



# PROChoice

Newsletter of  
Choice Matters, Inc.,  
WCLA-PAC and PROChoice Voter  
Vol. 54, No. 1 Autumn, 2024

## All Eyes Are On New York

With New York tilting toward Harris-Walz, pro-choice advocates must focus on electing Mondaire Jones in Congressional District 17 and on passing Proposition 1 – the Equal Rights Amendment (Prop 1).

In 2022, right after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, New York lost 5 Democratically-held congressional seats which cost the entire nation a pro-choice-controlled House of Representatives. Only because of the stewardship of President Biden, Vice President Harris and Senate Majority Leader NYS Senator Schumer did the country avert total legislative disaster. Now NY has the opportunity to right its horrible wrong.

CD 17 was lost by less than 2,000 votes. Why? Because the Democratic incumbent failed to both highlight his personal impact on abortion rights AND his opponent Mike Lawler's horrific record. Since his election in 2022, Republican "MAGA Mike", as he is known because he is in lockstep with the Trump agenda, has already voted twice for a national abortion ban, and nine times against abortion; and while in the NYS Assembly, he voted against Prop 1. Now, as he seeks a second term, he is attempting to "rebrand" himself – as "IVF Mike" – a total distortion of reality. This representation is clearly fraudulent because he refuses to provide any details, e.g., what happens to the unused frozen embryos; will they be required to be up for adoption in an "operation rescue" plan as his extremist base wants; who owns the unused frozen embryos: the individual or the government?

Lawler's strident opposition to abortion, his voting record

## What's At Stake on Nov. 5

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of Election 2024. With the presidential choice between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, and the entire House and one-third of the Senate on the ballot, voters will be putting people into positions of such power that our personal lives will be directly affected in ways that we can't even imagine.

The choice between the major parties is crystal clear. Their ideologies are unambiguous and opposite, offering contrasting positions on the role of government from social programs, abortion rights, gender equity, Medicare, Social Security, tax cuts, gay rights, foreign policy, church-state separation, environmental protection, to the federal budget. Project 2025 is real. As Gov. Walz said, "when someone takes the time to draw up a playbook, they're going to use it."

If Republicans take control of Washington, they will pass a national abortion ban. If Democrats are elected, they could pass a law protecting abortion access throughout the country.

Thanks to many brave women and families coming forward to tell their deeply personal and harrowing experiences, voters are increasingly grasping the monumental impact the Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* has had on our lives, and the role Congress will play in our reproductive future. Issue advocates for all points of view have long tried to interest voters in the Supreme Court, warning that the

supporting his position that "life begins in the womb," and his actions as an elected official pit him against the vast majority of the electorate in CD 17 – pro-choice voters. Lawler, who is considering a run for governor if he wins re-election, is on the record for wanting to roll back access to abortion and putting bans in place here in NYS. For all those who "like" Mike, please remember that a vote for Lawler is a vote against everything pro-choice voters care about. Mondaire will represent you; Lawler won't.

Lawler and other MAGA extremists are working to defeat Prop 1 by whitewashing their real positions and attempting to redefine "pro-choice" to mean support for abortion access only in cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the woman – and only in the first trimester. Make no mistake, if given control in Albany and/or Washington, they will pass these abortion bans.

**Prop 1 is the long-awaited Equal Rights Amendment.** It will protect abortion access by putting it into the NYS Constitution. Regardless of who takes control in Albany and counties around the state, bodily autonomy will be protected. No one but the federal government will be able to stamp out abortion care. In addition, it protects all New Yorkers against discrimination – seniors, disabled, LGBTQ – and in sports too! **NY voters will not get a second chance to pass Prop 1. Turn the Ballot Over and Vote YES! It's Now or Never.**

**ALERT:** Do **NOT** vote on the Working Families Party line in Senate District 38 or in Congressional District 17. These rogue candidates are **NOT** endorsed by the Working Families Party.

president will appoint justices and tip the balance of power. But it took Trump's stacking the Court with the appointment of 3 extremists who joined with the 3 Bush I and II appointees to overturn *Roe* for the public to finally grasp what was at stake. After years of WCLA - Choice Matters sounding the alarm and pleading with the voters, a half-century of precedent for women's bodily autonomy was decimated.

