

AU alumnus tapped as Faso's running mate in NY governor's race

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Republican and Conservative candidate for governor John Faso Tuesday (May 23) joined Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef at a press conference to announce Mr. Vanderhoef's addition to the campaign as a candidate for lieutenant governor. Vanderhoef is a 1971 alumnus of Alfred University. He and his wife, Colleen, are parents of Erin Vanderhoef, who just completed her junior year as a student in the School of Art & Design at AU. Faso said, "Scott brings a solid record, a wealth of experience and intimate knowledge of the workings of state and local government. I asked him to be my running mate because I believe that the lieutenant governor needs to be a capable and hands-on participant in governing. His experience and knowledge will help us find creative solutions and he will lead efforts to change the direction of our state. I am proud to run with him." Vanderhoef said, "I am honored to join this campaign as a candidate for lieutenant governor. I have known John for a long time and we share the same priorities and vision for New York's future. Our ticket is going to offer voters the fiscal responsibility and real reforms that will lead to tax cuts and more jobs. I look forward to spreading our message throughout New York." Vanderhoef was elected Rockland County Executive in 1993 and is currently serving his fourth term in that post. Under his leadership, county property taxes are now more than 8 percent lower than when he took office. Vanderhoef lives with his wife Colleen in Blauvelt and is the father of triplet daughters and twin boys. He has degrees in history, education and law. At this time, it appears Faso will most likely face a Sept. 12 primary battle for the Republican nomination against William Weld, former governor of Massachusetts, who moved back to his native New York. The winner of the primary will then most likely face Eliot Spitzer, New York's attorney general and the apparent front-runner for the Democratic nomination, in the Nov. 7 general election.

Official Campaign Biography: C. Scott Vanderhoef, was born in Suffern, New York and raised in Blauvelt. He is a graduate of Tappan Zee High School. Vanderhoef holds a bachelor's degree from Alfred University and later earned his law degree from Pace University Law School. Vanderhoef began his career in public service in 1972 serving Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller as a program liaison to the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Health, Parks and Recreation, Arts Council, Veteran Affairs and Human Rights. He continued his work for the State under Governor Malcolm Wilson and briefly under Governor Hugh Carey. Vanderhoef also served as the State Project Coordinator of the Child Medicaid Program for New York City. After working in Albany, Vanderhoef returned to Rockland where he worked for more than 15 years for the Ramapo Land Company, a land management and development firm, rising to become the company's president and CEO. He then practiced Environmental and Real Property Law for the firm of Birbrower, Montalbano, Condon and Frank PC. During those years, he also served as Acting Village Justice of Hillburn, sat on the Board of Trustees of St. Thomas Aquinas College and served on the Board of Education for the Ramapo Central School District, where he was elected president. In November, 1993 after campaigning on a platform of County government reform and fiscal responsibility, Vanderhoef unseated incumbent Democrat John T. Grant to become Rockland County Executive. He is now serving in his fourth term in the post. Vanderhoef has worked tirelessly to create a streamlined, more efficient and cost-effective government. His leadership has led to a reduction in the County workforce and the consolidation or elimination of one-third of all County departments. The taxpayers of Rockland have seen the benefit of Vanderhoef's reforms. County property taxes are now more than 8 percent lower than when he took office. He accomplished this goal despite population growth and while increasing the quality and quantity of County services. Rockland County is fiscally solid due to Vanderhoef's strong management. He has maintained county debt at a very low 7-percent of the constitutional debt limit while still investing in needed capital infrastructure. He has also won national recognition for financial and budget reporting. Because of Vanderhoef's tough fiscal controls, Rockland has quadrupled the county's financial reserves over the past nine years and retained its A1 bond rating. Committed to fostering a better business environment, Vanderhoef's leadership has helped create nearly 20,000 new private sector jobs over the past decade, making Rockland's unemployment rate a full percent under that of New York State. A pioneer in the fight against Medicaid fraud, Vanderhoef was one of the leaders in the successful "Cap Medicaid Now" effort that was ultimately adopted to help counties limit rising costs. Because of Vanderhoef's efforts, Rockland, in partnership with NYSAC, is the first county in the nation to use IBM's VERIFY NY computer program to detect fraud and is now leading the charge to identify millions of dollars in potential Medicaid provider fraud and recover taxpayer money. Vanderhoef's perseverance in negotiations with the MTA to close the "value gap" with commuters led improved services. His tenure has also seen expanded health and mental health services for residents and enhanced programs for its children. More than 6,000

veterans now receive health services from our newly expanded VA clinic, up from 300 in 1996 and the County has increased the number of day care slots for working families. Vanderhoef's desire to protect Rockland's environment prompted him to create the County's first-ever Open Space Preservation Program. This successful program has led to the creation of five new parks, the preservation of two farms and the addition of 632 acres of county parkland. Because of Vanderhoef's leadership on public safety, Rockland County is a recognized leader in disaster and emergency preparedness and anti-terrorism planning. Vanderhoef is a past president of the New York State Association of County Executives, and has served on numerous boards of charitable organizations including, the United Way of Rockland, and the 21st Century Collaborative for Children and Youth. He is a former adjunct professor in environmental law at St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) and has been a guest lecturer at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Vanderhoef received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Dominican College of Blauvelt in 1995 and a Doctor of Humane Letters from STAC in 1999. Vanderhoef is the father of triplet daughters and twin boys. He lives with his wife Colleen and his family in Blauvelt.