



# PROChoice

Newsletter of  
Choice Matters, Inc.,  
WCLA-PAC and PROChoice Voter  
Vol. 46, No. 1 Autumn, 2018

## If Not Now, WHEN?

**2018** will be one of the most important elections of our lives. It is our first real chance to put the brakes on the runaway train wreck of the Trump administration and Congress – *and we may not have a second chance.*

Donald Trump's all-out-war on women is known, and frequently referenced in terms of his pussy grabs and support for pedophile Senate candidate Roy Moore – but the details of his actual actions are less well known. For example, Trump is committed to eliminating the Affordable Care Act's requirement to ensure no co-pays for birth control for all women, and eradicating the required coverage for pre-existing conditions. He is threatening to institute a Domestic Gag Rule which would cut all Title X funding from any facility that mentions "abortion", thereby successfully fulfilling his pledge to defund Planned Parenthood.

His most long-lasting and damaging legacy will be on our judicial system. Trump has totally politicized the judicial nomination process. With the assistance of the Federalist

Society, Vice President Pence and Majority Leader McConnell, Trump is packing the federal courts with anti-choice, anti-science, predominantly evangelical and Federalist Society members - many of whom have been deemed "unqualified" by legal organizations including the American Bar Assn. Trump has already successfully appointed 69 federal court judges, more than his 2 predecessors.

Appointee Brett Kavanaugh is the personification of Trump's ideal Supreme Court justice. Kavanaugh is on record for his stance that a sitting president cannot be indicted during his term in office. Given all that is transpiring - the Mueller investigation, the lawsuit brought by the NYS AG against the Trump Foundation, the lawsuit brought by 200 Congressional Democrats against Trump for violating the emoluments clause of the Constitution by doing business with foreign governments while in office – Trump is seeking a political ally like Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court. The fact that Kavanaugh is rabidly anti-choice, a sexual assaulter and committed to finding the pre-existing conditions coverage

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## Endorsements:

### Targeted Races

#### CONGRESS

**Sean Patrick Maloney (CD 18)** is a strong ally of all pro-choice groups and coalitions. He is 100% pro-choice and has voted consistently to protect women's comprehensive healthcare including the funding of Planned Parenthood. His opponent is vehemently against women's reproductive rights and endorsed by the extremist group Right to Life 9th Judicial District. **Re-elect Sean Patrick Maloney!**

### Four Critical State Races

#### GOVERNOR/LT GOVERNOR

**Andrew Cuomo & Kathy Hochul** stand firmly in our corner. The governor is the most powerful person in the state regarding abortion and family planning. He/she proposes, signs and vetoes legislation, has budget power, and makes crucial administrative and judicial appointments. Cuomo and Hochul are committed to making the Reproductive Health Act law, and have enacted executive orders to stave off damages inflicted by the Trump administration. Their Republican opponents are both anti-choice and endorsed by the extremist group Right to Life 9th Judicial District. These opponents will stand with Trump and veto any attempt to move women's healthcare into the 21st century. **We Stand with Cuomo & Hochul!**

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Letitia (Tish) James** is the right person for the job! The NYS AG has been holding the federal government accountable and has shown no fear when threatened by Washington. The NYS AG must continue to do so. Letitia James will do that! She is presently the New York City Public Advocate, and

**Take this Voting Guide with you to the Polls on NOV. 6TH!**

has served on the City Council and in the Brooklyn Regional Office of the NYS Attorney General's Office. Her Republican opponent is anti-choice and has promised to dismiss all cases that seem "politically motivated." He is a self-proclaimed Trump supporter who has promised to "review the office's actions against the president." **Elect Letitia James!**

#### THE STATE SENATE

**Peter Harckham (SD 40)** is 100% pro-choice. He supports the Reproductive Health Act, and believes New York women deserve 21st century healthcare. In sharp contrast, his opponent believes that his religious convictions are more important than a woman's right to comprehensive reproductive health care. This opponent opposes the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act and wants to deny women access to emergency contraception. This Trump ally vehemently opposes the Reproductive Health Act which would remove abortion from New York's penal code, put it in the health code, and provide women with the healthcare we deserve. **Peter Harckham has our overwhelming Support!**

