PRO Choice

Newsletter of

Choice Matters, Inc., WCLA-PAC • ProChoice Voter

Vol. 39, No. 1 Autumn, 2010

Next Year's Headline: Roe v Wade Overturned

his is a scary time in which we live and an even scarier election season. There is growing frenzy sweeping the nation to throw all incumbents out of office regardless of what they have accomplished or how unqualified their opponents are. *That is plain nuts!*

If we do not return pro-choice candidates to Washington, we will lose so much. We will not be able to beat back the Stupak Amendment which is rearing its ugly head again. We will not have the votes to support the nomination of pro-choice candidates, including judicial ones. We will not be able to convince the Secretary of Health and Human Services that birth control is part of preventive care. These battles are just a sampling of what is festering in Washington right now.

This year's election in New York reflects the stark contrast

playing out nationally between those who believe in the right to choose and respect women as capable responsible individuals and those who oppose abortion even in cases of rape, incest or to save a woman's life.

New York State's anti-choice candidates are clones of their Washington mentors: Senatorial and House challengers DioGuardi, Townsend, Mele and Russell and State Senate and Assembly candidates Vernucchio, McLaughlin, Ball, Block, Ramondelli, Katz and Borkowski all want to overturn Roe v Wade; Nan Haworth said she would have voted in lock-step with the anti-choice GOP Conference in support of the Stupak Amendment; gubernatorial hopeful Carl Paladino made clear in his now infamous CNN interview that women should have no reproductive rights; Attorney

See Roe on page 2

Endorsements:

(We are using our limited space to highlight the Must Win races. See our Voting Guide page for the comprehensive list of endorsed candidates.)

New York's Congressional Delegation

New Yorkers have several great Congressional representatives, including Senator Schumer, Congresswoman Lowey and Congressman Engel.

Our two newer representatives who *definitely need your* support are **Kirsten Gillibrand** and **John Hall**. Both face anti-choice opponents. There is no stronger advocate in the Senate for us than **Kirsten Gillibrand**.

John Hall has a 100% pro-choice voting record. *His opponent* is masquerading as pro-choice, but the truth is she is on the record for wanting to severely restrict access to abortion and for supporting the Stupak Amendment.

In New York State

It's Pro-Choice Cuomo All the Way.

The governor is the most powerful person in the state with regard to abortion and family planning. He proposes, signs and vetoes legislation, has budget power, and makes crucial appointments such as Commissioner of Health and high-level judges. The best person for that job is **Andrew Cuomo!**

Eric Schneiderman: the Pro-Choice Attorney General.

Across the nation, anti-choice attorneys general have abused their position targeting women's reproductive rights: in Kansas harassing the late Dr. Tiller; in Virginia, working to close 20 safe clinics; and in Michigan trying to outlaw abortion.

New York needs **Eric Schneiderman** for Attorney General. From the frontlines at clinics to the courtrooms to the State Senate, Eric has proven his commitment to a woman's right to choose..

Our Choice For Comptroller - Thomas DiNapoli

Thomas 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.

The Senate

Choice Matters endorses our pro-choice Senators—Jeffrey Klein (SD 34), Andrea Stewart-Cousins (SD 35), Ruth Hassell Thompson (SD 36) and Suzi Oppenheimer (SD 37). Together they have co-sponsored a long list of legislation benefiting women's health including the Reproductive Health Act.

We are also endorsing **Mike Kaplowitz** for the open seat in SD 40. Mike is a strong voice for Choice and will work hard for women's health.

Beware: Three of these representatives face Right to Life endorsed opponents who are hiding on the Republican line.

The Assembly

Choice Matters endorses our pro-choice Assembly people—Gary Pretlow (AD 87), Amy Paulin (AD 88), Sandra Galef (AD 90), George Latimer (AD 91), and Mike Spano (AD 91). These representatives work hard to protect New

See endorsement on page 2

A Few **Salient Points**

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett President/Chair of the Board

We New Yorkers are at a crossroads. We can turn in the direction of Right to Life endorsed Carl Paladino who has no known record of accomplishments or we can go with 100% pro-choice Andrew Cuomo whose strong record of



fighting for women and children is well documented.

In other words, we can turn away from all those we know and elect the unknown candidates simply because they are unfamiliar, and we're angry—or we can step beyond blanket blame and support those who have supported us.

The truth is not all about Albany and Washington is bad. There are good people in office and others that need to go, on both sides of the aisle. The Democrats began getting rid of their own bad apples in the Primary when they tossed out Espada and Monserrate who needed to go.

Choice Matters wants to help you make thoughtful

Roe, from page 1

General candidate Dan Donvan when asked about abortion rights declared, ..."Life begins at conception"—and we haven't even gotten to the judicial candidates yet.

There's NO Excuse Not to Vote!

Voter apathy last year led to the election of Westchester's Right to Life County Executive who has made savage cuts to funding directly impacting women and children His actions are penny wise and pound foolish, and are forcing more women onto welfare and pushing our school taxes ever higher.

