

# Westchester Rising

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Friday October 29, 2021

## Westchester Police Crack Down on Aggressive, Obnoxious Drivers



Westchester County Police regularly conduct special enforcement to combat aggressive driving, drunken driving and distracted driving. In recent months, increased enforcement was also conducted in a more unofficial category – obnoxious driving.

Three Questions from the Westchester County Police to county drivers and residents.

1-Have you seen -- and heard -- an increase in the number of vehicles with loud/modified exhaust systems --including ones that emit a series of popping noises? So have we. Since July, our officers have issued about 140 summonses to drivers with these and other illegal, tricked-out exhaust systems.

2-Have you been sitting in traffic only to see other motorists go past by driving on the shoulder? So have we. Our officers have issued multiple summonses for that violation.

3-Have you been in a line of traffic at an exit ramp only to see a car up ahead cut across the zebra stripes/hazard markings to jump the line? So have we. And we issued multiple summonses for that violation too. Overall, about 350 summonses have been issued during this “obnoxious driving” initiative.

County Executive George Latimer said the enforcement targeted both quality-of-life and safety concerns. “Our residents are fed up with the loud noise from these illegal exhaust systems. It has become a significant quality-of-life issue and I applaud the County Police for addressing it,” Latimer said.

Public Safety Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason said, “The enforcement we have conducted is in response to conditions that our officers see while on patrol and also in response to concerns brought to us by members of the public.”

County Police officers have paid extra attention to these violations of Vehicle & Traffic law along the Bronx River Parkway, Saw Mill River Parkway, Hutchinson River Parkway and Cross County Parkway in the past two months.

Gleason noted that at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, when traffic was lighter than usual, County Police saw – and addressed – an increase in drag racing

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## Felony Complaint Filed Against Robert Durst for Wife Kathie’s 1982 Murder



*Robert Durst left, at his recent trial in California*

*By Dan Murphy*

The strange life of Robert Durst is coming to a close in many ways. Durst, 78, was convicted in a California courtroom in the 2000 murder of Susan Berman in Los Angeles. Berman had served as Durst’s spokesperson and companion regarding the death of his wife, Kathie McCormack Durst, who vanished from their Westchester home in North Salem in 1982.

Durst is believed to have killed Berman because he feared that she knew too much about his involvement in the death of his wife, and also feared that she was about to speak to law enforcement. After the guilty verdict, Durst was sentenced to life in prison on Oct. 14.

Durst tested positive for COVID and is on a ventilator, and law enforcement sources believe that he could die at any time.

As Durst was being found guilty in California, published reports claim that Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah has convened a grand jury into the death of Kathie Durst, 39 years ago. The New York Times reported that Rocah’s office “is bringing about two dozen witnesses before a grand jury with the goal of charging Mr. Durst with murder, according to three people with knowledge of the proceedings.”

As all of this was occurring, on Oct. 17, NYS Police Investigator Joseph Becerra walked into the Town of Lewisboro court clerks office and filed a Felony Complaint charging Robert Durst with murder of his wife. The complaint, which does not hold the same power as an indictment from a DA or a U.S. Attorney, consists of a one page document which reads, “investigator Joseph Becerra, of the NYS Police, Westchester County, accuses the defendant names above (Robert Durst) of the following offense committed on or near 62 Hoyt Street, South Salem in the Town of Lewisboro, NY, on or about January 31, 1982.

“Count One: Murder in the Second Degree. The defendant, at the above time and place did, with the intent to cause the death of such other person. The defendant, Robert Durst, at the above time and place, with *the* intent to cause the death of Kathleen McCormack Durst, caused the death of Kathleen McCormack Durst.

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## Westchester Election 2021: Who Will Come Out and Vote?



*Republican County Executive candidate Christine Sculti*

*By Dan Murphy*

Most of the Westchester electorate are as divided as the rest of our country, with democrats holding the majority in voter registration and in most governments, but republicans still in control of several Towns across the county. But in a close election, 10% of the remaining independent voters will pick the winner.

Four years ago, George Latimer defeated Rob Astorino for County Executive by a 57%-43% margin. In 2020 President Donald Trump lost Westchester by a 67%-32% margin. What will the 2021 results be?

Christine Sculti, the republican candidate for County Executive, has actively campaigned in republican towns, highlighting her support of a group opposed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion education in school districts, and using the same playbook from our former President.

Sculti, as most republicans have, supported President Trump, but that should not disqualify anyone in Westchester from holding office. But anyone with a Trump photo in their archives should be prepared to defend their support of Trump. Democrats will keep playing the same strategy until it doesn’t work. That is the dilemma that many republicans have in New York.

The other countywide issue, as always, is property taxes, and the county portion of a homeowners tax bill has been reduced under democrat County Executive George Latimer. Sculti claims that taxes are out of control, and they are. As most homeowners know, Westchester residents pay the highest property taxes in the nation. But you can’t put the blame on that on Latimer, who has not gone back to the taxpayers for any outrageous tax increases in his four years. Yes, a democratic leader in Westchester has done right by the taxpayers of our county.

Sculti’s support of Save Our Schools Westchester, which is founded by her

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## Pataki Returns to Help Republicans Make a Final Push in Westchester



*By Dan Murphy*

Former NY Governor George Pataki is making his political presence known in the Westchester elections of 2021. Pataki, the last republican to win statewide office, (in 2002), is supporting republican candidates for office across the county.

Some have speculated that Pataki, who ran for President in 2016, wants to return to public life and perhaps run for Governor again. Others say that Pataki wants to push back on the progressive agendas being pushed in New York City, Albany and in Washington.

Another reason may be because Pataki wants to be a part of an effort to keep the Westchester GOP alive with candidates running for office across the county. Or maybe the reason is a combination of all three.

One republican candidate that we agree with Pataki on, and endorse for election Nov. 3 is Joe Torres, candidate for Westchester County legislator in district 1- (Peekskill and Cortlandt Manor). Torres is a former Peekskill City Councilmember who has positive experience serving in government.

