



# PROChoice

Newsletter of

Choice Matters, Inc.,  
WCLA-PAC

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## Reproductive Rights: Absolutely WERE A County Issue

Until the election of Rob Astorino in 2009, Westchester recognized its commitment to women and families. Astorino, upon taking office, immediately began slicing and dicing, cutting away all the healthcare support provided for Westchester's neediest. Then, in 2012, Astorino scored his greatest coup – he convinced two Democrats to join with his caucus of eight Republicans to pass one of the most damaging budgets yet, targeting Westchester's poorest - gutting all funding to Westchester's neighborhood health centers, making childcare unaffordable for many,

trying to totally de-fund the food pantries - and more.

The gutting of the neighborhood health centers is actually on par with the GOP attack on Planned Parenthood (PP). The only difference is the order: the Congressional GOP first went after community health centers and then PP; Astorino cut PP's funding for comprehensive sex ed first, and then the health centers. Astorino was actually much more successful in both attacks.

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### Endorsements:

#### County Legislators' Races

There are seven contested races. Two of them are open seats, with no incumbent running for re-election. Five of the seven are considered "must win" seats if we are to get a pro-choice majority on the Board of Legislators that can override the County Executive's veto of the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Bill - a bill that would protect women seeking health care.

#### Targeted Races

**Haina Just-Michael (CLD 10)** is challenging the most rabidly anti-choice member of the County Board. Just-Michael is an outspoken supporter of the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Bill and is a strong proponent of comprehensive reproductive rights. She is an experienced small business owner, elected member of the New Rochelle Library Board, former board member of the League of Women Voters and the Aging in Place Initiative, and United Way and Westchester Jewish Council honoree. Just-Michael's opponent is endorsed by the Right to Life Party, and is an extremist who opposes abortion *even in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the woman*. **We need to elect pro-choice Haina Just-Michael!**

**Catherine Borgia (CLD 9)**, first elected to the County Legislature in 2011, has served as Majority Leader for the past two years. Borgia has proven herself to be a strong ally to women and families. Borgia is the sponsor of the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Bill. Her opponent is anti-choice. **WCLA PAC stands with Catherine Borgia!**

**Catherine Parker (CLD 7)** is 100% pro-choice, a strong advocate for women and a co-sponsor of the Reproductive

Health Care Facilities Access Bill. As a small business owner for the past 19 years, she understands the problems facing small businesses *and* women. Parker's opponent is anti-choice. **WCLA PAC endorses Catherine Parker.**

**Christine Peters (CLD 14)** is a strong fresh voice for women. Peters is challenging an anti-choice incumbent who voted to gut all funding to neighborhood health centers *and* voted *against* the clinic safe access bill. **WCLA PAC is excited to support pro-choice Christine Peters.**

#### Two Open Seats

**Karen Schleimer (CLD 2)** is an attorney with an impressive commitment to Westchester. Schleimer is a Village of Mt. Kisco Trustee, and has served as Chairwoman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, prosecutor for the Village, counsel to the Architectural Review Board, and more. Schleimer is also a staunch advocate for seniors and the environment. As a single mother, she knows all too well the challenges facing our County's families and women, and is an outspoken champion for women's reproductive independence. In contrast, her opponent is anti-choice. He has aligned himself 100% with anti-choice, anti-safe access to clinics, anti-funding for health care Astorino. **Vote for Karen Schleimer!**

**John Diaconis (CLD 3)**, an attorney, is Co-Chairman of the North Castle Ethics Task Force, and has served on the New Castle Town Board. He has extensive experience with Westchester County issues, *and* is committed to women's reproductive health care and rights. In sharp contrast, Diaconis' opponent is anti-choice and lacks any legislative experience whatsoever. Her sole credential is that she was handpicked by Westchester's anti-choice County Executive because she has promised to adhere strictly to his extreme agenda. **WCLA PAC endorses John Diaconis!**

# A Few Salient Points

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett  
President/Chair of the Board



1 Stop focusing on 2016, please! This year's local elections are really important. They will decide who's going to serve as judge and who'll be your county legislator. *Will we have a Board that can override the County Executive's destructive, anti-women's reproductive health agenda, and pass the Clinic Access Bill and protect our community health centers?*