The next president will nominate as many as 3 Supreme Court justices. If that president is Kamala Harris, and the Senate Majority Leader remains Chuck Schumer, the Court will begin to shift away from its ultra-right religious extremist composition and back towards the center. It will be up to YOU – THE VOTERS to decide on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH**  
**EARLY VOTING: Sat. 10/26 - Sun. 11/3**

- **Early Voting:** At ANY of the Early Voting Centers in the County.
- **Absentee Ballot** - Vote by Mail – Requesting a ballot by mail or online by 10/26. Pick up an absentee ballot on any day including November 5.
- **Election Day.** Voting at the Polls.

For more information, call 914-995-5700.

# Join the Fight!

By Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, CEO & President

**Your support is our future.  
Your gift will help us continue to fight against daily threats to women's reproductive health.**

In the midst of the greatest assault on women's reproductive health care ever witnessed in the United States, there is hope. Kamala Harris. She is the first to use the word "abortion" unapologetically on the national stage; to hold a townhall meeting focused entirely on abortion access and care; and to give voice to our need for complete bodily autonomy. While she is at the top of this ticket, there are many national and state elections to be won, laws and policies to be changed, and judges to appoint.

**To meet this moment, Choice Matters must apply all that we know, going farther than ever before.** For 52 years, Choice Matters has fought for full unimpeded access to comprehensive reproductive health care for ALL. We have been in the trenches, fighting every single day for the women of New York. And despite the odds, we continue to win, as we push slowly and methodically forward.

**Anti-reproductive healthcare extremists have been working for decades to chip away at our rights.** They were methodical, devising a strategy focused on the courts, state, and local elections, and even school boards. It paid off. Not only have they seized control of the US Supreme Court and eviscerated Roe, they've succeeded in taking over the federal court system and state houses. They realized that no election was too local to ignore.

Choice Matters has been practicing this same strategy for 52 years. And we've made tremendous progress here in NYS: our two US Senators, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Leader of the NYS Senate, Speaker of the Assembly, 65% of NYS Congressional Representatives, the vast majority of the Senate, Assembly, and Westchester County Legislature, County Executive, County Clerk, and District Attorney – **They are ALL pro-choice!** Compare that with just 12 years ago!

Without your financial support, and our volunteers, we couldn't have done it. Change takes time and money, and we are continuously investing in the future.

**Locally we are witnessing the rise of a new crop of anti-choice fanatics** energized by the overturning of Roe, state bans, and actions by federal courts. They're running for office at every level; and in their attempt to appease voters, they are whitewashing their positions and records to "rebrand" themselves. Why? Because NY voters support abortion rights and comprehensive reproductive care by a huge margin. But Choice Matters will not allow them to redefine the term "pro-choice" to suit their campaigns or suggest that the term "anti-choice" applies only to those who advocate for a total abortion ban.

**In the face of all of this, Choice Matters is continuing to succeed, playing the long game.**



**Choice Matters is a powerful pro-choice organization with a proven strategy. Your generous contribution is critical.**



- **94% of the candidates Choice Matters supported WON on Election Day in 2023.** We successfully protected the most pro-choice County Board of Legislators in Westchester history!

- **We fought tirelessly to elect a pro-choice government trifecta in Albany** – and the rewards have been huge. Bills have been passed and signed into law that Choice

Matters considers key to protecting and advancing reproductive health care.

- **Choice Matters created CATCH** (Center for Analysis and Tracking of Clinic Harassers, [www.catch.choicematters.org](http://www.catch.choicematters.org)). This unique national resource center tracks anti-abortion terrorists, compiles strategic resources for clinics, and will showcase legal strategies to successfully halt harassers. Between 2022-2024, CATCH was key to:
  - **The successful prosecution of three violent actors** who invaded a reproductive medical facility in White Plains, NY;
  - **The successful defense of the Westchester County "Clinic Access Law,"** the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act, in New York's Southern District; and
  - **The successful lawsuit brought by the NYS Attorney General's Office** against militant, anti-abortion Red Rose Rescue for the blocking and invading of clinics.

Westchester County has contracted with Choice Matters for CATCH to develop a curriculum to train police officers on the reproductive rights laws that they are called upon to enforce.

**These "wins" have been key to protecting New York women. But we need your help. Waging this never-ending battle has depleted our financial reserves. Your contribution is needed more than ever.**

Your support enables Choice Matters to move mountains.

**Please make a donation in support of the ProChoice Voting Guide.** A gift envelope is enclosed. You can also go to: [choicematters.org](http://choicematters.org). Thank you for being part of our team!

50+

Choice Matters

"ABORTION"

It's on the Ballot!