“When I started as a Peekskill City Councilman, we were in a dire financial situation. Raising taxes wasn’t going to pay the bills. We had to remove the obstacles for starting a business and find entrepreneurs to open up businesses in the city. Eventually businesses came, residents benefited from having new shopping and restaurant options, and we increased our tax base substantially,” said Torres, who also called for a county board for first responders, “That will advocate and listen to our first responders, and ensure they have the resources they need to deal with a natural disaster.”

The revitalization of the Peekskill waterfront also began when Torres served on the council. “We had vision for Peekskill to be the first riverfront community along the Hudson in Westchester to create a continuous River Walk from the southern to the northern border of the city. Seven years ago, we showed our ability to come together as a city to get things done.”

*continued on pg 5-*

## 66-Year Old Arrested for ‘Upskirting’, Taking Lewd Photos on Metro North Train



By Dan Murphy

Upskirting” is when someone takes a photo underneath someone’s skirt or dress without their knowledge or consent. On Oct. 21, Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah announced that Riverside, Connecticut resident Majid Hedayati has been arraigned for taking photographs underneath the skirt of an unsuspecting female passenger while traveling on the Metro-North Railroad.

Hedayati, 66, was charged on October 19, 2021, in Harrison Town Court with Unlawful Surveillance in the Second Degree, a felony.

As alleged in the charging documents, on September 23, 2021, Hedayati was traveling on the Metro-North Railroad from Grand Central Station to Stamford when he sat down across from a woman wearing a skirt and used his cellphone to take photos underneath the woman’s skirt attempting to capture images of her genital area. The victim’s friend, who was sitting directly next to the defendant, observed Hedayati taking the photos, confronted him and reported him to a conductor.

On October 13, 2021, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police detained Hedayati at Grand Central Station following an investigation. Hedayati is scheduled to appear again in Harrison Town Court on December 14, 2021.

The case is being prosecuted by the Special Prosecutions Division Sex Crimes Bureau. If anyone has been a victim or has further information on this case, please call the District Attorney’s Office at (914) 995-TIPS.

The charges against the defendant are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Kudos to the friend who reported Hedayati, and to MTA Police for following through with the arrest.

## Democratic Slate of State Supreme Court Judges Deserve Your Vote



L-R-Tom Davis, James Hyer, Judge Christie D’Alessio, Judge Tom Quiñones,

Rising Media Group endorses the democratic candidates for State Supreme Court in the 9th Judicial District; Judge Christie D’Alessio, Judge Tom Quiñones, James Hyer, Tom Davis and incumbent Supreme Court Justice Robert Berliner.

Each judicial candidate brings a wealth of experience, either as a sitting local court judge, or in the courtroom as an attorney. We also appreciate and recognize the diversities in each of the candidates, in their life experiences and year spent serving the people of the 9th JD.

Judge Christie D’Alessio is the only female judicial candidate on the ballot in the 9th JD this year. Her current experience as a Greenburgh Town Justice, and her experience as a Court Attorney to an Acting Supreme Court Justice, and her prior 20 years of service in the Westchester court system make her a great addition to the bench.

Yonkers City Court Judge Tom Quiñones has served for five years in Westchester’s busiest City Court with distinction. Quiñones was the first Hispanic Judge on the Yonkers bench, and if elected, will become the first Hispanic State Supreme Court Justice from Westchester. The people of our county would benefit from his election.

Attorney James Hyer serves as the President of the Westchester County Bar Association, and has earned the respect of his peers in the court system. If elected, Hyer would be the first openly gay member of the State Supreme Court in the 9th JD, and while we would welcome this accomplishment, that is not why he gets our endorsement. We believe that Hyer would come to the bench with an open mind, willing to listen to and respect the rights of all who come before him seeking justice.

Attorney Tom Davis has spent more than three decades representing clients in the 9th JD. But his passion is to advocate and help serve the disabled population. As a father of a child with Down Syndrome, Davis would bring a unique perspective to the court. “I have learned that the power of a supreme court judge is a vitally important position, and the decisions a supreme court judge makes can be life altering to the people who appear before them,” said Davis.

Judge Robert Berliner is a sitting Supreme Court Justice in the 9th JD, and has the experience and record to warrant re-election.

State Supreme Court Justices serve 14 years terms. This is an important race for the voters of Westchester to be aware of and participate in. D’Alessio, Quiñones, Hyer and Davis have received a broad array of endorsements from the legal and law enforcement community, and from other groups such as Hudson Valley Stonewall Democrats, Westchester / Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO, local unions and many democratic elected officials including NYS Senate Majority

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### Westchester Rising

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**Senator Mayer Presents Elizabeth Baird Saenger With Woman of Distinction Award**



*L-R- Bob Saenger, Elizabeth Baird Saenger, Senator Shelley Mayer*

Senator Shelley B. Mayer announced that she had presented Elizabeth Baird Saenger with the New York State Woman of Distinction award, given annually to one woman in each Senate District. Saenger has spent her adult life fighting for justice for all in our community, and has a distinguished history as a leader advocating for equal rights throughout Westchester County.

Mayer presented the award to Saenger at her home in Mamaroneck. Among Saenger's achievements are providing direct emotional and financial support to young people arrested on minor charges, co-founding the acclaimed Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, co-founding the activist group Westchester for Change after the election of President Barack Obama, serving as a member of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Human Rights Committee, and serving on the boards of The Washingtonville Housing Alliance, the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit and the Community Resource Center of Mamaroneck.

