

Pinion Could Shake Schumer Out of His Complacency



(Editor's note: Joe Pinion was a Newsmax contributor, and is no longer affiliated with Newsmax, or its subsidiaries. The McLaughlin Polling organization maintains a regular column on Newsmax. John and Jim McLaughlin periodically appear on Newsmax TV.)

Who is Joe Pinion?

When a colleague called with that question last week, I was stumped.

It turns out that he is the Republican Party's candidate for U.S. Senate in

2022 in New York, running against the Senate majority leader, Charles Schumer.

The Schumer-Pinion race is a study in contrasts, and not only when it comes to name recognition. Schumer's campaign has raised a lot more money: Federal Election Commission [data](#) through June 30, 2022, show that Schumer had raised \$39 million to Pinion's \$254,397, and that Schumer had \$37.9 million in cash on hand, while Pinion had \$25,150.

Schumer, 71, was elected to Congress in 1980.

Prior to that, he was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1974.



Sign up for Newsmax's Daily Newsletter

Receive breaking news and original analysis - sent right to your inbox.

(Optional for Local News)

[Privacy](#): We never share your email address.

Pinion has just turned 39 and has not yet been elected to political office.

Pinion himself says in a phone interview that people thought he was "crazy" to try to beat Schumer. He says, though, that he's in a "great position" to take on the majority leader. Two polls taken in late July show Schumer with support at 53% or 56%, down from the 70% of the vote Schumer won when he was reelected in 2016.

A McLaughlin poll taken in August found 42% of New Yorkers would reelect Schumer, while 48% want someone else.

A lot of campaign money can get raised in the last eight weeks of a campaign, Pinion says.

In the meantime, he's planning a grassroots effort based on 1,000 volunteers.

He's expecting endorsements soon from law enforcement unions concerned about Democratic Party support for what Pinion calls the "three most dangerous words" in English — "Defund the Police."

Pinion warms up when he steers our conversation toward the numbers that actually reflect reality for New Yorkers — what he describes as an untold story of pain and suffering.

When it comes to children, 60% of them are not proficient in school.

The city of Rochester, New York, has a *per capita* murder rate that is higher than Chicago's. Syracuse, New York, has the highest child poverty rate in the nation among cities with population above 100,000.

Inflation is hurting seniors living on fixed incomes. Grandmothers died alone in nursing homes as a result of decisions made by Governor Cuomo, during the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

The things that really matter to New York voters, Pinion says, are crime, kids who can't read, the cost of gas, the cost of a rotisserie chicken, heating bills.

When he spoke about poverty, Pinion, who played tailback in football for Colgate University, reminded me of another talkative New York football-player-turned Republican politician, Jack Kemp.

"We're here to finish the unfinished legacy of Dr. King," said Pinion, who is Black.

He advocates "school choice for every single child" and says public housing is the "largest slumload in America." It's part of a pattern he sees of government agencies not being held accountable for their failures.

There is a history of members of the congressional leadership being defeated in surprises.

Eric Cantor, who was the House Majority Leader, lost a Republican congressional primary in Virginia, in 2014. Tom Foley, a Democrat who was speaker of the House, lost his seat in 1994. Joe Crowley, who was chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, lost to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) in a 2018 primary in New York.

Even heavily Democratic states can sometimes elect Republican senators, especially in elections that don't match up with a presidential campaign cycle.

Republican Scott Brown won a Senate special election in Massachusetts in 2010 to a seat that had been opened by the death of Edward Kennedy.

Schumer, Pinion says, has spent 42 years in Washington and 24 years in the Senate.

He's been "too wrong for too long."

Pinion is running to the pro-Israel side of Schumer, faulting the majority leader for the "shameful" fact that the movement to boycott, divest, and sanction Israel is "fueled by members of his own delegation," while New York experiences an "astronomical spike in antisemitism."

He challenges Schumer to a series of debates on policy issues such as poverty, the economy, and climate. So far, nothing has been scheduled.

Pinion, who had his own show on Newsmax TV, might be surprisingly strong in a televised faceoff with Schumer.

In the end, though, a re-election is a referendum on the incumbent. New Yorker voters have a history of firing the occupants of the seat currently occupied by Schumer.

Sen. Jacob Javits lost in 1980 to Alfonse D'Amato, who was unseated in 1998 by Schumer.

As for the dangers of being a *status quo* candidate in a change election — well, there is another former senator from New York, one who served for a while alongside Schumer, who might have some cautionary experience to share.

Hillary Clinton could tell Majority Leader Schumer a thing or two about how high name recognition, a long Washington resumé, and lots of campaign cash are no guarantee of electoral success against a Republican candidate with no prior electoral experience, who used to have his own TV show.

Ira Stoll is the author of "Samuel Adams: A Life," and "JFK, Conservative." Read Ira Stoll's Reports — [More Here](#).