Invest in Your Freedom, Family & Future

Special Guests include:

NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Senators Pete Harckham & Shelley Mayer

Frontline Warrior Honoree

Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah

**In Support of Proposition 1 - NYS Equal Rights Amendment, Our Pro-Choice Candidates & The ProChoice Voting Guide**

**Thursday, October 24, 2024 6:30 PM - 9 PM**

<https://tinyurl.com/5cpwk9ks>

RSVP - Address will be provided.

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

# 2024 PROChoice Voting Guide

## WCLA-PAC and PROChoice Voter

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

### U.S. PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

**KAMALA HARRIS / TIM WALZ (D,W)**

Donald J. Trump/JD Vance (R,C) SBA/RTL

### US SENATE

**KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND\* (D,W)**

Michael D. Sapaicone (R,C)  
Diane Sare (L)

### NYS SUPREME COURT JUDGES

9th Judicial District: Westchester, Putnam, Rockland,  
Dutchess & Orange. (Vote for up to 5)

**COLLEEN DUFFY\* (D,C)**

**BRETT BROGE (D,C)**

**KYLE C. MCGOVERN (D,C)**

**MARY ANNE SCATTARETICO-NABER (D,C)**

**RACHEL E. TANGUAY (D,C)**

**THOMAS HUMBACH (R)**

**EDWARD MEVEC (R)**

Karen Ostberg (R)  
Mark Starkman (R)  
Leslie Kahn (R)

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

• **District 16**

Westchester County: Eastchester, Larchmont, Mamaroneck,  
Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, Rye, Scarsdale, White  
Plains, Yonkers & most of Greenburgh; parts of the Bronx.

**GEORGE S. LATIMER (D)**

Miriam Levitt Flisser (R) SBA/RTL

• **District 17**

Westchester County: Bedford, Cortlandt, Mt. Kisco,  
Mt. Pleasant, Lewisboro, New Castle, North Castle,  
North Salem, Ossining, Peekskill, Pound Ridge, Somers,  
Yorktown & parts of Tarrytown; plus Rockland, Putnam,  
& parts of Dutchess

**MONDAIRE L. JONES (D)**

Michael V. Lawler\* (R,C) SBA/RTL  
Anthony Frascone (W)

### NEW YORK STATE SENATE

• **District 34**

Westchester County: Pelham & parts of New Rochelle;  
parts of the Bronx

**NATHALIA FERNANDEZ\* (D)**

Edwinna Herrera (R,C)

• **District 35**

Westchester County: Greenburgh, Mt. Pleasant  
& parts of Yonkers.

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

Khristen M. Kerr (R) SBA/RTL

### WCLA PAC & ProChoice Voter Endorsement Policy, 2024

WCLA PAC and ProChoice Voter make their endorsements based on the candidate ratings 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.

Candidates who fail to return the questionnaire are rated anti-choice and have been fully informed of that consequence before making their decision. 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. Candidates who do not participate in an interview if requested are rated anti-choice and have been fully informed of that consequence before making their decision. Endorsements are made but not necessarily accepted.

WCLA – Choice Matters is non-partisan and is not allied with any political party. The Organization's sole mission is to fight for comprehensive reproductive healthcare for all women and to eliminate all inequities in accessing that care. The Organization holds all candidates to the same standards, and does not give any individual special treatment. Endorsements are made but not necessarily accepted. WCLA – Choice Matters has never and will never let its judgement and political opinions be compromised on any basis.

• **District 36**

Westchester County: parts of Mt. Vernon;  
parts of the Bronx.

**JAMAAL T. BAILEY\* (D)**

Irene Estrada (C)

• **District 37**

Westchester County: Bedford, Eastchester, Harrison,  
Mamaroneck, North Castle, Pound Ridge, Rye, Scarsdale,  
White Plains; parts of Yonkers.

**SHELLEY B. MAYER\* (D,W)**

Tricia S. Lindsay (R,C)

• **District 38**

Most of Rockland County.

**ELIJAH REICHLIN-MELNICK (D)**

Bill Weber\* (R,C)

Barbara J. Francis (W)

• **District 40**

Westchester County: Bedford, Cortlandt, Lewisboro,  
Mt. Kisco, New Castle, North Salem, Ossining, Peekskill,  
Pound Ridge, Somers, Yorktown; Dutchess County:  
Beekman, Pawling; Putnam County: Carmel, Kent,  
Patterson, Southeast; Rockland: Stony Point.

**PETER B. HARCKHAM\* (D,W)**

Gina Arena (R,C) SBA/RTL

### NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

• **District 88**

Westchester County: Pelham, Scarsdale; parts of  
Eastchester, Greenburgh, New Rochelle & White Plains.