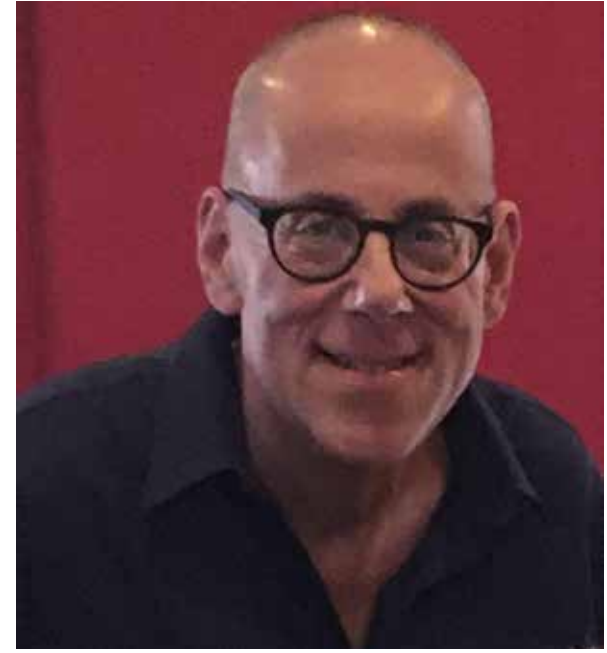
Senator Shelley B. Mayer said: "There are not many people in our community quite like Elizabeth. Her compassion for people, especially young people, is unmatched. Her personal commitment to equality and justice goes way beyond slogans and translates into her providing direct assistance for those needing support and guidance, as well as speaking up publicly for greater opportunity and justice for all within our society. She has bettered our community in countless ways. I am deeply honored to present her with this award."

Elizabeth Baird Saenger said: "Injustice is never really hidden, it lurks, harming not only its immediate victims, but our whole society. The work of seeking justice is urgent but accessible. It belongs to everyone, and it is profoundly rewarding."

The New York State Senate's Annual Women of Distinction Award Ceremony, which recognizes women who have shattered glass ceilings and opened doors for the next generation, was held virtually on Aug. 26. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic this event was held in-person in Albany.

A recording of the ceremony is available on the New York State Senate's website.

**The Election: It's About Crime, Covid and the Economy**



*By Eric W. Schoen*

Voters head to the polls in Westchester and New York City next week. Westchester voters select a County Executive, County Clerk, Supreme Court Judges and County Legislators. New York City selects a new Mayor, while here in Yonkers the electorate selects a new City Council President and three Council members.

As we see from early voting, not the most exciting election compared to the Presidential Primary Election we had last year. In Yonkers we have early voting at the two libraries and the Nodine Hill Community Center. Now if I was in charge of selecting early voting sites, I would have selected a more centrally located site than the Nodine Hill Center like Saunders High School, sort of right smack in the middle of the city.

At Saunders they could have done the whole thing on the stage. A door leads directly from the parking lot to the rear of the stage, so there would be no intermingling of voters and students. No Covid fears, plenty of parking, and easily accessible to public transportation. The Nodine Hill site is up a steep hill with a bus that runs very infrequently with no service on the weekend or after 6 at night. I know. I live in the neighborhood.

Speaking of Covid, this election is simply about three things. Crime, Covid and the Economy. Before the Covid Pandemic did you know what the Westchester County Executive did? Counties have Health Departments which normally deal with childhood vaccinations, rabid animals, food safety, sexual health, health services for those who cannot afford them and to encourage you to stop smoking.

But since March of last year and the arrival of Covid, County Executive George Latimer has been the main source of information the media and residents go to. For a while he was doing daily briefings that we relied on for information in terms of how Covid was affecting the residents of this county. With vaccinations for 5-11 year olds hopefully on the horizon, the county will continue to play a pivotal roll in the fight against Covid.

Parents are worried. A parent of a student in one of the Yonkers Public Schools told me one of her 3 kids was quarantined twice for 11 days so far this school year. Her Grandfather was enjoying a vacation in the Dominican Republic last February, came back to New York in March and died from Covid in less than a month. The vaccine, hand washing and sanitizing everything we and others come in contact with are the only tools we have. Everyday there seems to be a new variant. Who knows

*continued on pg 6-*

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**Veterans Day Ceremony**

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# Sound View Summit: Six Weeks After Ida, What Lies Ahead?

*A Look at How Our Communities Are Dealing with the Unprecedented Damages*

By Linnet Tse

Six weeks after Hurricane Ida pummeled the Sound Shore communities, local officials gathered on Zoom to give the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit audience an update on the damages wrought by Hurricane Ida and what lies ahead. Town of Mamaroneck Supervisor Nancy Seligson, who is also Co-chair of Sustainable Westchester, a nonprofit consortium of Westchester County local governments that facilitates effective collaboration on sustainability initiatives, set the stage by reminding us why our communities were so prone to severe flooding from Ida.

She cited three reasons: 1) heavy development with minimal natural areas to absorb water; 2) an 80+ year-old stormwater system built to handle storms of a much smaller magnitude; and 3) our being located at the bottom of the drainage basins of the Sheldrake and Mamaroneck Rivers, resulting in all the excess rain and flooding from upstream flowing down to our communities.

## Extensive Damage Concentrated in the Village of Mamaroneck

With 8 ½ inches of rain in less than 12 hours, our communities were hard hit by unprecedented levels of flooding and destruction, which led to President Biden declaring the region a disaster area eligible for Federal disaster funding.

While residential and commercial buildings in all three communities experienced flooding, the greatest damage was sustained by the Village of Mamaroneck (VoM), especially in the Columbus Park area, which is the confluence of the Sheldrake and Mamaroneck Rivers. VoM Mayor Tom Murphy described the harrowing evening of September 1 when streets and homes flooded with 10-12 feet of water.

Numerous families and businesses lost everything, and a large number of residents are still displaced. Murphy estimates damages to VoM municipal property in excess of \$12 million. The Mamaroneck Avenue fire station was devastated, four police cars were lost, and the Tompkins Avenue bridge was severely damaged.

According to Seligson, the Town sustained extensive road shoulder wash outs, curb and pavement damage, exposed sewer pipes, displaced cache basin castings and culvert and bridge damage. The Town is estimating damages well in excess of \$1 million.

The Village of Larchmont (VoL) suffered minimal damage in comparison to its neighbors. VoL Administrator Justin Datino estimates damages to municipal property on the order of \$350,000-\$500,000, most of that sustained by the Larchmont Public Library, which had flooding on its lower level, and Town Hall. All three municipalities will seek reimbursement from FEMA.