Our rights hinge on who goes to the polls. Nothing else counts. If pro-choice voters come out in droves, they will decide whether the Right to Life's candidates win elections or whether pro-choice moderates and progressives do. We can swing this election if we do not take November 2 off!

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> WCLA-PAC ProChoice Voter

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decisions. Please visit our website for information.

- 2. The fate of the Reproductive Health Act will be decided on Election Day. If the Senate is controlled by a Republican majority, the Act will never make it onto the floor for a vote. Although some Republicans support it, the Act won't see the light of day because their majority leader is rabidly anti-choice and his position is perfectly clear. Without his permission, the bill will not be introduced. Especially in light of what is going on across the country, New York needs the Reproductive Health Act passed.
- 3. The huge number of Right to Life endorsed candidates on the ballot is horrific. What they all have in common is they oppose abortion even in cases of rape, incest, and, for most, to save a woman's life. Voters MUST Beware. (Check our endorsement page for details.)
- 4. Choice Matters needs your help to keep going. These have been very lean years and there are no more corners to cut or things to do without. We have struggled through another year, but barely. Please make a contribution so that we can keep on going! Every donation helps! (If everyone who receives this guide simply sent us \$5 or \$10 we would be ok.)

On November 2nd, Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment: VOTE!

Please help!

Send us your e-mail address and let us know if you are interested in volunteering. Both help save us money! Write to us at choicematters@choicematters.org.Thank you.

Endorsements, from page 1

York's women against encroaching anti-choice legislation.

Choice Matters has thrown its support behind Tom Roach who is challenging incumbent Bob Castelli (AD 89), and Tom Abinanti and Brendon Tully for the open seats in the 92nd and 99th Assembly districts, respectively.

Paid for By ProChoice Voter Paid for by WCLA PAC

In memory of Joan Arnow

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Joan Arnow who was a longtime friend to women's reproductive rights and to Choice Matters.

She was a woman with a true philanthropic heart—supporting individuals, issues and candidates—searching out those who needed her most.

She passed away on June 29, 2010. She will be greatly missed.



WCLA-PAC • PROCHOICE VOTER

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

Parties: D: Democrat R: Republican I: Independence C: Conservative W: Working Families GRE: Green FDM: Freedom LBT: Libertarian RDH: Rent Is 2 Damn High RTL: Right to Life APP: Anti-Prohibition TXP: Taxpayers TRP: Tax Revolt

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO/ROBERT J. DUFFY (D,I,W)

Carl P. Paladino/Gregory J. Edwards ¥ ¤ (R,C,TXP) Howie Hawkins/Gloria Mattera ¤ (GRE) Warren Redlich/Alden Link

(LBT) Kristin Davis/Tanya Gendelman

(APP) Charles Barron/Eva M. Doyle (FDM)

COMPTROLLER

THOMAS P. DINAPOLI* (D,W)

Harry Wilson (R,I,C) Julia A. Willebrand (GRN) John Gaetani

(LBT)

ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN (D,W)

Dan Donovan (R,C) Stephen Lynch

(I) Carl E. Person (LBT) Ramon J. Jimenez (FDM)

U.S. SENATOR

Full term: six years CHARLES E. SCHUMER* (D,I,W)

Jav Townsend ¥ (R.C) Colia Clark (GRE) Randy A. Credico (LBT, APP)

U.S. SENATOR

Term: two years - unexpired KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND* (D,I,W)

Joseph J. DioGuardi ‡ ¥ (R,C, TXP) Cecile A. Lawrence (GRE) Joseph Huff (RDH) John Clifton (LBT) Vivia Morgan 🗖 (APP) Bruce Blakeman (TRP)

NYS SUPREME COURT JUDGE

(Vote for four) COLLEEN D. DUFFY (D,W) LINDA CHRISTOPHER (D,W) LAWRENCE H. ECKER (D,I,C,W)

J. Emmett Murphy ‡ (D,R,I,C JAMES MAISANO (R,I,C) **GERRY KLEIN (R)**

Matthew J. Byrne ¥ (R,I,C, RTL) James Alexander Burke ¥ (RTL)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 17

Westchester County: Mt. Vernon, parts of Greenburgh, Yonkers and the Bronx; Rockland County: Orangetown, Ramapo and part of Clarkstown

ELIOT L. ENGEL* (D,W)

Anthony Mele ¥ (R) York Kleinhandler (C)

District 18

Westchester County: Pelham, Eastchester, New Rochelle, Mamaroneck, Rye (town & city), Harrison, Scarsdale, White Plains, Mt. Pleasant, No. Castle,

Ossining, New Castle, and parts of Greenburgh and Yonkers; Rockland County: parts of Haverstraw and Clarkstown

NITA LOWEY* (D,I,W)

Jim Russell ¥ (R,C)

District 19

Westchester County: Peekskill, Yorktown, Cortlandt, Somers, No. Salem, Bedford, Pound Ridge, Lewisboro, and Mt. Kisco; Putnam County: parts of Orange, Dutchess, and Rockland counties

JOHN HALL* (D,W)

