degree from Baruch and a Masters from NYU. Santos, in fact, never attended any of those schools.
- On employment, Santos stated that he was a "seasoned Wall Street financier and investor," who worked for both Citigroup and Goldman Sachs. Neither one of those corporations ever heard of him.
- Claimed that his family were victims of the Nazis during WWII, saying that his grandparents fled Europe in the face of religious persecution.

## Congressman ConMan (continued)

Except his grandparents were born in Brazil and there's no evidence that they ever even set foot in Europe.

- Santos claimed that four of his employees were among the victims of the 2016 Pulse Nightclub mass shooting in Florida where 49 people were murdered. Not one of the victims was connected to Santos in any way whatsoever.
- He claimed his mother died in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. Records show she wasn't even in the United States in 2001, and she didn't actually die until 15 years after the attacks, in 2016.

### And now for the potentially criminal acts:

*The Green Card Scam.* Although Santos is openly gay and has been out for more than a decade, he was married to a woman from 2012 thru 2019. During that period, in 2014, Santos threw an engagement party for himself and the man he was going to marry—while still married to his wife. Prosecutors believe Santos was paid to marry the woman so she could get a green card.

*The Fraudulent Checks Scam.* Santos was charged with writing fraudulent checks in his native home of Brazil. When this was revealed in the media, Santos strongly denied that it ever happened. Brazil let the case go dormant after Santos left the country, but once he started denying it ever happened during the campaign, the government of Brazil reinstated the charges.

*The GoFundMe Scam.* Santos set up a GoFundMe to pay for surgery for a disabled Navy veteran's service dog, then promptly stole the \$3,000 donated, with not one penny going to the vet or the dog.

- *The Puppies Scam.* Santos was charged with theft by deception in Pennsylvania in 2017 for allegedly writing more than \$15,000 in bad checks to dog breeders in the state for "puppies."

*The COVID Unemployment Scam.* Santos applied for and collected \$24,000 in COVID Unemployment Insurance in 2020 because he claimed to have lost his job due to the pandemic. In fact, he was employed at the time and collecting a \$120,000 annual salary.

### And the big ones:

*The Fake Donors/Election Fraud Scam.* This is the big one. The one that earned Santos a 13-count federal indictment (and eventually a superseding 23-count indictment). Santos' finances are so corrupt and convoluted that the authorities are still trying to unravel all of the potentially criminal activity.

*The Fake Donors:* Santos reported more than \$30,000 in political donations from people, most of whom do not seem to exist; or, if they actually are real people, when contacted by the media said they didn't make the donations and had never heard of George Santos. One of the names used was that of a prolific Democratic donor. Another was that of a prominent Brazilian soccer star (even if that one was real, it would have been illegal in-and-of itself, as it is against the law for foreign nationals to contribute directly to federal campaigns).

*The BIG Self-Donation:* Santos reported that he had loaned his campaign more than \$700,000 from his personal bank account. The problem is, the money wasn't Santos' and no one knew the source of the money. George Santos ran for the same Congressional seat in 2020. At the time, his Federal Elections Commission-required disclosure reports showed he had an annual salary of only \$55,000. Yet just two years later, in his FEC forms, he reported an annual salary of at least \$3.5 million and perhaps as much as \$11.5 million per year. This salary supposedly came from a company he had formed in 2021 after the Florida investment firm where he worked was accused in a complaint by the Securities and Exchange Commission of operating a Ponzi scheme. Despite the fact that lower-end salary range of \$3,500,000 would put him making more than 6 times the salary he'd need to be in the top 1% of earners in the United States, in early 2023, he was living in an apartment in Elmhurst with his sister, who herself was being evicted for nonpayment of \$40,000 in back rent.

## Congressman ConMan(continued)

Prosecutors alleged that virtually all of Mr. Santos' financial disclosures were either fraudulent or straight-up lies. Santos originally said the \$700,000 was a personal loan from himself to his campaign. But then in an update to a report originally filed in April 2022, the Santos campaign unmarked a box that had originally indicated that those loans came from Santos's own personal funds. Then in filings from later in 2022, the box marking "personal funds of the candidate" was once again checked as a "yes". And in a separate amended report, another \$125,000 loan that Santos gave to his campaign on Oct. 26 similarly had an unchecked box, suggesting that it did not come from his personal funds either.

As it turns out, the \$700,000 never actually existed. As part of another scam, Santos knew that to get the support of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), he had to prove he could raise money independently. So, he simply

made up the \$700,000, put that number on his Federal Elections Commission reports, and showed the reports to the NRCC. The national Republicans never questioned where the money came from, or apparently made no attempt to verify if that money ever existed. No, they did none of that. They simply awarded Santos the nomination for the 3rd Congressional District of New York.

So, the constituents of the 3rd District got stuck with a scam artist named George Santos. And George Santos got stuck with two counts of wire fraud, two counts of making materially false statements to the Federal Election Commission, two counts of falsifying records submitted to obstruct the FEC, two counts of aggravated identity theft, one count of access device fraud, seven counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering, one count of theft of public funds, and two counts of making materially false statements to the United States House of Representatives.



**TOM SUOZZI**  
NEW YORK CONGRESS  
DISTRICT 3

FOR CONGRESS ★ 2024

**SUOZZI**  
*Let's Fix This!*



***CO-FOUNDER + CO-CHAIR OF  
CONGRESS' LABOR CAUCUS***



***FIGHTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
FUNDING***



***ONE OF CONGRESS' MOST  
RELIABLE LABOR ADVOCATES***