



PROChoice

Newsletter of

Choice Matters, Inc.,
WCLA-PAC

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2011 County Elections Are Crucial

It might seem like there are no high-profile county-wide races this year, but that is very wrong. This election is all about Right to Life County Executive Rob Astorino and whether he will take total control of Westchester Government. The outcome of the election will determine whether Astorino can push through his anti-woman/child/family/middle class and working poor agenda or not. (That may seem like an overabundant number of anti's, but one look at his past proposed budget is all it takes to know Westchester's working families won't survive an Astorino regime.)

Astorino has hand-picked candidates who are endorsed by the Right to Life (RTL), seeking the RTL endorsement, or

claiming to be pro-choice but refuse to support for the Clinic Access bill which protects women's safety and privacy as they enter and leave reproductive health centers...and which RTL Astorino opposes.

If Astorino succeeds in getting his minions elected, there will be no check and balance in Westchester County for a long time to come.

Voters who turn out in 2011 will decide the make-up of the Legislature for the next two years. Voters devoted to certain issues can swing an election simply by a high turnout. Choice Matters' Political Action Committee is placing many thousands of get-out-the-vote calls in targeted districts in support of our endorsed pro-choice candidates.

Endorsements:

Targeted Races

Peter Harckham (CLD 2) was first elected to the County Legislature in 2007 and has served as Majority Leader for the past two years. Harckham has proven himself to be a strong ally who is able to work across party lines to build consensus without compromising the very values for which he was elected. Harckham is also endorsed by the NYS League of Conservation Voters. His opponent is pro-choice but not endorsed. Choice Matters stands with Peter Harckham!

John Nonna (CLD 3) has distinguished himself as a friend to Choice. As a true public servant throughout his career—currently as a County Legislator, and previously as Mayor, Trustee and Judge—John Nonna has stood up for women's rights. Nonna's opponent Mike Smith is anti-choice and is seeking the Right to Life endorsement.

Mike Kaplowitz (CLD 4) has proven himself to be a strong supporter of the pro-choice community. His position as Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairman made Kaplowitz keenly aware of the role the County plays in the fight to protect women's reproductive rights. That understanding has served the women of Westchester well. Choice Matters endorses Mike Kaplowitz, who is being challenged by Right to Life endorsed Terrence Murphy.

Bill Ryan (CLD 5) has been an active and vocal advocate for Choice since his early days in the NYS Assembly. In his first campaign for the County Legislature, he pledged to continue fighting for a woman's right to choose and he has done so without fail. Ryan has "more faith in women making the right decision for themselves than in government making it for them..." and believes, "a woman's right to choose is absolute and should not be subject to legislation." Ryan's opponent, although rated pro-choice, will not commit to supporting the Clinic Access Bill. She claims to be a political novice and

that her ideas are still *cooking*—but in reality, she has been politically active for years and served on Astorino's transition team. Choice Matters' choice is Bill Ryan!

Judy Myers (CLD 7) is a staunch advocate for women's health and, importantly, the co-sponsor of the Clinic Access Bill. Myers has been a strong ally for women during her tenure on the Westchester County Board, as well as when she served on the Mamaroneck Town Board. In contrast, her opponent presents herself as pro-choice but refuses to commit to supporting the Clinic Access Bill, and is close friends with RTL Astorino. Myers' strong leadership in women's health makes her the clear-cut winner of Choice Matters' endorsement. Westchester needs Judy Myers.

Two Open Seats

Daniel Brakewood (CLD 6) is committed to women's reproductive health. As a current Port Chester trustee, Brakewood has proven himself to be an independent voice for his constituents. In contrast, his anti-choice opponent has said, even in his own literature, that he will be a [guaranteed] vote for [RTL] Astorino. That is not independent! Choice Matters endorses Daniel Brakewood.

Catherine Borgia (CLD 9) is a rising star! Presently Ossining Town Supervisor, Borgia is an outspoken champion for women and their daughters. Borgia's opponent is a rabid anti-choice fanatic who ran for election two years ago and came within seven votes of winning. We need to keep District 9 in the pro-choice column with Catherine Borgia!

A Promising Future

Virginia Perez (CLD 17), winner in the Democratic Primary, promises to be a strong fresh voice for women. Perez faces a staunchly anti-choice candidate, and the incumbent. Choice Matters is excited to support pro-choice Virginia Perez.

A Few Salient Points

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett
President/Chair of the Board

1 Take a page out of the Tea Party Play Book: Vote!!!

Tea Party fanatics gave us an extremist Congress including Westchester's own Nan Hayworth (CD 19), as well as Astorino, Testa and Marcotte at the local level. Simply put, these people don't care about you or civil rights. All they care about is slashing and outsourcing. That doesn't lead to jobs and recovery, but it does make good headlines. Now they want to load the County Legislature with more Tea Bags. Don't let them.

Voter apathy is killing the Democratic process, and resulting in a dictatorship by the few who pull a lever. They control you and your future. Remember your civil rights including reproductive rights will be decided by whether you vote or not.