Nan Hayworth (R,I,C) **NEW YORK STATE SENATE**

District 34

Eastchester, parts of Mt. Vernon, Yonkers, Pelham, New Rochelle, and the Bronx

JEFFREY KLEIN* (D,I,W)

Frank Vernuccio, Jr. ¥ (R,C)

District 35

Towns of Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant, most of

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

Liam McLaughlin ¥ (R,C)

District 36

RUTH HASSELL-THOMPSON* (D,W) Robert L. Diamond (R,C)

District 37

Harrison, Mamaroneck, New Castle, No. Castle, Ossining, Rye Town, Scarsdale, parts of New

SUZI OPPENHEIMER* (D,W)

District 40

Northern Westchester, Putnam County, part of

MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ (D,I)

Greg Ball ¥ (R,C)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

District 87

J. GARY PRETLOW* (D.W)

Samuel L. Rivers ¥ (I)

District 88

Eastchester, Pelham, Scarsdale, part of White Plains and New Rochelle

AMY R. PAULIN* (D,I,W)

Rene Atayan (R,C)

District 89

Northeastern Westchester, Harrison, most of White

THOMAS M. ROACH (D,I,W)

Robert J. Castelli* (R,C,TXP)

Key to ratings:

ENDORSED

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED

Anti-choice

* Incumbent

□ Not able to contact

‡ Former RTL

¥ Endorsed by the RTL

District 90

Cortlandt, Ossining, Peekskill, Kent, Phillipstown, Putnam Vallev

SANDRA GALEF* (D. I)

William J. Gouldman (R,C)

District 91

Mamaroneck, Rye Town, Rye, part of New Rochelle

GEORGE LATIMER* (D, I,W)

Bill Reed (R,C)

District 92

THOMAS J. ABINANTI (D.I)

Thomas Block \pm (R)

District 93

MIKE SPANO* (D,W,C)

Mike Ramondelli ¥ (F

District 99

Yorktown, No. Salem, Somers, part of Dutchess and Putnam

BRENDAN J. TULLY (D, W)

Steve Katz ¥ (R,I)

Jim Borkowski ¥ (C)

SURROGATE COURT ANTHONY SCARPINO (D,R,I,C,W)

COUNTY COURT

(Vote for one)

BARRY E. WARHIT (D,I,W)

Douglas J. Martino \pm (R,C,RTL)

FAMILY COURT

Vote for four)

HAL GREENWALD (D,C,W)

NILDA MORALES HOROWITZ (D,I,C,W)

MICHELLE SCHAUER (D,W) DAVID KLEIN (D,W)

Mary Clark ¥ (R,I, RTL) BILL EDWARDS (R,I)

PATRICIA O'CALLAGHAN (R,I,C)

Edward P. Borrelli (R,C) Raymond W. Belair ¥ (RTL)

Anthony J. DeCintio ¥ (RTL)

Please see our website for our endorsement policy.

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

WCLA-Choice Matters PO Box 1175 White Plains NY 10602

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Re-Districting and Senate Control

Whether Democrat or Republican, the Party that gains control of the State Senate in November will impact us for the next ten years because:

The Party in control of the Senate determines the redistricting lines of the entire State. The lines they draw will be in effect for the next ten years, and will determine geographic metes and bounds of all election districts from the House of Representatives to the State Assembly.

Last time New York was redistricted, the Republicans were in the majority and drew a shape frequently described as a lobster. The lobster was created as a safe district to secure then-Senator Velella's re-election. He did get re-elected but was then found guilty of bribery conspiracy and went off to jail.

It Matters! Judges and Attorneys General (AGs) can be the sleepers in an election, claiming their position on Choice doesn't matter because their only job is to enforce the laws that already exist. WRONG!

We've seen AGs target clinics and abortion providers, harassing them with trumped up charges, and worse. Judges have appointed attorneys to represent fetuses—the attorney's sole job is to interrogate the minor seeking an abortion to determine whether she is mature enough to have an abortion. (What about mature enough to be a mother?)

While an AG candidate must face the voters every four years, judicial candidates are elected to terms of 10 or 14 years, depending on the judgeship.

We have an outstanding candidate for AG in Eric Schneiderman, and several superb judicial candidates. Please *don't* simply vote a party line. Vote Choice!

BEWARE: The Right to Life Party is Back

And they're running for just about every elected office.

Despite the fact that the Birly in the second of the sec

Despite the fact that the Right to Life Party (RTL) was dropped from the ballot after the 2002 gubernatorial election, several candidates carried petitions to resurrect the RTL line and even more are endorsed by the RTL Committee. (Check out their website: www.righttolife-9jd.com.) Don't be blinded by Democratic or Republican affiliation. (This is particularly true for the Supreme Court candidates.) This is not a party issue, so make no assumptions. Study our Voting Guide closely!

Think

very time you consider not voting, remember these words: "I am outraged that [the abortion issue] is viewed from the perspective of the woman—a femme-centric perspective that condones the self-indulgent conduct of the woman who was damn careless in the first place."

These words were spoken by an elected official, Dick Armey, former U.S. Majority Leader (R-Texas).

What does your elected representative say, and vote?