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**Newsday**

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

GORDON McLEOD *Publisher*

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**EDITORIALS**

# SUFFOLK COUNTY BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

## Yes on repayment to water fund **ENDORSES**

This local proposition resolves a long dispute between Suffolk County and environmentalists over county attempts to borrow money from a drinking water protection program fund dedicated to stabilizing sewer rates. The fund has \$100 million more than it needs.

If approved, it would return, via bonding, \$29.4 million diverted several years ago. The bonds must be issued by 2018 and spent by 2020. In return, County Executive Steve Bellone would be allowed to re-borrow from the fund for three years, with mandatory repay-

ment by 2029, to help balance the county budget. We would prefer the \$100 million be used to build new sewers, a path the county should pursue as Bellone's borrowing is repaid.

The deal is sound. The county eventually sets aside more money for water quality, guarantees repayment of new borrowing and reaffirms the principle established in the 1987 referendum that set up the program: Only the public gets to decide how to use money it has set aside.

Vote yes on this proposition. **N**

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