2. This year we witnessed unparalleled attacks on women—some by turning back the clock, others by setting a whole new threshold for *the horrific*. In Washington, the House approved a bill allowing hospitals that object to abortion to simply stand by and let a woman die, rather than terminate the pregnancy or



send her to another hospital even if it would save the woman's life. Across the country, police, judges and the media are turning back the clock to the pre-1980's, seeming to excuse the rapist because somehow, they say, the victim invited the attack because of what she was wearing. (Since when is wardrobe a justification for assault?) In Westchester County, Right to Life County Executive Astorino cut off funding to Planned Parenthood's highly successful Teen Aware program that worked to reduce teen pregnancy through education. (Astorino appears to be not only anti-abortion rights, but also anti-education.)

Voter apathy led to control by this Tea Party mentality.

3. Choice Matters needs your help and your contributions. We are not affiliated with a national organization. We are *your* local pro-choice organization—your eyes, your ears, fighting for your rights. Even though these financial times are tough, please don't forget about us.

4. 2012 marks our 40th year of fighting for women's reproductive rights. I wish we could say our work is done, but sadly that day may never come. Throughout the year, we will focus on where we were in 1972, where we are today, and where we may be in ten years from now—thus, the name "Then – Now – Plus 10." Send us your ideas and thoughts. All help is welcome!

Contraception: Recognized as Preventive Care!!

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius has announced contraception is being added to the list of women's preventive health services, along with well-woman visits, screening for gestational diabetes, domestic violence screening and counseling, and other key services. This means new insurance plans will be required to cover these preventive care services without charging a co-payment, co-insurance or a deductible.

"While women are more likely to need preventive health care services, they often have less ability to pay." "A report by the Commonwealth Fund found that in 2009 more than half of women delayed or avoided preventive care because of its cost, as compared to one-quarter of women in 2007. Removing cost sharing requirements improves women's access to important preventive services. In fact, one study found that the rate of women getting a mammogram went up as much as 9% when cost sharing was removed." HealthCare.gov

This historic achievement is the direct result of the long hard work by so many of us. Congratulations!

Tell Governor Cuomo: 2 Must Do's

New York's year of change under our new governor is not complete. Ask Governor Cuomo: 1. To apply his negotiating skills, which he used to pass Marriage Equality, to the passage of the Reproductive Health Act (RHA); the RHA will bring reproductive healthcare into the 21st century and take abortion out of the penal code. At a time when Congress is passing an onslaught of anti-woman's rights bills, New

York must stand by its own history in support of women's civil rights; and 2. To bring the Senate back to Albany where Republican leaders have stalled the passage of the bill creating a healthcare exchange. According to the federal Affordable Care Act, everyone must have health insurance by 1/1/2014. States will have online marketplaces (a.k.a. exchanges) through which individuals and small businesses can purchase coverage. New York will lose as much as \$100 million in federal grants if it does not set up the exchange expeditiously.

**Call Governor Cuomo (518) 474-8390
or send this article to:**

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

★ ★ *Then – Now – Plus 10* ★ ★

WCLA – Choice Matters turns 40!

2012 will mark our 40th year of fighting for women's reproductive rights, and it is time for an assessment.

Where were women pre-Roe, in 1972?

Where are we today?

Where might women be in 2022?

We want your input:

youtube videos, articles, pictures, letters, whatever you choose.

Send your contributions to:

ChoiceMatters@ChoiceMatters.org

Please copy and distribute this page to other pro-choice Westchester County Voters.

2011 PROChoice Voting Guide

WCLA-PAC

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

Choice Matters Endorsement Policy, 2011

Choice Matters' endorsements are made by its Board of Directors. Choice Matters' endorsements are determined case by case. To be considered for endorsement, candidates must complete and return Choice Matters' questionnaire and participate in an interview if requested. All endorsements are made on a strictly non-partisan basis. The Board of Directors discusses the questionnaires, incumbents' and opponents' records, leadership, and helpfulness during the legislative session. They seek consistency between candidates' actions, interviews and questionnaire responses.

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.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE (vote for 2)

• 9th Judicial District

Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Orange Counties

ROBERT DIBELLA (D,R,C,W,I)
PAUL MARX (D,W,I)

Edward P. Borelli (R,C)

WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATOR

• District 1

All of Buchanan and parts of Yorktown, City of Peekskill and Unincorporated Cortlandt

MICHAEL KANE (D,W)

John Testa (R,C,I)*

• District 2

All of Bedford, Lewisboro, Mt. Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge and part of Somers

PETER HARCHAM (D,W,I)*

PETER MICHAELIS (R,C)

• District 3

All of North Castle, Pleasantville and Unincorporated Mt Pleasant, and parts of Briarcliff Manor, Sleepy Hollow and Unincorporated Greenburgh

JOHN NONNA (D,W,I)*

Michael Smith (R,C) SEEKING RTL

• District 4

All of New Castle and parts of Somers and Yorktown

MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ (D,W)*

Terrence Murphy (R,C,I) RTL

• District 5

All of the Village of Scarsdale and parts of Harrison and White Plains

WILLIAM J RYAN (D,W,I)*

IRIS PAGAN (R,C)

• District 6

All of Rye Brook, Port Chester, and part of Harrison

DANIEL BRAKEWOOD (D,W)

David Gelfarb (R,C)

MARK JAFFE (I)

• District 7

All of Rye City, Larchmont, Unincorporated Town of Mamaroneck and Mamaroneck Village (including Rye Neck), and parts of Harrison and New Rochelle.