## Herculean Clean-up and Recovery Efforts

Seligson, Murphy, and Datino gave a huge shout-out to the DPW, Sanitation and Highway Department workers from all three communities who worked for more than two weeks straight to clean up the bulk of the debris left in Ida's wake. They also expressed appreciation for the County's support, especially its assistance in finding shelter for the numerous displaced families.

Calling it "the most generous municipal act I've seen in my time in government," Murphy thanked Cortlandt Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi for sending Cortlandt's entire DPW team and equipment to assist the VoM for a week.

Quick action by Murphy, working with Senator Schumer's office, resulted in FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the Red Cross setting up their headquarters in the Village of Mamaroneck courthouse, thereby providing local residents easier access to these much-needed resources.

The panelists also cited the important role the Community Resource Center (CRC) and other local NFP organizations and volunteers played in the clean-up and recovery phases after Ida. According to Seligson, the silver lining was seeing the community come together to help one another.

While much of the clean-up has been completed, rebuilding will be a much slower process.

## Looking Ahead . . . What Can Be Done?

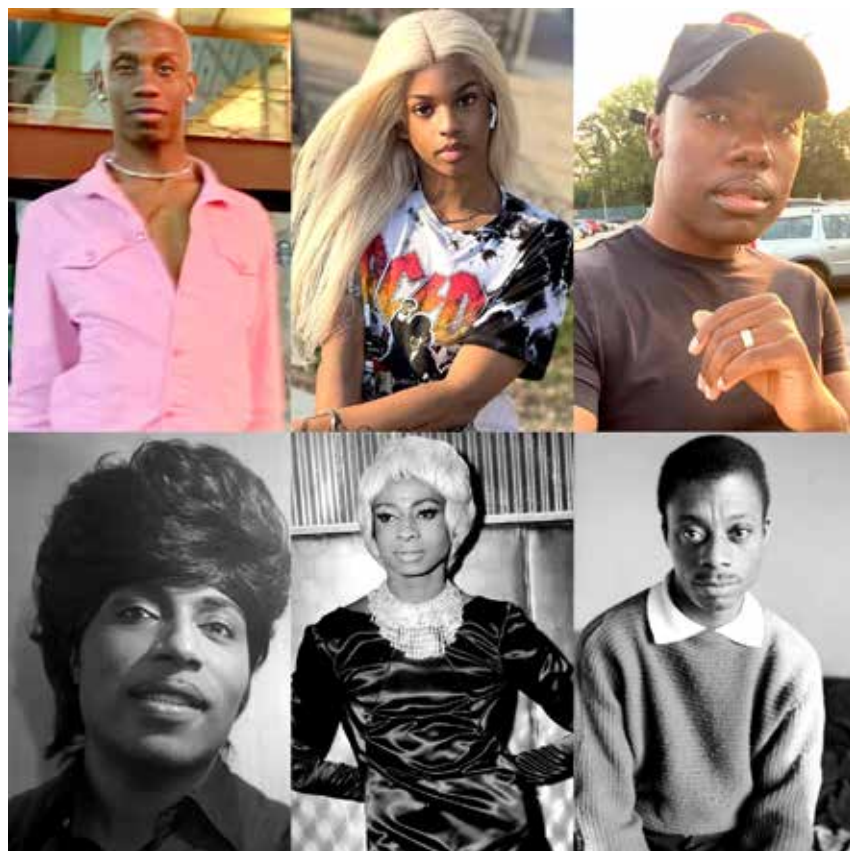
Although it's unlikely that anything could have prevented some flooding with a storm as fierce as Ida, steps could be taken to lessen the damage. On a neighborhood level, Seligson urged residents to keep the cache basins in front of their homes clear of debris and leaf litter.

Seligson suggested the possibility of dredging the rivers to provide more carrying capacity for the water and improving some of the outdated drainage systems. She pointed out some water infrastructure funding is included in President Biden's infrastructure proposal.

Murphy emphasized the importance of getting the US Army Corps of Engineers flood mitigation plan for the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake River Basin back on track. The study was completed in December 2017, and the \$82MM project approved by Congress in fall of 2018. However, funding was denied during the Trump administration, forcing it to be put on hold. Murphy has been working very closely with Senator Schumer's office since then to revive it.

The Local Summit thanks LMC Media for hosting this webinar. To learn more about The Local Summit visit: [localsummitlm.org](http://localsummitlm.org). To learn more about LMC Media visit: [lmcmedia.org](http://lmcmedia.org). Click here to watch the program on LMC Media Online. The next Local Summit program, "Navigating the COVID 19 Vaccine and the Effects on Our Community" will be held on Tuesday, November 9th, at 8 am. More information about the program and a link to register will be available on the Local Summit website shortly.

# Celebrating LGBTQIA+ History Month: Conversations With Young Leaders



*L to R: Samuel "Secret" Reid, Cienna Rosalina, Dennis Richmond, Jr., Little Richard, Jackie Shane, and James Baldwin*

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

Cienna "@ItsCeeRose" Rosalina, 21, is a trans advocate from Yonkers, New York. With over 70,000 followers on TikTok, Rosalina beats the drum for trans rights. "It's okay to be Black and transgender," she said. Nowadays, talks about the trans community are happening everywhere. People are learning about gender pronouns, genders ascribed at birth, and trans rights. Many people are not on board with a lot of trans conversations. It's because of a "lack of understanding and a lack of knowledge," Rosalina says. Some people in the community "shut down versus educating."

Samuel "@Secret.Hilton" Reid, 25, is a dance teacher and founder of the Royalties Dance Team in Mount Vernon, New York. "I teach all genres of dance, and I've been dancing since I was a child," said Reid. Reid started to take dancing seriously towards the end of his 8th-grade year of middle school in Mount Vernon. Dealing with bullying because of who he was, made his school life almost unbearable. Instead of turning to drugs or liquor, Reid relied heavily on dance. Life became much easier to navigate when Reid began dancing professionally. "Dancing was an escape," he said. "It helped me."