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

Thomas H. Fix, Jr. (R,C) SBA/RTL

• **District 89**

Westchester County: Mt. Vernon, parts of Yonkers.

**J. GARY PRETLOW\* (D)**

• **District 90**

Westchester County: Parts of Yonkers.

Nader J. Sayegh\* (D)  
John Isaac (R,C)

• **District 91**

Westchester County: parts of New Rochelle,  
Rye & Mamaroneck.

**STEVE OTIS\* (D,W)**

• **District 92**

Westchester County: Mt Pleasant;  
parts of Greenburgh & Yonkers.

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

Alessandro Crocco (R,C)

• **District 93**

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

**CHRIS BURDICK\* (D,W)**

• **District 94**

Westchester County: Somers, parts of Yorktown;  
Putnam County: Carmel, Kent, Putnam Valley,  
Southeast, Patterson.

**ZACHARY C. COUZENS (D)**

Matthew J. Slater\* (R,C) SBA/RTL

• **District 95**

Westchester County: Cortlandt, Peekskill, Ossining &  
parts of Yorktown; Putnam County: Philipstown

**DANA LEVENBERG\* (D,W)**

Michael Capalbo (R,C)

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**SUSAN CACACE (D)**

John A. Sarcone III (R) SBA/RTL

### COUNTY COURT JUDGE

**SHERALYN PULVER GOODMAN (D,W)**

Richard Fava-Pastilha (R,C)

### FAMILY COURT JUDGE

(Vote for up to 4)

**RAYNETTE N. BREWSTER (D,W)**

**ALLISON E. BURKE (D)**

**MARITZA FUGARO-NORTON (D,W)**

**SHARON G. MATTHIE (D)**

Key to ratings:

**PRO-CHOICE, ENDORSED**

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED

Anti-choice, not endorsed

\* = Incumbent

SBA/RTL: anti-choice Susan B. Anthony/Right to Life  
Endorsed/Preferred, Past/Present

Parties: D: Democrat R: Republican

C: Conservative W: Working Families L: LaRouche



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  
914/946-5363  
www.ChoiceMatters.org

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TUESDAY, NOV. 5<sup>TH</sup>  
TURN YOUR BALLOT OVER  
VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 1  
THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT!

## VOTE YES on PROPOSITION 1 = NYS EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

### *Let's Put Abortion Protection in the New York State Constitution.*

After long-fought battles, New York's Equal Rights Amendment will finally be on the ballot this November, as Proposition 1 (Prop 1). With your help, abortion will finally become part of the NYS Constitution and thus a protected right – where the Lee Zeldins and Mike Lawlers of the world can't touch it.

Prop 1 closes loopholes to make sure that no New Yorker can be discriminated against. In addition to protecting abortion rights, it will elevate access to all reproductive health care including contraception and IVF, and protect older New Yorkers, those with disabilities, and the LGBT community.

**BUT there is a formidable opposition movement led by MAGA anti-choice extremists that is spreading disinformation with the goal of defeating Prop 1.**

**Why? Because those opposing Prop 1 vehemently oppose abortion.** Mike Lawler, whose campaign states "life begins in the womb," voted against Prop 1 when in the NYS Assembly. Former gubernatorial candidate and congressman, anti-choice fanatic Lee Zeldin held a press conference in Albany to galvanize the opposition. Senate candidates are even crafting their entire campaign message to defeat Prop 1, weaving fear-mongering lies into their political materials.

**If these zealots succeed, they will next move to overturn our legislated abortion protections.** Zeldin came within striking distance of winning the governorship two years ago. Lawler is already on record for considering a run for the job in 2026 and has begun detailing how he would dismantle NYS' abortion protections. Even if they don't win the majority in the Senate and Assembly, they could cut funding to Planned Parenthood, appoint an anti-choice Health Commissioner, take away Medicaid funding, and close clinics – *and that's just for starters.*

**Here are the FACTS:** Prop 1 is totally consistent with the federal Title IX and NYS Human Rights Laws. States must comply with federal legislation. Signed into law in 1972 by President Richard Nixon, Title IX "prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance." *Women have benefited beyond anyone's wildest dreams from Title IX, and will continue to!*

**Now it's up to you. Please tell everyone – your sons, daughters, partners, neighbors – about Prop 1 – and on November 5<sup>th</sup>, remember to TURN YOUR BALLOT OVER and VOTE YES on Proposition 1 FOR Equal Rights!**

Paid for by PROCHOICE Voter

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