

PROChoice

Newsletter of

Choice Matters, Inc.,
WCLA-PAC and PROChoice Voter

Vol. 42, No. 1 Autumn, 2014

November 4th - Is New York Like Texas?

New York is looking a lot like Texas and Virginia and Mississippi and Oklahoma and Kansas and the Dakotas – everywhere in this country where women have to fight every day to protect their reproductive rights. This is real. It can and is happening here.

Did you know that 53% of New York counties have no abortion clinics? Or that every two years anti-choice bills including the defunding of Planned Parenthood; granting separate legal status for embryos and fetuses; requiring biased counseling, mandatory delays and ultrasounds; and placing restrictions

Continued on page 2.

Endorsements for Must Win Races:

CONGRESS

Nita Lowey (CD 17) one of our staunchest pro-choice leaders - is being challenged by an extreme anti-choice, totally inexperienced opponent. **Nita Lowey all the way!**

Sean Patrick Maloney (CD 18) is a strong ally of the pro-choice community with a voting record to prove it! In contrast, his opponent has repeatedly lied to New Yorkers about her abhorrent anti-choice voting record and was rated 100% [anti-reproductive rights] by the National Right to Life Party for pursuing an anti-choice extremist agenda. **Re-Elect Pro-Choice Advocate Sean Patrick Maloney!**

IN NEW YORK STATE

The Governor for Choice – Andrew Cuomo

The governor is the most powerful person in the state regarding abortion and family planning. He proposes, signs and vetoes legislation, has budget power, and makes crucial administrative and judicial appointments. **Andrew Cuomo has done all that for Choice.** He created the state health exchanges by executive order, expanded funding for contraceptives, and is committed to making sure New York women have the full constitutionally recognized protection of Roe v. Wade. In sharp contrast, his opponent, Rob Astorino, is rabidly anti-choice, promising to veto any attempt to move women's healthcare into the 21st century. **Re-Elect Andrew Cuomo!**

Our Choice For Comptroller – Thomas DiNapoli

Tom DiNapoli has been an ally and a strong supporter of reproductive rights as an Assemblyman and in his current role as State Comptroller. In contrast, his opponent refuses to return our questionnaire or answer questions about his position on abortion – in other words, he refuses to stand up for Choice and the women of New York. **We stand with Tom DiNapoli!**

The Best Attorney General – New York's Eric Schneiderman

Across the nation, anti-choice attorneys general have targeted women's reproductive rights, destroying them where they can. In sharp contrast, Eric Schneiderman has always stood up for women. From the frontlines at clinics to the courtrooms to the State Senate to being our Attorney General, Eric has proven his commitment to protecting a woman's right to choose. **New York needs Eric Schneiderman for Attorney General.**

(We are using our limited space to highlight highly contested race. See our Voting Guide page for the comprehensive list of endorsed candidates.)

Four Critical State Races

THE STATE SENATE

George Latimer (SD 17) has worked to advance a reproductive health and rights agenda now as a State Senator, and previously as an Assemblyman and former Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Latimer has sponsored the Reproductive Health Act and been an outspoken advocate for legislation that ensures access to vital health care services for women. In contrast, his opponent is an anti-choice extremist who believes the reproductive health component of the Women's Equality Act "is bad for women." **George Latimer earns our endorsement!**

Justin Wagner (SD 40) is running for the open seat being vacated by a Tea Party extremist. We need to win this seat to pass the Women's Equality Act, and Justin Wagner is the person to do it. Wagner is a strong voice for women. In contrast, his opponent is vehemently anti-choice, hand-picked for his extremist views, and received the endorsements of RTL groups. **We need Justin Wagner in Albany!**

THE STATE ASSEMBLY

Tom Abinanti (AD 92) has been a tireless advocate for women from the time he was on our Board to when he served on the Westchester County Board of Legislators to now as an Assemblyman. Tom has been an outspoken voice for reproductive rights throughout his career. In contrast, his opponent is inexperienced and anti-choice, whose sole goal is to advance a pro-gun agenda. **We stand with Tom Abinanti!**

Andrew Falk (AD 94) is challenging one of the most viciously anti-choice incumbents in Albany. This opponent has made it his mission to de-fund Planned Parenthood, oppose domestic violence legislation and rid New York of abortion rights. In contrast, Andrew is a strong voice for women, our families and Choice. **We're excited to endorse Andrew Falk!**

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November 4th - Is New York Like Texas? *Continued from page 1.*

on young and low-income women's access to abortion are beaten back in Albany? Or that right here in Westchester, we couldn't get a clinic access bill passed into law? And it gets tougher every day.