As we celebrate the 27th LGBTQIA+ History Month in the United States, we see just how dance and activism influenced the community for decades. The community, arguably, is based on dance and activism. The 1990s documentary Paris Is Burning follows New York's ball culture in the Black and Latinx LGBTQIA+ Community. Ball culture, or ballroom culture, has influenced the world in ways that many people don't realize. Popular slang phrases such as "It's giving," "Pay it [no mind]," "No shade," and "Love you down" have all originated in ballroom with the girls.

Many Black and Latinx pioneers of the community have either been forgotten or don't get enough attention. Jackie Shane, a trans woman, was a pioneer soul and rhythm and blues singer. You could find her performances online from the 1960s. In 1995, Little Richard, the architect of rock and roll, told Penthouse magazine, "I've been gay all my life." Many sources have said that Marsha P. Johnson, a trans woman who was an activist for the community, threw the first brick during the Stonewall riots in New York.

Reid stands on the shoulders of many Black and Latinx LGBTQIA+ dancers, just as I stand on the shoulders of writers, and Rosalina stands on the shoulders of activists. James Baldwin, the iconic novelist, essayist, playwright, poet, and activist, is buried right here in Westchester. Writing, activism, and dancing are ways that the Black and Latinx LGBTQIA+ Community thrives. Before a party took place, somebody wrote and created the flyers for the event. Depending on what decade it was, after the function, somebody wrote what happened. After, it would end up either in a newspaper, on a blog, or in a social media post. The activist angle is that "having a ball" is revolutionary.

Me, Samuel, and Cienna are all connected. We are all members of the Black Community and, we are all members of the LGBTQIA+ Community. As such, before this month is over, we would like to leave you with some final thoughts.

Samuel "Secret" Reid: "The LGBTQIA+ Community is human. We have feelings. Don't eliminate us."

Cienna "Cee" Rosalina: "It's possible to be who you are, be happy, and live a happy life."

Dennis Richmond, Jr.: "Life is short. Even though people may not respect our lifestyles, respect us."

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. He has covered HBCUs periodically for six years at Yonkers Rising. Richmond lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYork-Stakz

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# Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

Matthew Joseph Slater. If you asked this man what he was most proud of he would say, without pause... MY FAMILY. But, if you know Matt or if you spend a moment talking with him (and it only takes a moment), you will find out what he means by "my family." For his definition of "family" encompasses so much more than myself, Charlie, Elizabeth, his mom and his grandmother – his definition of family is his community – his town. YORK-TOWN IS HIS FAMILY. And he is so very proud to be your Town Supervisor.

I said it before, but some Supervisors get hurricanes, some get power outages, but Matt gets all that AND a global pandemic, but I watched the other night (as I have countless nights before) as he took a call, answered a Facebook message and set up a zoom meeting – all while feeding our little girl an ice pop and playing checkers with Charlie. Watching this man care for this town and the people of this town like he cares for his own children truly makes my heart leap. Sure, I will admit it, when the pandemic hit I was nervous, I was a little angry and I was scared... why Matt, why after all this time, after he worked so hard to be in this position he was dealt THIS?! And then it hit me. Because he can handle it. Because he was supposed to be here. Now. In this position. Because OUR town needs him and man has he proven that! He rose to the occasion like no other and I have never been prouder to call him my husband, the father of my children, and yes, my supervisor!

Abe Lincoln once said "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives, I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him." There is no greater quote to personify Matt Slater. I am so proud to be his wife – he inspires me every day – his tireless work ethic is to be admired, his selfless dedication to his community is bar-none, but above all he always puts the needs of his "family" first.

Kellie Slater, Yorktown Heights

Letter to the Editor:

I am calling on all Yorktown residents to come out and vote for Lanny Gilbert and Vishnu Patel for Town Board on November 2. Both democrats have proven themselves to be good public servants and have experience serving the residents of Yorktown.

Councilman Patel is running for a fourth term and has earned our vote every election. He is a voice of reason, on a town board that sometimes gets too hot with partisanship.

Lanny Gilbert served as our Supervisor for two years until he was defeated by Supervisor Matt Slater.

I do not agree with the Northern Westchester Examiner, who wrote "as long as Gilbert can avoid acting as if he is still in charge and follow Slater's lead."

What a condescending way to give an endorsement, and no Lanny will not follow Mr. Slater's lead but act as a check and balance to Slater and the conservatives on the town board.

I also believe that Patel and Gilbert would best represent the people of Yorktown.

Sergio Esposito is running against Patel and Gilbert and if he has done such a great job with the chamber of commerce, as the letters to your paper indicate, then perhaps he should stay in that role and keep selling guns from his store as a side gig.

Pat Carroll, Yorktown

## Pataki Returns, continued from pg 1-

Former Peekskill Mayor John Testa, a republican, represented this district on the county board for years and Peekskill is where Governor Pataki grew up and represented. Democratic Legislator Colin Smith is completing his first term.

We believe Torres to have the needed government experience to serve on the county board. We also believe that Torres can serve and work with the democratic supermajority on the county board that he would join if elected.

We hope that Torres joins Legislator Margaret Cunzio on the County Board next year. Cunzio, a registered conservative, is running on the republican line, and has served as a one woman republican minority on the BOL, with democrats currently holding a 16-1 super majority.

Cunzio is another example of how you can work together in County government while still representing another party. We endorse her re-election.

## Section 3 Work Opportunity

MDG Design + Construction is currently seeking construction Section 3 eligible applicants for a moderate rehabilitation project, Calcagno Homes Located in Yonkers, NY.

Section 3 eligible applicants are invited to submit a resume for the work in the following trades:

- Duct Installer & Refrigeration Piper
- Plumber
- Roof Laborer
- Masonry Laborer
- General Laborer

Work is to be performed in Westchester County under Davis Bacon Act (prevailing wage) requirements.

