



# PROChoice

Newsletter of  
Choice Matters, Inc.,  
WCLA-PAC  
Vol. 46, No. 1 Autumn, 2017

## Why #WeStandwithGeorgeLatimer

Every year, people mutter that elections are “picking the lesser of two evils.”

**Not this year! On November 7<sup>th</sup>, it is a clear choice between very bad and excellent.**

**George Latimer is a superlative candidate.** He has both 20+ years of private sector business experience and an extensive public service record as a Rye Councilman, County Legislator, County Chairman, Assemblyman, and a NYS Senator.

Most importantly, George Latimer has a history of votes and policy positions by which voters can measure his words as a candidate – **and his record is stellar** - even voting against pay raises for Albany where he served, because he felt the tax payers couldn't afford it.

George Latimer is an outspoken advocate for women's

reproductive rights. He is a co-sponsor of the Reproductive Health Act and the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act. He supports pay equity, safe access to healthcare clinics, comprehensive sexual education, and paid family leave.

His opponent, Rob Astorino, is the quintessential opposite of George Latimer, and he, too, has a record to show it.

**Astorino is an anti-choice ultra-conservative who believes his religious convictions are more important than the constitutional rights provided under *Roe v. Wade* for a woman to have access to a private, safe and legal abortion.** When Astorino ran for governor, he declared that “everything [was] on the table” including cutting Medicaid funding of abortion.<sup>1</sup> Astorino vetoed women's safe access to reproductive health care here in Westchester and cut comprehensive teen sex ed programs. Instead of keeping women safe and informed, he honored abstinence-only and fake pregnancy center

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## Endorsements:

### Idoni: THE BEST County Clerk

Since elected to serve as County Clerk, Tim Idoni has awed everyone with his professional management experience. He has streamlined the Clerk's office, saving tax payers dollars and time. As a pro-choice leader, his credentials are impeccable. Idoni has been a vigorous advocate for reproductive freedom, often demonstrating great political courage. As Mayor of New Rochelle, Idoni stood openly with Planned Parenthood, placing the City's leadership firmly on the side of reproductive healthcare. Although the County Clerk doesn't have direct responsibilities related to healthcare, it is essential to have champions of reproductive freedom in all positions of public trust, particularly those with a County-wide scope and platform. **Idoni for County Clerk!**

### County Legislators' Races

There are eleven contested races, three with no pro-choice candidates. Seven are considered “must win” seats if we are to have a pro-choice majority on the Board of Legislators that can securely pass the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Bill - a bill that would protect women seeking health care, making Westchester safer for Women.

### 3 Targeted Races

**Kitley Covill** (CLD 2) is one of the most able advocates for Choice. Covill's resume is chock full with professional positions that have provided her with an impressive depth of knowledge and experience that she will bring to bear as a County Legislator. Her record includes Legal Advisor for the Domestic Violence Committee, representing women in Title IX proceedings, serving as Inspector General for Yonkers, and more. In contrast, her opponent, Francis Corcoran,

is adamantly anti-choice. He is endorsed by the extremist Westchester/Putnam Right-to-Life PAC that opposes abortion even in cases of rape and incest; and he has also accepted money from them. **Elect Kitley Covill!**

**Nancy Barr** (CLD 6), an attorney, is new to the public discussion of reproductive rights BUT she is not shy about her 100% support for comprehensive reproductive healthcare. She knows how important it is to women of all ages, and is committed to safe and private access to healthcare. Barr has served on the Blind Brook School Board (2009-2015) and has a long track record of community involvement. Barr opposes the privatization of Westchester County Airport. In sharp contrast, Barr's opponent, David Gelfarb, is anti-choice, voting to stop women from having safe private access to clinics. Gelfarb has supported anti-choice zealot CE Astorino's draconian budget cuts. **Vote Nancy Barr for Choice!**

**Damon Maher** (CLD 10) is an attorney, volunteer, negotiator and coalition builder. Damon is also a foster, adoptive and biological parent – and he is 100% pro-choice. He has looked at reproductive rights from almost every side, and is in full support. In sharp contrast, his opponent, Sheila Marcotte, believes her religious convictions trump women's constitutional rights. She wants *Roe* overturned. **Marcotte opposes abortion under all circumstances, even in cases of rape, incest or to save a woman's life.** She voted against safe access to healthcare for women, while cutting funding for community health centers, childcare, food pantries, mental health programs, afterschool programs and more. She is dangerous for women and families! **WCLA PAC stands with Damon Maher!**

# A Few Salient Points

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett,  
President/Chair of the Board

1 You can't "Resist & Persist" if you don't vote. Since last November, the headlines have been full of wonderful progressive activism. People have been challenging the status quo and placing demands on their elected officials. The number of rallies and people turning out have been inspirational.

But still, the elections held since 2016 - including primaries - have not reflected that outrage. Turn out still remains low, or at least not high enough to win.

**Learn from Your Enemy:** The Tea Party succeeded despite its ultra-conservative regressive ideas because they **voted** - and they made sure their friends, colleagues, and neighbors **voted** too. The result: an ultra-reactionary President and Congress, and right-wing anti-choice state and local governments, including Westchester's own.