#### THE STATE ASSEMBLY

**David Buchwald (AD 93) & Sandra (Sandy) Galef (AD 95)** are 100% pro-choice and co-sponsors of the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act and the Reproductive Health Act. They are outspoken supporters of Planned Parenthood, equal pay, and paid family leave. In sharp contrast, their opponents are anti-choice conservative extremists. **Re-Elect David Buchwald & Sandra Galef.**

# Use Your Rage!

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



The successful appointment of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court is more than disturbing. Survivors from all over the country spoke out and millions called, protested, and marched. Dr. Blasey Ford gave truly credible, moving testimony and two additional women stood ready. Chief Justice Roberts received numerous complaints against Kavanaugh from the DC Court of Appeals, which he refused to investigate. Kavanaugh lied under oath to the US Senate. The so-called FBI investigation refused to interview the many who offered credible information. And during his own testimony, Kavanaugh showed that he does not have the temperament for the job. But still, the Senate voted to confirm him.

This is not the first time this group of white old men rammed a candidate onto the Supreme Court, and unless we work smart it will not be the last.

**1** Susan Collins is proof of Choice Matters' mantra: If being pro-choice is not at the top of a candidate's agenda, **THAT PERSON IS OF NO USE TO WOMEN.** We will *not* support you. Collins' comments and vote at the confirmation hearing prove she has been selling a *false* narrative. She is neither pro-choice nor pro-woman. The IDC members made the same false claims and we ousted 6 of them in

the September Primary. **Now it's time to take Collins out.** She's up for re-election in 2020. *We must be ready to work starting November 7th.*

2. Unbelievable as it may seem, many women took this personally – not as survivors but as the mothers of sons. They bought Trump's narrative that it is a horrible time for men. Some of these very women identify as “progressive” but still they blame the “girls.” As a sexual assault victim and the mother of 2 sons – 2 black sons – the population most likely to be *falsely* accused of any crime, I trust my sons **AND I believe women. People need to take responsibility for their actions, and that includes how we raise our children.**

3. Democrats must look in the proverbial mirror and practice what they preach. They must stop supporting any candidate who does not support women's comprehensive reproductive rights. Plus, they must start recruiting strong, qualified women to help lead the way. Even in Westchester, the top elected offices are all held by men, and both parties are led by men. **That must change.**

4. Choice Matters needs your help. We are not affiliated with a national organization. We are YOUR local pro-choice organization—your eyes, your ears, fighting for your rights, fighting to make NY a Reproductive Rights sanctuary. The more you invest in us, the greater our impact. **Please make a contribution today.** You can donate online at: [ChoiceMatters.org](http://ChoiceMatters.org) or mail it to: Choice Matters, PO Box 1175, White Plains, NY 10602.

## If Not Now, WHEN?

unconstitutional when the case makes it to the Supreme Court are just extra benefits for the Donald.

We have had anti-choice presidents before who catered to their zealot constituents; but we've never had one who shunned any vestige of governmental protocol, knew absolutely nothing about the balance of power, allied himself with Russia, and let “hate” be his guiding light.

Often unacknowledged is that Trump could not have destroyed the environment, housing, voter rights, etc. alone. He found co-conspirators in federal and state governments. Not only have none of them stood up to him, they have profited. Many of this Republican-controlled Congress grew their own personal wealth with the passage of the massive rewrite of the tax code. Some of Trump's very first supporters were Republican Congressmen and Senators who call New York home.

The NYS Republican Party of Rockefeller, of fiscally conservative socially progressive individuals, is gone. Just as the National Right to Life PAC endorsed Trump and Pence because of their extreme anti-choice agenda, many of the NYS Republican Party's candidates are endorsed by the zealot anti-woman Right to Life 9th Judicial District – *including their gubernatorial candidate.*

**But. This. Is. Our. Time.** There is a clear road to stopping this oncoming train.

People are taking to the streets in unprecedented numbers. Knocking on doors. Making phone calls. Talking with neighbors they never knew they had.

**Here in New York** we won last November, and again this

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April and again this September. We took back the County Executive's seat; we won the Special Election for NYS Senate in SD 37; we elected a super majority on the County Board of Legislators – And in this September Primary, we won again, sending 6 of the 8 IDC members packing.

Now we face the biggest challenge. We must take back the House of Representatives, hopefully the US Senate, and the New York State Senate.

New York women will only be safe when we pass the Reproductive Health Act and the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act. For that, we must have a Democratic majority in the New York State Senate.