This month a federal court upheld Texas' draconian clinic shutdown bill, forcing the immediate closure of at least 13 abortion providers and leaving just eight abortion clinics for the entire state. That bill was passed into law by people elected to state government. State government has a huge impact on our rights, and, thus, our lives.

States' Rights used to be code for allowing individual states to pass racist legislation. *Let the states decide* to pass Jim Crow and voter suppression legislation, so that the rest of the country could turn a blind eye to discrimination. Now it means *let the states decide* to obliterate women's reproductive rights. And it is happening all across this country because good people fail to vote.

All of the anti-choice bills that are beaten back in New York are the law in Texas, and they will become law here if we don't come out and vote for our pro-choice candidates. Please don't ignore State government and this election.

The 2014 New York State Republican Party has designated the most right-wing, anti-choice slate of candidates in recent memory. What ever happened to the Rockefeller Republicans? This *hand-picked* team is marching in lockstep with their

extreme anti-choice gubernatorial candidate Rob Astorino. They have promised to oppose the 10-point Women's Equality Act, calling the reproductive component "ghastly," "hideous," "bad for women" and "unnecessary".

The truth is that New York State's current reproductive legislation does not give women the full constitutionally recognized protection of *Roe v. Wade* and it does not incorporate the medical advances that have been made in reproductive healthcare over the last 44 years. New York women deserve reproductive legislation that does both, and the vast majority of New Yorkers want the reproductive component of the Women's Equality Act passed into law. But Astorino and his gang don't and so they work to mislead the public about the Women's Equality Act and the status of New York's abortion rights.

On Channel 12's *Newsmakers*, Astorino intentionally made false statements about the Women's Equality Act's reproductive component. Contrary to Astorino's lies, the reproductive component guarantees the protection of all viable fetuses while also ensuring that a woman would be able to have an abortion if her health is severely endangered late in her pregnancy.

If this anti-choice slate is elected to office they can and will do to New York what is happening across the country. *And if they use Astorino's economic and social attacks on working women and their families in Westchester as a road map:*

- They could attack the budget line-by-line, going after all healthcare items including funding for family planning, healthcare and many other reproductive needs – and even eliminate New York's Health Exchanges!
- They could gut all funding to Community Health Clinics.
- They could close mental health clinics sending patients out of clinics and onto the streets, while at the same time opposing smart gun control legislation and opening state-owned buildings to gun shows.
- And so much more.

All offices in Albany and in the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election, plus judgeships. Don't sit this election out!

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Electing Judges

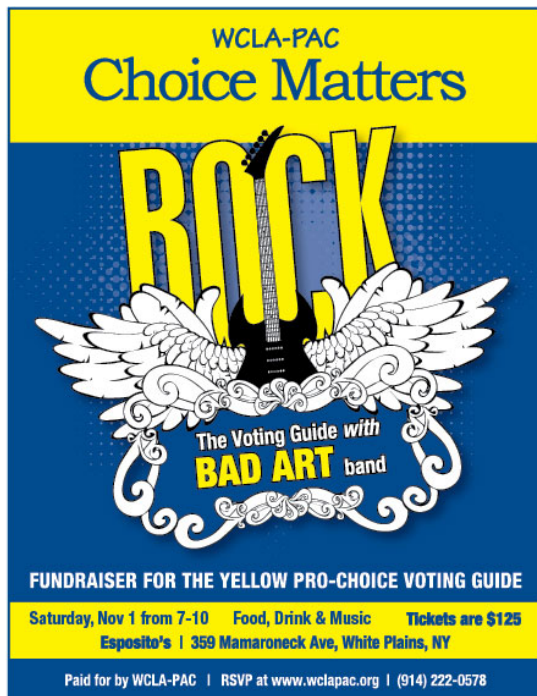
The role that personal perspective plays in judicial decisions is seismic. Personal opinions do matter, and not just on the US Supreme Court. Personal bias affects how a judge treats those who come before her/him, the sentence imposed, the bail required, and more.

Just imagine the impact a judge's view on reproductive rights can have in a state that requires parental notification/consent. To avoid informing her parent(s), a minor may apply for a judicial bypass, which means a judge can allow the girl to terminate the pregnancy if she/he deems the girl mature and capable of making the decision. If the judge is anti-choice, what are the chances that he/she will permit the abortion? In Alabama, some state judges go so far as to appoint an attorney to represent the fetus.