JUDY MYERS (D,W,I)*

SUZANNA KEITH (R,C)

• District 8

All of Elmsford and Tarrytown, and parts of Unincorporated Greenburgh, Sleepy Hollow and White Plains

ALFREDA WILLIAMS (D,I)*

• District 9

All of Croton, Ossining Village and Unincorporated Town of Ossining, and parts of Briarcliff Manor, Unincorporated Cortlandt and City of Peekskill

CATHERINE BORGIA (D,W,I)*

Susan Konig (R,C) RTL

• District 10

All of Tuckahoe and Unincorporated Eastchester, and part of New Rochelle.

JOHN FITZPATRICK (D,W)

Sheila Marcotte (R,C,I)* RTL

• District 11

All of Pelham, Pelham Manor and parts of New Rochelle

JAMES MAISANO (R,C,W)*

• District 12

All of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings and Irvington, and part of Unincorporated Greenburgh

MARYJANE SHIMSKY (D,W,I)*

• District 13

Part of Mt. Vernon

LYNDON WILLIAMS (D,W,I)*

Rosemarie Jarosz (C)

• District 14

Parts of Mt. Vernon and Yonkers

GEORGE KEVGAS (D,W,I)

BERNICE SPRECKMAN (R,C)*

• District 15

All of Bronxville and part of Yonkers

THEODOSIOS MOUSTAKOPOULOS (D,I)

Gordon Burrows (R,C)*

DELFIN HEUSLER (W)

• District 16

Part of Yonkers

KEN JENKINS (D,W,I)*

• District 17

Part of Yonkers

VIRGINIA PEREZ (D)*

Carmen Gomez Goldberg (R,C) NOTED BY RTL

JOSE ALVARADO (W,I)*

Key to ratings:

ENDORSED

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED

Anti-choice

* Incumbent

RTL: Right to Life

‡ Former RTL

Parties: D: Democrat R: Republican

I: Independence C: Conservative

W: Working Families

Say NO! DON'T Vote on the Conservative Party Line!

"The [Right to Life Party (RTL)] has joined forces with the Conservative Party," President of Westchester Right to Life Party, Liz Costanzo, said, "We've turned the Conservative Party back to a pro-life position. We asked our [RTL] people to register Conservative..." Like its Conservative Party brethren, the RTL is requiring its endorsed candidates to also actively oppose gay marriage. (And that's about abortion how...?)

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

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— BREAKING NEWS —

**RTL COUNTY EXECUTIVE CUTS FUNDING
FOR CONTRACEPTION FOR TEENS, WELL-BABY CARE,
AND SEX EDUCATION.**

VISIT CHOICEMATTERS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Reproductive Rights: ABSOLUTELY A County Issue

Westchester County Legislators play a huge role in reproductive health. • They decide **budget issues** that relate to women and families that comprise a large portion of the county budget. • They confirm **appointments to the County Medical Center Hospital Board** and in turn ultimately control whether the hospital will continue to provide abortions. • They enter into contracts with the Medical Center to provide services to County jail inmates. (Astorino outsourced this to Tennessee.) They decide which clinics will provide services and whether they will provide reproductive health services, counseling, and referral for abortions. • They oversee the **Department of Social Services** to ensure that a full range of reproductive services are provided by HMOs to those who are eligible for DSS assistance. • They decide if the **Citizen Information Service** will include referrals for family planning and abortion. • They vote on **resolutions** supporting or opposing legislation at higher levels of government, and much more.

Now, as RTL County Executive Astorino seeks to outsource contracts, the County Legislature becomes ever more important as a check and balance to his actions.

NO Economic Recovery Without Jobs!

Astorino Supports Outsourcing, Sending Jobs Out of County!

- Astorino has outsourced healthcare for Westchester's inmates to a Tennessee-based company. Will that company be directed, by our rabidly anti-choice county executive, to make sure female prisoners receive their legal right to an abortion? *Not likely!*
- He has given the contract to manage the County's Section 8 Housing Voucher Program to a Florida-based company. No *live* person ever answered the local contact number which was called more than a dozen times. Instead, the single women with children who are a large percentage of the occupants of Section 8 Housing hear the words, "All calls will be returned within 2 business days [Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5]." That will be little comfort when the heat is out in the middle of the winter.
- Astorino's newest idea—a.k.a. attack on the most vulnerable—is to put all not-for-profit contracts out for bid to companies—*for-profit or not*, located in Westchester or not. Just like the for-profit Florida-based one handling the Section 8 Program, a company can rent a White Plains storefront and put in a telephone answering machine but be based in Rockland or Arizona. Astorino doesn't care, but the women seeking shelter from an abusive situation or legal services will. That's Astorino's *compassionate* conservative tea party mentality, and that of his hand-picked minions who have promised to support him.