People incorrectly think that there is no problem for women in New York State. They mistakenly consider NY a safe healthcare haven. The reality, however, is quite different. 53% of NY counties have no abortion clinics and the number of abortion providers is decreasing every year. NY's law was written before *Roe v. Wade* and does not provide the full constitutional protection guaranteed by *Roe*. Abortion is still in the penal code.

It is now or maybe never. With a new Supreme Court justice, *Roe v. Wade* will be gutted. NY women need to know they are safe here

So, please, learn from Dr. Christine Blasey Ford.

**Speak Up Loudly. And VOTE!**

**Help us save money! Send us your e-mail address to  
[ChoiceMatters@ChoiceMatters.org](mailto:ChoiceMatters@ChoiceMatters.org)**

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

# 2018 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.

### GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

**ANDREW CUOMO\***  
**KATHY HOCHUL (D,I,WEP)**

Marc Molinaro / Julie Killian (R,C,REF) RTL  
HOWIE HAWKINS / Jia Lee (G)  
CYNTHIA E. NIXON / Jumaane Williams (W)  
Stephanie A. Miner / Michael J. Volpe (SAM)  
Larry Sharpe / Andrew C. Hollister (LBT)

### COMPTROLLER

THOMAS DINAPOLI\* (D,W,I,WEP, REF)  
Jonathan Trichter (R,C)  
Mark Dunlea (G)  
Cruger E. Gallaudet (LBT)

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

**LETITIA A. JAMES (D,W,I)**

Keith Wofford (R,C)  
MICHAEL SUSSMAN (G)  
Nancy B. Silwa (REF)  
CHRISTOPHER B. GARVEY (LBT)

### U.S. SENATOR

**KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND\*(D,W,I,WEP )**

Chele Chiavacci Farley (R,C,REF) RTL

### NYS SUPREME COURT JUDGES

9th Judicial District: Westchester, Putnam,  
Rockland, Dutchess & Orange.

(7 Vacancies but you can vote for only the 6 Pro-Choice Candidates)

**HAL B. GREENWALD (D)**  
**KATHIE E. DAVIDSON (D,R,C,I)**  
**WILLIAM J. GIACOMO (D,I)**  
**DAVID F. EVERETT (D)**  
**BARRY E. WARHIT (D)**  
**JOAN B. LEFKOWITZ (D,I)**

Thomas P. Zugibe (D,C,I)  
James F. Reitz (R,C)  
Phillip A. Grimaldi Jr (R,C)  
Robert H. Freehill (R,C,I,REF)

### COUNTY COURT JUDGE

**SUSAN M. CAPECI\* (D,W)**

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### • District 16

Westchester County: Eastchester, parts of Greenburgh,  
Mamaroneck, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham,  
City of Rye, Scarsdale, Yonkers; plus parts of  
the Bronx.

**ELIOT ENGEL\* (D,W,WEP)**

#### • District 17

Westchester County: Cortlandt, parts of  
Greenburgh, Harrison, City of Mt. Kisco, Mt.  
Pleasant, New Castle, North Castle, Ossining,  
Peekskill, Rye Town, parts of Yorktown; plus  
Rockland County.

**NITA LOWEY\* (D,W,WEP)**

Joseph J. Ciardullo (REF)

#### • District 18

Westchester County: Bedford, Lewisboro, parts  
of Mt. Kisco, parts of New Castle, parts of North  
Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers,  
parts of Yorktown; plus Beacon, East Fishkill,  
Fishkill, Poughkeepsie (city & town),  
Wappinger in Dutchess County; plus Putnam  
and Orange Counties.

**SEAN PATRICK MALONEY\* (D,W, I,WEP)**

James O'Donnell (R,C,REF) RTL

### NEW YORK STATE SENATE

#### • District 34

Westchester County: parts of Mt. Vernon,  
Pelham; plus parts of the Bronx.

**ALESSANDRA BIAGGI (D,W)**

Richard A. Ribustello (R)  
Antonio Vitiello (C)  
Jeff Klein\* (I)

#### • District 35

Westchester County: Greenburgh, Scarsdale, parts  
of New Rochelle, of White Plains & of Yonkers.

**ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS\*  
(D,W,I,WEP,REF)**

#### • District 36

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

**JAMAAL BAILEY\* (D,W)**

Robert L. Diamond (C)

#### • District 37

Westchester County: Bedford, Eastchester,  
Harrison, Mamaroneck, No. Castle, Rye (city &  
town), parts of White Plains and Yonkers.