Join us for food, drink, and great music
with the band Bad Art

**And most importantly, help fund our voting
guide to get out the vote!**

If you can't come, please make a donation.
Visit: WCLAPAC.org



WCLA-PAC
Choice Matters
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The Voting Guide with
BAD ART band
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Saturday, Nov 1 from 7-10 Food, Drink & Music Tickets are \$125
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Please copy and distribute this page to other
pro-choice Westchester County Voters.

2014 **PROChoice** Voting Guide

WCLA-PAC and **PROChoice** Voter

Our endorsed candidates are
highlighted in boxes.
Help keep abortion
legal and accessible.
Vote for endorsed candidates.

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

ANDREW CUOMO*
KATHY HOCHUL (D,W,I,WEP)

Rob Astorino/Chris Moss® (R,C,SCC) SBA/RTL
HOWIE HAWKINS /BRIAN JONES (GRN)
Steven Cohn/Bobby Kalotee □ (PSL)
Michael McDermott/Chris Edes (LBT)

COMPTROLLER

THOMAS DINAPOLI* (D,W,I,WEP)

Robert Antonacci (R,C,SCC)
THERESA PORTELLI (GRN)
John Clifton (LBT)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN* (D,W,I,WEP)

John Cahill (R,C,SCC)
RAMON JIMENEZ (GRN)
Carl E. Person (LBT)

NYS SUPREME COURT JUDGES

(Vote for one)

JAMES W. HUBERT (D,I)

Montgomery Delaney (R,C)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

• District 16

Westchester County: Eastchester, parts of Greenburgh,
Mamaroneck, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham,
City of Rye, Scarsdale; plus parts of the Bronx.

ELIOT ENGEL* (D,W)

• District 17

Westchester County: Cortlandt, parts of
Greenburgh, Harrison, Mt. Kisco, Mt. Pleasant,
New Castle, North Castle, Ossining, Peekskill, Rye
Town, parts of Yorktown; City of White Plains;
plus Rockland County.

NITA LOWEY* (D,W)

Christopher E. Day (R,C)

• District 18

Westchester County: Bedford, Lewisboro, parts
of Mt. Kisco, parts of New Castle, parts of North
Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers, parts
of Yorktown; plus Beacon, East Fishkill, Fishkill,
Poughkeepsie (city & town), Wappinger in
Dutchess County; plus Putnam and
Orange Counties.

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY* (D,W)

Nan Hayworth (R,C,I)
Scott A. Smith (MSC)

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

• District 34

Westchester County: Pelham, parts of Mt. Ver-
non, plus parts of the Bronx.

JEFFREY KLEIN* (D,I,WEP)
Aleksander Mici (R)
Frank Dellavalle (C)
CARL LUNDGREN (GRN)

• District 35

Greenburgh, Scarsdale, parts of New Rochelle, of
White Plains and of Yonkers.

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS* (D,W,I,WEP)

Robert Lopez Foti (R,C)

• District 36

Parts of Mt. Vernon and the Bronx.

RUTH HASSEL-THOMPSON* (D)

Robert L. Diamond (R,C)
Crystal Collins (I)

• District 37

Bedford, Eastchester, Harrison, Mamaroneck,
North Castle, Rye (City & Town), parts of New
Rochelle, White Plains and Yonkers.

GEORGE S. LATIMER* (D,W)

Joseph Dillon (R,C,I)

• District 38

Westchester County: Ossining; plus Rockland
County: Clarkstown, Orangetown and Ramapo.

DAVID CARLUCCI* (D,W,I)
Donna Held (R)

• District 40

Westchester County: Cortlandt, Lewisboro, Mt.
Pleasant, Mt. Kisco, New Castle, City of Peekskill,
North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers, Yorktown;
plus Putnam County: Carmel, Patterson,
Southeast; and Dutchess County: Beekman
and Pawling.

JUSTIN R. WAGNER (D,W)

Terrence Murphy® (R,C,I,GRN,SCC) SBA/RTL

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

• District 88

Eastchester, parts of New Rochelle, Pelham,
Scarsdale and parts of White Plains.

AMY R. PAULIN* (D,W)

• District 89

Mt. Vernon and parts of Yonkers.

J. GARY PRETLOW* (D,I)

WCLA PAC & ProChoice Voter Endorsement Policy, 2014

WCLA PAC and ProChoice Voter make their endorsements based on the candidate grading made by the Board of Directors of WCLA - Choice Matters.

WCLA PAC's and ProChoice Voter's endorsements are determined case by case. To be considered for endorsement, candidates must complete and return the Organization's questionnaire and participate in an interview if requested. All endorsements are made on a strictly non-partisan basis. The questionnaires, incumbents' and opponents' records, leadership, and helpfulness during the legislative session are all reviewed. Consistency between candidates' actions, interviews and questionnaire responses is important.

