



# Albert Baldeo

**NEIGHBORHOOD:** OZONE PARK

**MAIN ISSUE:** COMMUNITY ADVOCATE FOR QUALITY OF LIFE AND EQUAL RIGHTS

**“The problems confronting the people must always take precedent over personal friendships and personal interests.”**

There’s been a lot said about Albert Baldeo over the course of his political career as Ozone Park’s perpetual challenger. And while his abrasive style of bare-knuckle politics may not win him many allies in the political establishment, it’s been effective in voicing the concerns of his community.

## **GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT**

Baldeo, a practicing immigration lawyer, has styled himself as a champion for the growing West Indian immigrant population in South Queens. While he won’t single out a greatest achievement, he often points to a theme in his work – looking out for the little guy.

“To empower people in the community,” Baldeo said summarizing his efforts. “To highlight the issues that have confronted us so we can get a better quality of life and a better standard of living.”

Whether it’s organizing petitions, staging rallies, suing slumlords, confronting politicians, or running insurgent political campaigns – Baldeo has stuck to that theme, sometimes ruffling feathers in the process.

## **COMMUNITY CHARACTER**

If there’s one person qualified to represent the underdogs in Queens, it’s Baldeo.

His scrappy political style and outsider status have stacked the odds against him time after time

in his public endeavors, and he often finds himself confronting both the Republican and Democratic parties.

But he seems to find some comfort in that role. He touts his political independence and freely launches attacks and criticisms at those in his way, regardless of their affiliation.

He admits that sometimes his emotions get the better of him in the heat of battle and ultimately attributes his loose-cannon style to his passion for the issues.

“Situations have called for serious comments or serious condemnations,” Baldeo said. “There’s nobody who stands up for this community, there’s nobody that stands up for the minorities here.”

“I’ve been very much misunderstood by other politicians,” he added. “For my voice to be heard I have to cry three times as hard

as the typical politician. We have never had a stake in politics, we have never had a say in anything.”

## **MOST OUTRAGEOUS ACT**

Baldeo ran for the 15th State Senate District seat in 2006, coming within 800 votes of the two-decade Republican incumbent State Sen. Serphin Maltese (R-Glendale).

He attributed the slim loss to lack of support from the Queens Democratic Party. Some of his colleagues even crossed the aisle and supported

Maltese.

While he has already dropped out of the 2008 race and declared a truce with his party after Democratic leaders supported Councilman Joe Addabbo (D-Howard Beach), it was Baldeo’s insurgent campaign in 2006 that revealed real weaknesses in the senior senator’s incumbent status.

**—Michael Lanza**

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**—Albert Baldeo**