2. We are witnessing unparalleled attacks on women—setting a whole new threshold for *the horrific*. By July 1<sup>st</sup>, states had enacted more than 50 new abortion restrictions. In Washington, Congress is gunning for Planned Parenthood (PP), using its never-ending, pointless hearings to rally their base. They are even trying to shut down the entire government to defund PP. Both Senate and House extremists want to make an unconstitutional 20-week abortion ban law. Westchester's extremist County

Executive succeeded in de-funding PP's highly successful Teen Aware Pregnancy Reduction program, gutting all funding to the community health centers, and doing away with 99.9% of the County's health services. It is clear that they are targeting the people who really need the services – the working poor and the lower middle class – populations who probably would not be voting for him anyway.

If we are to right our ship, to make sure that all women, regardless of ability to pay, have full unfettered access to comprehensive reproductive services, YOU MUST VOTE every chance you get. No election is unimportant. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, VOTE – and make it a pro-choice group activity!

3. We still have to raise funds to pay for this voting guide. We bet on you when we went to print, and hope our faith in you is well placed. Thank you to the many who contributed to our virtual fundraiser. To those who did not, we still need your support to pay for this voting guide. No contribution is too small (or too large). Help us close the gap. Please go to [www.wclapac.org](http://www.wclapac.org) or mail a check to the address on this voting guide.

## Reproductive Rights: Absolutely WERE A County Issue

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Like PP, Westchester's community health centers provide essential, good-quality, health services. Like PP, they are on the front lines in health care, serving those in need but who are often least able to pay; and like PP, they need financial support from the government to take care of residents.

With the help of the two Democrats, Astorino launched a successful budgetary assault. To guarantee that these cuts

stayed in place, the most rabid anti-choice legislator (CLD 10) was appointed Chairwoman of the Budget Committee.

Astorino has been able to get away with this, not because he's popular – most people don't even know who the county executive is - but because people don't pay attention and they don't vote in odd year elections. *Imagine what would happen to Planned Parenthood in Congress if we didn't pay attention, and didn't vote!*

## Electing Judges

Gretchen Walsh for Supreme Court

The role 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 he/she will permit the abortion? In Alabama, some judges even appoint an attorney to represent the fetus.

This year, for NYS Supreme Court Justice, you can choose between an exceptionally qualified attorney, **Gretchen Walsh**, who has extensive experience and great understanding of the issues confronting women and their families, or you can vote for *her opponent who has been endorsed by anti-choice groups*. **WCLA PAC is proud to endorse Gretchen Walsh for Supreme Court Justice!**

### 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 [info@WCLAPAC.org](mailto:info@WCLAPAC.org). Thank you.

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

# 2015 PROChoice Voting Guide

WCLA-PAC

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

## WCLA PAC Voter Endorsement Policy, 2015

WCLA PAC makes its endorsements based on the candidate ratings made by the Board of Directors of WCLA - Choice Matters.

WCLA PAC'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.

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICE (Vote for one)

### • 9th Judicial District

Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Orange Counties

#### GRETCHEN WALSH (D,I)

Montgomery Delaney (R,C) <sup>RTL</sup>

## SURROGATE COURT (Vote for one)

### BRANDON SALL (D,W,WEP)

FRANK STRENG (GRN)

## COUNTY COURT (Vote for two)

### SUSAN CACACE (D,R,C,I,Ref)\* HELEN BLACKWOOD (D,W)

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATOR

### • District 1

Peekskill, Buchanan, parts of Yorktown and Cortlandt

John Testa (R, C, Ref)\* <sup>RTL</sup>

### • District 2

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

#### KAREN B SCHLEIMER (D,I,WEP)

Francis T Corcoran (R,C,Ref)

### • District 3

North Castle, Pleasantville, and parts of Briarcliff Manor, Harrison, Mt. Pleasant, Ossining and Sleepy Hollow

#### JOHN S DIACONIS (D,W,I)

Margaret A Cunzio (R,C,Ref)

### • District 4

New Castle and parts of Yorktown, and Somers

MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ (D,Ref)\*

### • District 5

Scarsdale, parts of White Plains

#### BENJAMIN BOYKIN II (D,W,I,WEP)\*

### • District 6

Rye Brook, Port Chester, and parts of Harrison and Rye Town

David Gelfarb (R,C,REF)\* <sup>RTL</sup>

### • District 7

Rye City, Mamaroneck Town, Larchmont, and parts of Harrison, the Village of Mamaroneck, New Rochelle and Rye Town