Section 3 residents are:

- Public housing residents or
- Persons who live in the area where a HUD-assisted project is located and who have a household income that falls below HUD's income limits.

For more Section 3 information: <https://www.hud.gov/section3>

Eligible applicants must have an active Osha 30 card. If interested in applying, please send a resume with the position desired to:

Jeffrey Goritz; [jgoritz@mdgny.com](mailto:jgoritz@mdgny.com)

# Six Ballot Proposals for Westchester Voters to Consider

## 1-Amending the redistricting process

Ballot text: This proposed constitutional amendment would freeze the number of state senators at 63, amend the process for the counting of the state's population, delete certain provisions that violate the United States Constitution, repeal and amend certain requirements for the appointment of the co-executive directors of the redistricting commission and amend the manner of drawing district lines for congressional and state legislative offices. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

## 2-Right to clean air, clean water, and a healthful environment

The proposed amendment to Article I of the New York Constitution would establish the right of each person to clean air and water and a healthful environment. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

## 3-Eliminating 10-day advance voter registration requirement

The proposed amendment would delete the current requirement in Article II, § 5 that a citizen be registered to vote at least ten days before an election and would allow the Legislature to enact laws permitting a citizen to register to vote less than ten days before the election. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

## 4-Authorizing no-excuse absentee ballot voting

Ballot text: The proposed amendment would delete from the current provision on absentee ballots the requirement that an absentee voter must be unable to appear at the polls by reason of absence from the county or illness or physical disability. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

## 5-Increasing the jurisdiction of the New York City Civil Court

## 6-Westchester County Charter Revision: To strengthen Ethics Laws

Learn more at [elections.ny.gov/2021ballotproposals](https://elections.ny.gov/2021ballotproposals).

### Judges continued from pg 2-

Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NYS Senator Shelly Mayer, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Putnam County Democratic Chairman Scott Reing and more

All four candidates have actively campaigned throughout Westchester, in an effort to hear your concerns and earn your vote. Their opponents have not been heard of or reached out to the local media to share their views.

Judicial elections are an example of the type of local election that does affect you and deserves your attention. Don't take this race for granted, make sure your voice is heard by casting your vote.

### Obnoxious Drivers continued from pg 1-

way, Hutchinson River Parkway and Cross County Parkway in the past two months.

Gleason noted that at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, when traffic was lighter than usual, County Police saw – and addressed – an increase in drag racing on the parkways. Many of the vehicles engaged in those speed contests featured illegally modified exhaust systems. While the incidence of drag racing is down, many vehicles with modified exhaust systems remain on the road.

"Our Patrol officers, particularly on the midnight tour, have been vigilant and have effectively reduced drag racing incidents. Our Department does continue to receive telephone calls reporting a drag race in progress but when we respond there is no indication a drag race is occurring or has taken place. I believe the noise often being attributed to drag racing is actually the result of an increasing amount of vehicles that are operating with these illegal exhaust systems."

Lt. Peters from the Westchester County Police, joined County Executive Latimer and Deputy County Executive Jenkins at a press conference to discuss and highlight the efforts. "Aggressive drivers took (the reduction in drivers on the roads during the pandemic) as an opportunity to use the open road to driver a lot quicker than normal. During 2020 we saw an uptick in speeding, unsafe lane changes and drag racing. Now a lot of people are back to work and driving again. Our department takes this seriously and will combat all aggressive and obnoxious drivers moving forward.

The message from the county police and County Executive Latimer is simple. We are working to address the problem and keep all of us safe on the roads. For most of us, that is welcome news.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK –  
 COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER  
 INDEX # 65171/2020 FILED: 8/11/2021  
 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is: The location of the real property being foreclosed. BANK OF AMERICA, NA, Plaintiff, against UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF MARY A. DAVIS A/K/A MARY DAVIS A/K/A MARY A PICKNEY A/K/A MARY PICKNEY A/K/A MARY PICKNEY DAVIS A/K/A MARY TEMPLE DAVIS, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, Defendant(s). To the above named Defendant(s): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to Answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable David F. Everett, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, granted on the 3rd day of August, 2021, and filed with the Verified Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Westchester County. The object of this action is to bar and forever foreclose of and from all right, title, interest, claim, lien and equity of redemption in and to real property situated in the County of Westchester being known as and by 12 RISLEY PLACE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801, bearing tax map designation Section: 4 Block: 1320 Lot: 0038, which is more fully described in the Schedule "A" attached to the Verified Complaint. Aldridge Pite, LLP. Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 Our File 1395-241B

**Legal Notice-Name Change**

Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Supreme Court, Westchester County, on the 16th day of September, 2021 bearing Index No. 2027-21, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 110 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, White Plains, New York grants me the right to assume the name of Ray Alphonso Vance

My present address is 169th East 3rd Street, Mount Vernon, New York 10550. I was born in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands on December 14, 1945. My present name is Renaldo Vance

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NOTICE OF SALE  
 SUPREME COURT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
 INDEX NO.: 58848/2019  
 BONITA WEST LLC v. 164 ELM REALTY CORP., et al., Defendants.

Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, dated January 22, 2020 and entered on January 24, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in the Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York on the 19th day of November, 2021 at 2:30 P.M., the premises directed by said Judgment to be sold, being in Section 1, Block 455, Lot 6 on the Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, and known by the street number 164 Elm Street, Yonkers, New York.

Approximate amount of Judgment is \$23,431.15 plus interest, costs, attorneys' fees and advances. Said premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Judgment and the Terms of Sale.

FRANCIS APICELLA, ESQ., Referee.  
 SANDERS, GUTMAN & BRODIE, P.C.,  
 Attorneys for Plaintiff, 18 North Central Avenue, Suite 204  
 Hartsdale, New York 10530 (718) 522-0666

**Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-**

where this is all going to go. Our elected officials must show leadership instead of bickering so we can keep people alive. I don't buy \$500 bonuses to encourage government workers to get the shot!

