

Editorials Concerning NY State-wide Democratic Primary Candidates

Three of the four New York State top public offices are the subjects of primary competitions and the primary is this coming Thursday, September 13, 2018

We have assembled this booklet so that you can review the endorsements, in those primary races, by four of the leading newspapers in New York: the New York Times, Newsday, Albany Times Union and the Buffalo News.

The following is a clickable link index to the editorials that are reproduced in the rest of this booklet.

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We conclude with a republication of our list of all primary and general election candidates. It also includes links to the websites of the various candidates. The websites sometimes include lists of personal and organizational endorsements for the candidate. Click here for the list. It is at page 37.

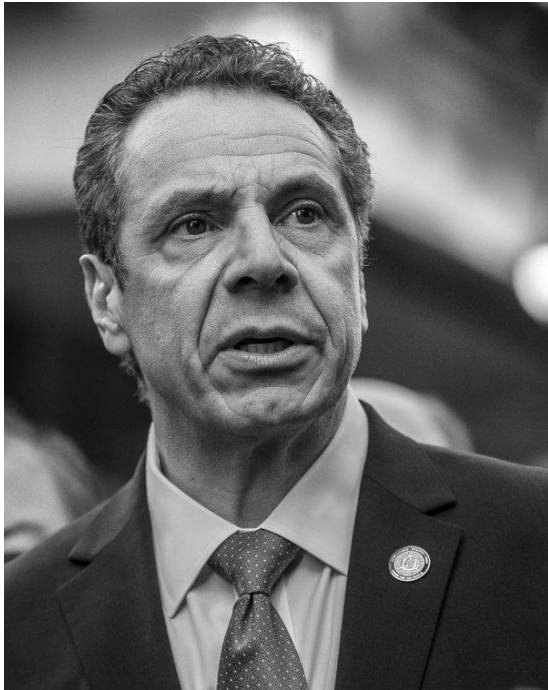
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Governor - New York Times

The following is a link to the original editorial and to numerous reader comments: [NY Times](#)

Andrew Cuomo Is the Democrats' Best Choice for Governor

The threat of Donald Trump and new pressure from reformers are likely to summon his formidable strengths.



New York is a big state with small politics. It is home to many of the most ambitious and inventive people in the world, but its governance is stunted by party hacks and special interests, petty rivalries and systemic corruption.

The Democratic primaries on Thursday, Sept. 13, provide some ground for hope. The damage being done by the Trump administration has reawakened New Yorkers to the importance of political participation. Recognizing this new spirit, energetic Senate candidates are promising real reform. Candidates for attorney general — in particular Zephyr Teachout, a national expert on corruption — are

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campaigning to clean up Albany and take on the Trump administration, and they're well positioned to do just that.

Unfortunately, the top of the ticket offers less cause for enthusiasm.

In his two terms as governor, Andrew Cuomo has had significant accomplishments. But he has done little to combat the corruption in the Legislature and his own administration, and he has allowed the subway system, the foundation of the New York City economy, to rot. The case for change, at a time when so many New Yorkers yearn for change, is not hard to make.

Yet the actor and activist Cynthia Nixon was the only Democrat with the guts to take on Mr. Cuomo, his \$30 million campaign war chest and his reputation for vindictiveness. She has campaigned on sweeping promises to address New Yorkers' hunger for health care, housing and a fair criminal justice system.

Ms. Nixon's candidacy has demonstrated the impressive effect of reformist pressure on Mr. Cuomo. When she spoke forcefully about criminal justice reform, he restored voting rights to parolees. When she criticized him for blessing the Independent Democratic Conference — a group of rogue Democrats who empowered Republican control of the State Senate in exchange for perks and pork — he made sure the alliance was dismantled.

But Ms. Nixon's lack of experience in government or management of any sort do not inspire confidence that she could overcome the old guard in Albany to fulfill her promises and run the state. Her campaign has, at times, boiled down to a largely negative message — that she is not Andrew Cuomo — and while that can indeed seem an appealing truth, it is not, in the end, enough.

This is not a reason to despair. Strategic and at times bullying in his use of power, driven and maddeningly evasive, deeply schooled in state and federal policy, Mr. Cuomo is, his supporters and critics would agree, a formidable political animal, and he has scented a change in the wind. His legacy is at stake. New statehouse reformers are demanding striking progress on promises long stymied by special interests and Albany deal-making. And Donald Trump is threatening his constituents. These are circumstances that are likely to summon Mr. Cuomo's strengths, and that is the reason we think he merits one more chance to serve New York and fulfill his potential as governor.