They succeeded because of voter apathy on our side. Data shows that under Obama, we, the pro-choice majority, became complacent. State and local governments - and even school boards - were taken over.

**This is our time.** Stand up. Resist. Persist. And **Vote**. A 2017 win for Choice here in Westchester will jump start the 2018 elections.

We must **vote** in numbers like we never have before-and we must talk about politics, that subject that people run from. The election is November 7th. Polls are open from 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. Don't wake up on November 8th and say, "Oh gee,



If only." This election is here for the taking. It is ours to win.

2. This year we've witnessed unparalleled attacks on women - all of which have been embraced by Donald Trump who is committed to overturning *Roe v. Wade*. This is not an idle threat. Every appointment he has made and every healthcare bill he has supported speaks directly to a full-fledged war on women's reproductive healthcare. This extremist Congress that just passed a 20-week abortion ban in the House, has an ally in the White House, and a fan in Westchester's anti-choice County Executive. Astorino gutted funding to Planned Parenthood's Teen Aware program that worked to reduce teen pregnancy through education, but he supports abstinence-only. He vetoed safe access for women to healthcare, but he invited the gun show into the County Center, dismissing the hate literature sold there. Astorino's attacks are not limited to reproductive rights; he is waging a war on women as heads of families, financial providers and care givers. This man wants to be the next governor of NYS, and, given the chance, he will overturn NYS' abortion legislation. **Resist, persist, and rise on November 7th!**

3. 2017 marks our 45th year of fighting for women's reproductive rights. We wish we could say our work is done, but sadly that day may never come. Choice Matters and WCLA PAC need your contributions to keep going. We're not affiliated with a national organization. We are your local pro-choice organization - your eyes, your ears, fighting for your rights. If everyone who read this newsletter and voting guide sent us \$10, we wouldn't have to ask again all year. Please send a donation to: Choice Matters, PO Box 1175, White Plains, NY 10602.

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## Why #WeStandwithGeorgeLatimer

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advocates, using the County building to do so.<sup>2</sup>

Astorino's attacks are not limited to reproductive rights; he is waging a war on women as heads of families, financial providers and care givers.

Statistically, women are a financial cornerstone of the family unit,<sup>3</sup> balancing the funds that make their families succeed or fail - and Astorino has gone after every program that should help make ends meet. He cut all funding to: 1) neighborhood health centers, which provide Title X services; 2) food pantries; 3) afterschool programs; 4) child abuse prevention; and 5) mental health programs. He slashed funds to the eviction prevention foreclosure fund and the Invest in Kids and Youth Bureau. He limited access to County Government help in domestic violence situations. He outsourced Section 8 Housing to a Florida-based company with a recorded message - not much help when you need help.

It's time to give Astorino the boot and Make Westchester Safe for Women.

**It's time to elect George Latimer Westchester's County Executive.**

<sup>1</sup> Daily Politico 3/7/2014

<sup>2</sup> Women's Equality Day Reformed, Lifenet.org, hvcljournal.typepad.com

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Children in Single-Mother Families, PRB.org  
How Women have Assumed a Larger Role in Family Finance, nastgroupfinancial.com  
U.S. Women on the Rise as Family Breadwinner, NYTimes.com  
Single Mother Statistics, singlemomguide.com

**CONTACT: WCLAPAC.org | 914.946.5363**

**JOIN US & GET OUT THE  
VOTE!**

**MUSIC, FOOD & GREAT POLITICS!!**

**Fundraiser to Get Our Bright Yellow Pro-Choice Voting Guide  
to 80,000+ Choice Westchester voters!**

Elect our pro-choice slate  
starting with George Latimer & Tim Idoni!

Thursday, Oct. 26th, 7 p.m. Tickets: \$125  
Grand Roosevelt Ballroom | 2 Hudson St, Yonkers, NY 10701 (Valet parking available)

Collecting Toiletry & Women's Hygiene Products  
Donations for Puerto Rican & US. Virgin Island Hurricane Victims

Please copy and distribute this page  
to other Pro-Choice Voters!

# 2017 **PRO CHOICE** Voting Guide

WCLA-PAC

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

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICE (vote for one)

### • 9th Judicial District

Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Orange Counties

#### CHRISTI ACKER (D)

Linda M. Murray (R,C,I)

## COUNTY COURT (vote for one)

#### GEORGE E. FUFIDIO JR. (D,R,C,W,I,)

## FAMILY COURT (vote for one)

#### ARLENE GORDON-OLIVER (D,W,I)

KENNETH L. BUNTING (R,C,Ref)

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

#### GEORGE S. LATIMER (D,I,W,WEP,REF)

Rob Astorino (R,C)\* RTL

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY CLERK

#### TIMOTHY C. IDONI (D,W,WEP)\*

Jim Chisholm (R,C,I,Ref)