Everyone agrees that the Bail Reform by the New York Legislature is a failure. We should not be putting people who commit crimes back on the street to commit more crimes. They must have their day in court promptly. Look at New York City. See the traffic going into and out and around the city everyday. People are in cars and Ubers, afraid to ride public transit not only because of Covid but because of the unstable people riding the trains. My barber rides the train from Brooklyn to Yonkers everyday. He keeps to himself, reads his book, and hopes that he can get out at his destination alive.

Tim Hodges, former Yonkers Deputy Police Commissioner said clearly in a forum with his opponent Anthony Merante during the Westchester Rising Show on WVOX 1460 a.m. that crime in Yonkers is on the rise. We see the beautiful rededication of Boo Wilson Park on Tuckahoe Road followed a day later by a man critically shot. Gangs are rampant in Yonkers. Drivers are driving their cars like maniacs on our streets.

Defund the police? Who are we kidding. For a mentally ill person in New York City they send a social worker as opposed to a policeman? The social worker should accompany the policeman, not replace him or her. Let's hope this foolishness never hits the shores of Yonkers nor Westchester! Eric Adam's won the Democratic Primary in New York because he shifted away from the cut the cops mentality. Though if I lived in New York, I would vote for my friend Curtis Sliwa. Simply put, 'he gets the problems' of New York and would bring a fresh, different approach to bring the city back to life.

Amazed at the responses I got to my column last week about empty supermarket shelves. People are worried about the economy. Will they be able to find a turkey for their Thanksgiving table? The toy(s) their kids want for Christmas. The food they want at the grocery store. Toilet tissue, well you know what that's used for.

Whether it's a log jam at a port or crazy tariffs imposed that won't let goods reach our borders, somebody better get a handle on this situation. All we hear from both political parties is rhetoric. Blame. Divisiveness. If things don't change there will be a third party movement to get rid of all the politicians running this country. There better be Razors for children under the Christmas tree.

Close to home the County Executive race is a slam dunk. The most I have seen from County Executive Latimer's opponent, Christine Sculti is her response to questions in the League of Woman Voters Guide (interestingly, County Executive Latimer didn't respond to the League's questions). I know Latimer's opponent. Christine is a nice lady. She should not have let herself be the sacrificial lamb for the Republican Party in the County Executive race.

Ruth Walter reminds me of our dear departed Kay Carsky. She knows what County Government is all about. She deserves reelection. If her opponent, James Nolan is worried about crime and drag racing the County Legislature is not the place for him. Frankly I was shocked to see the unvaccinated Nolan campaigning with Republican Candidate for Governor Lee Zeldin who has Leukemia. Tells you a lot about Zeldin!

Nolan went door to door campaigning without telling people he was unvaccinated. Would you put decisions regarding the health of the residents of Westchester County, an important part of a County Legislators job particularly with Covid in the hands of such person?

What Nolan should be working for is a law for merchants on Central Avenue and throughout Yonkers to lock their parking lots when their businesses are closed. Years ago there was a law on the books in Yonkers when we had a problem with drag racing and teenagers hanging out doing drugs in open parking lots requiring merchants to close them when their businesses were closed. He should work to get speed cameras not only on Central Avenue but throughout Yonkers to catch drag racers. He should be working on laws to control these unlicensed scooters racing up and down the streets causing havoc. The good men and woman of the Yonkers Police have confiscated some, but there are still way too many out there driven by unlicensed drivers.

The things that Nolan should be doing and clearly wants to do come under the purview of Federal, State and Yonkers officials, not of County Government. But until he apologizes to the people whose lives he endangered by campaigning unvaccinated door to door, political office cannot be on his agenda.

Final Note: Live guns on the set of a motion picture Alec Baldwin or any actor or actress is in! What the hell for! Someone better go to jail for the rest of their life over this travesty!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

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**Durst, Westchester Murder, continued from pg 1-**

“The above allegations of fact are made by the complainant herein on direct knowledge and upon information and belief, with the sources of complainants and the grounds for his belief being the files of this matter maintained by the office of the Westchester County District Attorney, the New York State Police, District Attorney’s office of Los Angeles, conversation with numerous witnesses and observations of defendant’s recorded interviews and court testimony in related proceedings.” end of complaint.

Becerra has declined to comment after filing the complaint. But Dan Schorr, a former Westchester prosecutor and Yonkers Inspector General said, “as a former prosecutor who worked with the state police, I don’t believe that a felony complaint would have been filed without the full support of the DA’s office.”

“The felony complaint shows that the DA believes that there is strong evidence that Durst is responsible in the murder of his wife. A Grand Jury takes time to sift through the evidence, and the next step of an indictment may come if he is still alive. So for that reason, the felony complaint formally charges him, said Schorr, who recently authored a novel, Final Table.

Other Westchester law enforcement sources we spoke to said that Becerra may have filed the complaint against Durst “to help the family get closure on the murder of Kathie. Joe (Becerra) is not a wallflower and doesn’t mind the publicity. But remember, he has been involved in this case for 20 years and has a personal interest in the crime.”

Becerra recently traveled to California to testify against Durst. Until the complaint was filed, Durst has never been charged in the death of Kathleen McCormack Durst, whose body was never found. For more than four decades, Robert Durst has long been suspected of having involvement in his wife’s disappearance and murder, and has made incriminating comments over the years, including an HBO Documentary “The Jink: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst,” in which he sat for 20 hours of interviews and said a number of comments and admissions. Part of those video interviews were played in court in California.

Robert Abrams, the attorney for Kathie McCormack Durst’s family, stated, “Sometimes it takes 40 years for justice. We are grateful for the work, dedication and commitment of District Attorney Rocah and her staff. Robert Durst has now been formally charged with the murder of Kathleen McCormack Durst. We are very happy with this development. At this time, however, we will not be making any further comments until the Grand Jury process is completed,” said Robert Abrams, attorney for Kathie Durst’s family.