When Mr. Cuomo is focused on governing, no New York politician in memory has been as effective. Because of his leadership, New York passed one of the toughest gun control measures in the country, legalized same-sex marriage, raised the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and enacted paid family leave. While his tuition-free plan for state colleges remains too narrowly focused to benefit most of the families who need it, it is a step in the right direction.

The governor has supported clean energy programs and banned hydraulic fracturing, known as fracking. His handling of Hurricane Sandy — the kind of crisis that most tests a leader — was sure and largely efficient. Urged on by his rival Mayor Bill de Blasio, he funded a prekindergarten program that has given thousands of New York children a better start in life.

Mr. Cuomo has also overseen the construction of a bridge to replace the decrepit Tappan Zee Bridge across the Hudson River, pushed to transform Midtown's James A. Farley Post Office into a grand new train station and led a long-overdue overhaul of La Guardia and Kennedy airports.

And he has stood up against President Trump's assaults on racial minorities, immigrants and other vulnerable groups. We are glad to see him fighting to protect New Yorkers from Mr. Trump's tax plan, which sharply reduced the amount of state taxes that can be deducted from federal tax bills. He backed a change to the state tax code to blunt the impact of the federal changes and directed the state to sue the federal government.

Yet Mr. Cuomo's failures threaten to eclipse his record of accomplishments.

Day after day, New Yorkers are being tormented below ground, at a cost to the state's economy of billions of dollars, because of Mr. Cuomo's inadequate efforts to address the crisis in the subway system. Let there be no doubt, the governor controls the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. As Mr. Cuomo has said, "If a governor wanted to step up and be responsible, he or she could be." It is past time for Mr. Cuomo to step up, to persuade the Legislature to approve congestion pricing as a source of revenue — despite the mayor's blinkered opposition — and to find whatever other funds he needs to turn the system back into one of the glories of New York, if not the wonders of the world.

Mr. Cuomo pledged to clean up Albany in his first campaign for governor. Yet instead of confronting the ethical horrors of the state capital, his administration has added to them. This year his former campaign manager and closest aide, Joseph

Percoco, was convicted on corruption charges, and Alain Kaloyeros, a key figure behind the governor's signature upstate economic plan, was convicted in a bid-rigging scandal.

One reason the governor has been able to build up a campaign treasury large enough to repel potential competition is that he has raised funds through the "L.L.C. loophole" that he pledged to end years ago. This loophole allows businesses called limited liability companies to flout limits on corporate donations.

Four years ago, because Mr. Cuomo had failed to deliver promised ethics reform and because he faced a more prepared opponent in Ms. Teachout, we did not endorse any candidate in the Democratic primary for governor. This year, his ethics record remains a black mark, but circumstances have changed.

If the State Senate shifts to Democratic control, as now seems possible, Mr. Cuomo will be in a position to push through reforms he has failed to deliver in the past. First among these should be changes to make it easier for New Yorkers to vote, including by mail-in ballot, and to run for office. Though it may be hard to persuade even Democrats in Albany to support genuine campaign finance reform, the L.L.C. loophole is so egregious, and Mr. Cuomo so relentless when he sets his mind to something, that we expect him to close it at last.

Mr. Cuomo is flawed. When he allows petty enmity and political grievance to distract him from his commitment to public service, he is his own worst enemy. But when he confronts a real problem and gets down to work, he is a very capable governor.

Yet he can't — he won't — do it alone. Voters need to show up at the polls on Thursday, Sept. 13, in large numbers and, wherever possible, support reform-minded candidates who will hold Mr. Cuomo to his promises and take on Democrats beholden to corporate interests. Those voters will need to return to the polls in November.

That is how New York can finally get the government, and governor, it deserves, and how it can become the model of humane and honest public service that all America needs.

Governor - Newsday

newsday.com

Newsday endorses Andrew Cuomo in Democratic gubernatorial primary

His years of achievement are even more impressive compared with the vision offered by Cynthia Nixon.



Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo speaks on Thursday about the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Train Hall construction project. Photo Credit: Howard Schnapp

By The Editorial Board September 7, 2018 3:01 PM

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If Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's political experience and accomplishments were the only advantages he brought to the contest against Cynthia Nixon in Thursday's Democratic primary, they would likely be enough.

But he also has the edge when it comes to political philosophy. On nearly every issue in which Cuomo's and Nixon's platforms differ, the two-term governor's vision is the better choice for Democrats, for Long Island and for the state.