#### CATHERINE F PARKER (D,W,WEP)\*

Susan V. Watson (R,C,Ref)

### • District 8

Elmsford, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown and parts of White Plains, Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant

#### ALFREDA WILLIAMS (D,W)\*

### • District 9

Croton, Town and Village of Ossining, parts of Briarcliff Manor and Cortlandt

#### CATHERINE BORGIA (D,W,I,WEP)\*

Kathleen M Mamone (R,C,Ref)

### • District 10

Tuckahoe and parts of New Rochelle and Eastchester

#### HAINA JUST-MICHAEL (D,W,WEP)

Sheila Marcotte (R,C,I,Ref)\* <sup>RTL</sup>

### • District 11

Pelham, Pelham Manor and parts of New Rochelle

James Maisano (R,Ref)\* <sup>RTL</sup>

### • District 12

Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Irvington and parts of Greenburgh

#### MARYJANE SHIMSKY (D,W,WEP)\*

### • District 13

Parts of Mt. Vernon

#### LYNDON WILLIAMS (D,I)\*

### • District 14

Parts of Yonkers and Mt. Vernon

#### CHRISTINE PETERS (D)

Bernice Spreckman (R,C)\* <sup>RTL</sup>

### • District 15

Bronxville and parts of Yonkers and Eastchester

Kathleen M Thomas (D)

Gordon Burrows (R,C)\* <sup>RTL</sup>

### • District 16

Parts of Yonkers

#### KEN JENKINS (D,W,I,WEP)\*

### • District 17

Parts of Yonkers

Virginia Perez (D,Ref)\* <sup>RTL</sup>

#### PIEDAD ABREU (I)

Key to ratings:

#### ENDORSED

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED

Anti-choice \* Incumbent

RTL: Right to Life chosen candidate

RTL: Right to Life noted as preferred candidate in their 2013 voting guide.

Parties: D: Democrat C: Conservative GRN: Green  
I: Independence R: Republican Ref: Reform  
W: Working Families WEP: Women's Equality.

## DON'T Vote on the Conservative Party Line!

Don't give the Conservative Party your vote! In Westchester, it has merged with the Right to Life Party (RTL) under the name "Conservative Party". The RTL lost its place on the state ballot because it could not garner enough votes. Now they're trying a sneak attack and disguising their candidates, under the Conservative Party banner - and the RTL has been interviewing candidates to see if they're anti-choice enough to be allowed to run on the Conservative line. Like its Conservative Party brethren, the RTL is also requiring its endorsed candidates to oppose gay marriage.

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

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PROChoice

**SAFE ACCESS  
TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE?  
WHO DECIDES?  
ELECTION 2015**

**20-Week Abortion Ban – No Big Deal? THINK AGAIN!**

If you're a woman in your 30's or 40's, beware - *the 20-week abortion ban is aimed at you.*

Even though it was beaten back in the Senate in September, the 20-week abortion ban will be back. It's been passed in the House and is already the law in 13 states. Anti-choice extremists in Congress want to make it the law everywhere.

These zealots are targeting your right to decide whether or not to have a healthy child. They want to force you to give birth to a child who is suffering from chromosome abnormalities and/or genetic disorders - whether you want to or not.

Those of us who get pregnant in our 30's and in our 40's are at a greater risk of giving birth to a child with a birth defect, because of our age. We know this.

I knew this so I had three Amniocenteses, one in each of my pregnancies. It's the most accurate and the safest test you can have. An Amnio tests for chromosome abnormalities and genetic disorders, and *also detects neural tube defects* which are birth defects of the brain, spine, and spinal cord - the two most common of which are spina bifida and anencephaly. But you can't get it until the second trimester.

An Amnio is performed at 17-19 weeks, and it takes another 2-3 weeks to get the results. That will take you to 19 to 22 weeks. *You'll be out of time to get an abortion if anti-choice extremists in Congress and in states across the country have their way.*

That means all of us women, who want to have children, will no longer be able to have accurate testing for chromosome abnormalities, genetic disorders, or neural tube defects, *and do something with the results.*

The possible loss of this right is very real – and this is not to even mention, what if your life is at stake.

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