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

### • District 1

Peekskill, Buchanan, parts of Yorktown and Cortlandt

#### NANCY S. VANN (D,WEP)

John Testa (R,C,I,Ref)\* RTL

### • District 2

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

#### KITLEY S. COVILL (D,W,WEP)

Francis T. Corcoran (R,C,I,Ref)\* RTL

### • District 3

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

#### DAREN B. TOLZ (D,W,WEP)

Margaret A. Cunzio (R,C,I,Ref)\* RTL

### • District 4

New Castle and parts of Yorktown, and Somers

#### MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ (D)\*

### • District 5

Scarsdale, parts of White Plains

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

### • District 6

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

#### NANCY E. BARR (D,I,W,WEP)

David Gelfarb (R,C,Ref)\* RTL

### • 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)\*

NORMAN S. ROSENBLUM (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,WEP)\*

Robert J. Outhouse (R,C,I,Ref)

### • District 10

Tuckahoe and parts of New Rochelle and Eastchester

#### DAMON R. MAHER (D,W,WEP)

Sheila Marcotte (R,C,I,Ref)\* RTL

### • District 11

Pelham, Pelham Manor and parts of New Rochelle

James Maisano (R,C,I,REF)\* RTL

### • District 12

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

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

### • District 13

Parts of Mt. Vernon

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

### • District 14

Parts of Yonkers and Mt. Vernon

Gwen Dean (D) RTL

David J. Tubiolo (R,C,G,I,Ref)\*

### • District 15

Bronxville and parts of Yonkers and Eastchester

#### RUTH WALTER (D,W,WEP)

Gordon Burrows (R,C,I)\* RTL

### • District 16

Parts of Yonkers

Christopher A. Johnson (D,W)

Nicole A. Benjamin (I)

### • District 17

Parts of Yonkers

Virginia Perez (D, REF)\* RTL

London Reyes (W,I)

### WCLA PAC Voter Endorsement Policy, 2017

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.

Key to ratings:

#### ENDORSED

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED  
Anti-choice \* Incumbent  
RTL: Right to Life PAC and/or LifeNet

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

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

WCLA-Choice Matters  
P.O. Box 1175  
White Plains NY 10602  
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www.ChoiceMatters.org

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**IF YOU CHOOSE  
TO SIT OUT ELECTION 2017  
WE WILL LOSE!**

## Is Rob Astorino as much of a "Teflon Don" as the Donald?

### What We Know:

**1. Astorino's "no-tax-levy increase budgets" is FALSE. The combined Westchester County sewer and refuse taxes have risen from \$2.1 million to \$146 million, under Astorino between 2011-2016.** The impact on the homeowner depends on location. Sewer levy increases in Blind Brook: 56%, New Rochelle: 50%, Eastchester: 19%, Rye: 25%, Ossining: 29%; etc.<sup>1</sup>

**2. Astorino has been selling off county assets to balance the budget.** Now he wants a form of privatization for the Westchester County Airport to balance the 2017 budget. Because of public opposition, Astorino took \$132,000 out of a locked airport capital improvement fund to send a campaign-like mailer to 350,000 households. "The Federal Aviation Administration is looking into the legality of the action."<sup>2</sup>

**3. Astorino rented office space at 125 Park Avenue, NYC, in 2015, at \$45,000 tax payer dollars per year, for "economic development."** There's no record of how often it was used or for what purpose. No deals are reported to have originated there. Last month, after candidate George Latimer shined a light on the office rental, Astorino abruptly decided to close it. The owner of 125 Park Ave. donated to Astorino in 2015, a month after the lease started.<sup>3</sup>

**4. Astorino's outrage over racial and religious hate is FAKE.**

**\*Rob Astorino dismissed concerns about Nazi literature and Confederate flags** being sold at the Westchester County Gun Show- a gun show that Astorino personally authorized by vetoing legislation prohibiting them on County-owned property. Astorino's reasoning: 8,000 people attended and it made money so he won't stop it or the sale of "controversial"<sup>4</sup> literature.<sup>5</sup> His administration dismissed the sale of the hate materials saying they are "historical".<sup>6</sup>

**\*Westchester has been the target of racial and religious hate graffiti since last November.** Astorino's response was to compare it to anti-Trump demonstrations. He said, "President Obama and Hillary Clinton as well [should] come out and say to their supporters, 'Calm down'." (Charlottesville?)

**Astorino has been getting away with fake news stories for years. The real question is will voters stop him now.**

<sup>1</sup> Latimer comes out swinging, lohud.com

<sup>2</sup> Rob Astorino dips into Westchester airport reserves for mailing, lohud.com

<sup>3</sup> Westchester to close NYC economic development office, lohud.com

<sup>4</sup> Westchester County Executive Hopeful Takes Aim, newyork.cbslocal.com

<sup>5</sup> NY Lawmaker: Gun Shows Inappropriate-Whole Counter-Culture, Anti-Society' Mindset, mrctv.org

<sup>6</sup> Westchester Residents say Nazi literature, Confederate Flag Items were sold at gun show, newyork.cbslocal.com

Pro-Nazi Literature, Confederate Flags Sold at Gun Show at Westchester County Center, patch.com

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