The only comment from Rocah’s office was, “The Westchester County District Attorney’s Office can confirm that a complaint charging Robert Durst with the murder of Kathleen Durst was filed in Lewisboro Town Court on October 19, 2021. We have no further comment at this time.”

Becca’s involvement in the Durst case came in 1999, when he got a tip about where Kathie Durst’s body may be. The tip never panned out but Becerra did get then Westchester DA Jeanine Pirro to reopen the case. A search of the Durst’s former South Salem cottage also came up with no evidence or body. Another search of Lake Truesdale near the home came up empty.

Some believe that Robert Durst buried Kathie in the Pine Barrens Forests of New Jersey.

**Westchester Election 2021, continued from pg 1-**

mother, Angela Sculti, raises an issue that is not under the control of county government. But Sculti will receive a block of votes from the same voters who support opposition to what has certainly been a controversial issue across the country.

Sculti’s mom has been featured in her campaign videos, and we admire the bond between the two. But tax records show that Angela Sculti’s Rye home has received a 10% county property tax cut under Latimer.

Sculti’s refusal to debate, and her recent lawsuit claiming serious personal injuries while campaigning actively for County Executive, don’t add any credibility to her effort. We have endorsed Latimer for re-election

The biggest County Board race in Westchester is in the 15th District (Bronxville and East Yonkers) between democrat Legislator Ruth Walter and her republican opponent James Nolan. This contest will be determined by turnout, and which side gets their voters to the polls or cast their vote by mail.

James Nolan has run a spirited campaign for county board. We applaud Nolan for his volunteerism in the community during COVID, and his work to help those who need it, and for his ability to turn a horrible event for his family, the shooting death of his brother, into a positive by creating a foundation in his name that also serves the community.

But that is not enough to warrant election to the county board. Ruth Walter is a thoughtful, hard working legislator, who has suggested new ideas while working to make sure that constituents in her district get their fair share of county budget dollars.

Walter has also shown herself to be willing to listen to all people in her district, including those who live in Yonkers, and she did not forget them during the pandemic.

After two years, we believe that Walter has done more in two years than her predecessor over several years. One initiative we appreciate is her work to examine whether communities unhappy with the loud cars at night, from illegal mufflers or drag racing, should be helped by ticketing more drivers by placing noise-devices on hot spot roadways.

Most of these issues, like making sure that county capital tax dollars go into her district, are not sexy political topics, but they are the nuts and bolts that help improve people’s lives.

There are some things that County government can’t do because it is not under their power of government. Nolan has suggested that he will work on some issues county government can’t help with.

But the biggest issue in this race has become, the issue that has plagued our county and our country for the past year and a half-COVID and vaccinations.

Nolan has said that he is not vaccinated, but has not explained adequately enough why that is. He said he had COVID and beat COVID, but many county residents who had COVID have also been vaccinated. Read a letter from Dennis Richmond on the topic

Over 90% of eligible Westchester residents have received a COVID vaccine, and as Walter points out, it is the role of a leader in our communities to explain that all of us need to get vaccinated in order for our society to return to some form of normal, and to protect those of us who are immune compromised.

We endorse Ruth Walter, for County Legislator 15th District.

For republicans, there is a way to walk the fine line between the shadow of former President Trump and serving your local community and winning election.

Two examples of that are Eastchester Supervisor Tony Colavita and Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater. We have already endorsed Colavita and his town council candidates for re-election. Supervisor Slater in Yorktown is running without opposition, which is a mistake in our view, of Yorktown Democrats.

One of the reasons cited as why Yorktown Democrats didn’t run a candidate for Supervisor was that they hoped that it would decrease the number of voters in town if there wasn’t a supervisor’s race. We don’t agree with that logic, for if the same were true on the county level, then republicans shouldn’t have run a candidate against George Latimer for County Executive.

In our view, not running a candidate for Supervisor shows a surrender or sorts in this election cycle, and two qualified candidates are running as democrats for Town Board, one of who is an incumbent. We understand and agree with the view of many that Matt Slater is a rising star in Westchester politics and would be tough to beat this year. But you have to step into the political arena and give it your best shot. That didn’t happen. Slater’s wife, Kelly, also wrote a thoughtful letter to the editor about her husband’s service to the community. Like this reporter, Slater graduated from Yorktown High School and returned home to live and raise a family, but also to serve and give back. Note to Westchester, look out for Matt Slater.

Harrison is the other town with a big election. Two councilmembers, republican Rich Dioniso, and democrat Frank Gordon, are looking to replace Mayor Ron Belmont, who is retired. We will let the voters decide on who wins, but we are not happy with the lack of progress made in Harrison over whether to Opt-Out of Marijuana dispensaries and cafes. No comment or action from Belmont, Dioniso or Gordon, and the residents want action taken.

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Judge Christie

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Judge Thomas

**QUINONES**

For NYS Supreme Court Justice, 9<sup>th</sup> JD

VOTE NOV. 2<sup>nd</sup> Early Voting 10.23 - 10.31

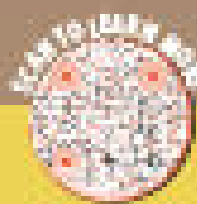


PHOTO: JAMES HYER

## A Note to My Constituents

Thank you for your support and for all your important communications to me. Over the past two years, I have worked hard to achieve progress for my district and its residents. If reelected, I pledge to continue to advocate and work on behalf of the issues that are important to you.



### Achievements

- Added \$125K to the County budget for a Noise Camera Pilot Program
- Added \$450K to the County Budget for flood mitigation
- Added \$1 million to the County Budget for senior fitness stations
- Brought more than \$300k to Yorkline/Bronxville non-profits
- Connected small businesses with more than \$700k in grants
- Sent clear, science-based information regarding COVID
- Passed millions in bonds for local infrastructure
- Answered hundreds of constituents calls for help on their issues

Member  
**Ruth  
 WALTER**  
 Executive of County Legislature

— **VOTE NOV 2** —  
 or Early Voting starts Oct 23



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COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
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 LATIMER**

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