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

#### • District 38

Westchester County: Ossining; plus Rockland  
County: Clarkstown, Orangetown, Ramapo.

David Carlucci\* (D,WEP)

C. Scott Vanderhoef (R,C,I,REF) RTL

#### • District 40

Westchester County: Cortlandt, Lewisboro, Mt.  
Pleasant, City of Mt. Kisco, New Castle, North  
Salem, City of Peekskill, Pound Ridge, Somers,  
Yorktown; Dutchess County: Beekman, Pawling;  
Putnam County: Carmel, Patterson, Southeast.

**PETER HARCKHAM (D,W,WEP)**

Terrence Murphy\* (R,C,I,REF) SBA/RTL

### WCLA PAC & ProChoice Voter Endorsement Policy, 2018

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. 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.

### NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

#### • District 88

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

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

#### • District 89

Westchester County: Mt. Vernon, parts of Yonkers.

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

#### • District 90

Westchester County: Parts of Yonkers.

Nader Sayegh (D,W, I,G,WEP, REF)  
Joe Pinion (R,C)

#### • District 91

Westchester County: Mamaroneck, parts of New  
Rochelle, Rye (city & Town.)

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

#### • District 92

Westchester County: Greenburgh & Mt Pleasant.

**THOMAS J. ABINANTI\* (D,W,REF)**

#### • District 93

Westchester County: Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro,  
Mt. Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, No. Salem,  
Pound Ridge, parts of White Plains.

**DAVID BUCHWALD\* (D,W,I,WEP,REF)**

John Nukulovic (R,C)

#### • District 94

Westchester County: Somers, Yorktown; plus  
Putnam County: Putnam Valley, Carmel,  
Southeast, Patterson.

**VEDAT GASHI (D,W,I,WEP)**

Kevin M.Byrne\* (R,C,REF)

#### • District 95

Westchester County: Cortlandt, Ossining,  
Peekskill; plus Putnam County: Phillipstown  
and Kent.

**SANDRA R. GALEF\* (D,W,WEP,REF)**

Lawrence A. Chiulli (R,C) RTL

Key to ratings:

**PRO-CHOICE, ENDORSED**

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED

Anti-choice, not endorsed

\* = Incumbent

® = Former Right to Life candidate

SBA/RTL: Susan B. Anthony/Right to Life Endorsed  
/Preferred

Parties: D: Democrat R: Republican

C: Conservative G: Green W: Working Families

I: Independence WEP: Women's Equality

REF: Reform RTL: Right to Life LBT: Libertarian

SAM: Serve America Movement

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

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**IN THE TIME OF KAVANAUGH  
MAKE NYS  
A REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS SANCTUARY  
VOTE - TUES. NOV. 6<sup>TH</sup>**

## **Judges - *Learn a Lesson from Kavanaugh***

If we do not like something, we must change it – BUT change takes knowledge and work.

The last three months have shined a light on the importance of judges and the US Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the average person knows little if anything about the judicial system beyond, at most, the US Supreme Court.

Yes, the US Supreme Court is the biggest banana but the other courts affect our lives so much more on a daily basis. AND the role personal perspective plays in judicial decisions is seismic, in all courts and at all levels. Personal opinions do matter. Temperament, previous decisions and prior actions tell exactly what kind of judge a candidate will be. Personal bias affects how a judge treats those who come before her/him, the sentence imposed, the bail required, and more.

That is exactly why Donald Trump has been appointing only judges who the ultra-reactionary Federalist Society selects.

Every time you vote for judicial candidates, you are voting for someone with a personal history. That is precisely the reason WCLA – Choice Matters and WCLA PAC interview

each judicial nominee, and if the nominee refuses to be interviewed, we rate accordingly. If someone wants to serve in the courts, we all need to know more. Saying, “I will follow the law” or “it is established law” generally means that the candidate does not want to share his/her view with you, and probably disagrees with you.

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? They can outright deny the abortion or simply draw out the decision until the window for a termination has passed. In Alabama, some judges even appoint an attorney to represent the fetus.

This year, for NYS Supreme Court Justice, you can choose 6 qualified attorneys who have experience and great understanding of the issues confronting women and their families, **OR** you can vote for their anti-choice opponents. Use your vote wisely.

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