Each race is voted separately. Incumbents may be endorsed over pro-choice challengers if they have consistent voting records and have established a reputation for strong leadership and extra effort in advancing access to abortion and contraception. Non-incumbents may be endorsed if they have demonstrated leadership on the issue.

Endorsement is considered only for those who unequivocally support:

- Access to abortion and contraception for all women, unimpeded by laws, restrictions, or regulations;
- Strict confidentiality for all reproductive health care;
- Coverage by public and private insurance of abortion and contraception.

Judicial candidates: To be eligible for endorsement, judicial candidates must participate in an interview if requested, and neither seek nor accept the Right to Life Party nomination.

• District 90

Parts of Yonkers.

SHELLEY MAYER* (D,W,I)

• District 91

Mamaroneck, parts of New Rochelle, Rye
(City & Town.)

STEVEN OTIS* (D,W,I)

• District 92

Towns of Greenburgh and Mt Pleasant.

TOM ABINANTI* (D,W)

Mike Duffy (R,C)

• District 93

Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mt. Kisco, New
Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge and
parts of White Plains.

DAVID BUCHWALD* (D,W,I)

• District 94

Westchester County: Somers, Yorktown; plus
Putnam Valley, Carmel, Southeast, Patterson in
Putnam County.

ANDREW FALK (D,W)

Stephen Katz*® (R,C) SBA/RTL

• District 95

Westchester County: Cortlandt, Ossining,
Peekskill; plus Phillipstown and Kent in
Putnam County.

SANDRA GALEF* (D,W,I)

COUNTY COURT (Vote for one)

ANNE E. MINIHAN (D,R,C,W,I)

FAMILY COURT (Vote for two)

ARLENE E KATZ (D,W,I)

RACHEL HAHN (D,W)

Key to ratings:

ENDORSED

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED

Anti-choice

* Incumbent

□ Not able to contact

SBA/RTL: Susan B. Anthony/Right to Life

® Former RTL

Parties: D: Democrat C: Conservative
GRN: Green I: Independence LBT: Libertarian
MSC: Send Mr. Smith R: Republican
SAP: Sapient SCC: Stop Common Core
W: Working Families WEP: Women's Equality.

The Voting Guide is inside this newsletter. Use your power to vote to protect Choice!

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P.O. Box 1175
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914/946-5363
www.ChoiceMatters.org

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DO WOMEN DESERVE EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW OR NOT?

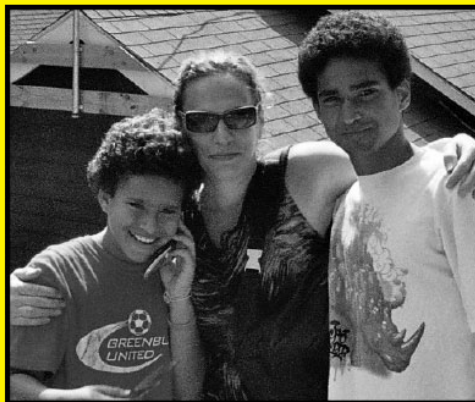
A Few Salient Points

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett
President/Chair of the Board

1 We New Yorkers must decide: Do we come out and vote for pro-choice candidates who are committed to making sure New York women have the full constitutionally recognized protection of *Roe v. Wade* and 21st century medical care or do we stay home, allowing an anti-choice slate of extremists to take over our government?

It really is that simple. Vote for candidates who share your values or face losing your rights. (Tell your friends!)

2. Sadly, New York Republican candidates are looking increasingly more like national Tea Party candidates than the Rockefeller Republicans that New York was known for, who were fiscally conservative on some issues but not Choice. Today, more and more New York Republican candidates running for office in Albany are aligning themselves with



the far right agenda coming out of Washington. This is very troubling.

3. You are seeing more sent to you by WCLA PAC and ProChoice Voter because Albany changed what a 501(c)4 (WCLA – Choice Matters) is legally permitted to say to you, the voter. We used to be able to “endorse” candidates; now we can only “grade” them and not communicate directly with you, the voter, before the Primary or General Election about

a specific candidate. So our two political action committees, WCLA PAC and ProChoice Voter, are taking over until after the November 4th election.

4. Choice Matters and WCLA PAC need your help to keep going. If everyone who reads this newsletter and voting guide simply sent us \$10, we would not have to ask anyone for another dime all year. Please make a contribution!

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