In this race, Nixon, an actress turned activist, has become an avatar for younger, more liberal New Yorkers disenchanted with establishment Democrats. Some of what she wants for New York, and particularly for its most challenged residents, is mostly noble: better schools, access to health care and affordable housing are some of her signature issues. It's in her plans to provide these things that her philosophy is felled by reality.

Case against Nixon

When the city-centric Nixon talks about improving schools, her answer is more taxpayer money for the traditional system that spends \$22,366 per student, 90 percent above the national average. She opposes Cuomo's most significant achievement, the 2 percent property tax cap, and his annual 2 percent cap on state budget increases. She rails against public charter schools, no matter how successful. Under Nixon, who also wants to see far more money diverted from the suburbs to New York City schools, taxpayers on Long Island would pay a lot more for an education system that likely wouldn't improve.

Nixon's answer on health care is state-financed single-payer for all. Her plan is "Pass it and then figure out how to fund it." But it can't be implemented for New York alone without massive state income and payroll tax increases that would cause wealthy people and big employers to flee. It would require Washington to grant a waiver to redirect all federal funds (like those used for Medicaid and Medicare patients) that this federal government will not grant. Nixon is not wrong to support single-payer health care, but such a transition would take time and would need buy-in from the federal government. It's that pragmatic approach that has Cuomo's support.

To provide more affordable housing, Nixon supports statewide price controls on nearly all rental units. But even liberal economists say the effect would be a dire shortage of apartments, particularly in downstate suburbs already facing a dearth of

such housing, as investors would refuse to put money into a market in which they couldn't earn a strong profit.

And then there are the Nixon campaign planks that would be terrible ideas even if they worked as intended. Nixon's support of a right to strike for public-sector union workers when state law already grants them strong protections would be disastrous. And the rollback of public pension reforms Cuomo pushed through that she calls for would put unbearable pressure on local and school district budgets, and taxpayers who fund them.

Case for Cuomo

Stacked up against Nixon's fantasies, Cuomo's eight years of achievement are even more impressive. For many, they are often drowned out by an imperious and bruising style he claims is the only way to get things done in a state capital besieged by bureaucracy and intransigence. He likely has a point.

Besides Cuomo's pension and taxation reforms, his progress in addressing New York's seemingly intractable infrastructure woes may be his greatest accomplishment. The Tappan Zee Bridge replacement is a reality, as is the Second Avenue Subway. The Long Island Rail Road's long-frustrated third-track has broken ground. And LaGuardia and Kennedy airports are undergoing huge improvements, as is Penn Station. And Cuomo has been a voice for social justice and the environment, pushing for gay marriage, tough gun controls and paid family leave, banning fracking for natural gas, supporting clean energy, and raising the state's minimum wage.

The challenges Cuomo has faced from his left have been effective in a way that his challengers might not be if they ran the state. Convinced to raise the minimum wage, for instance, and fight for paid family leave, he had the ability to push them through.

The tough job of New York governor is getting tougher. In Washington, President Donald Trump has launched a full assault on the state that includes punitive tax code changes, eroded environmental and consumer protections and attacks on education and civil rights. At home, the challenge of providing jobs, educations, transportation, health care, justice and safety to the state's residents is a complex and monumental task, as is the continuing battle to stop the corruption in state government that has ensnared even Cuomo's closest allies.

Cuomo has shown he's up to the challenge. Nixon hasn't even shown she comprehends it.— The editorial board

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Governor - Buffalo News

buffalonews.com

Editorial: Choose Cuomo, a friend to Western New York

By [News Editorial Board](#) | Published September 3, 2018 | Updated September 3, 2018

Several questions dominate the Democratic primary race between Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and actress/activist Cynthia Nixon, but two surmount all others:

- Is this, as Nixon says, “no time for centrists”? That is, should Democrats in one of the highest-taxed states in the country, shift further to the left, imposing higher taxes to achieve social goals?
- Is it wise to continue the national flirtation with celebrity candidates who seek high office but lack any experience navigating the difficult crosscurrents of politics and policy?

The answer to both is no. Cuomo should be renominated for another term in office.

That's not the only reason to stick with Cuomo. No governor since DeWitt Clinton has been a better friend to Western New York. There were serious problems with the Buffalo Billion program relating to criminal manipulation of the bidding process, but that's a separate issue from what has been Cuomo's laser focus on helping Buffalo up off the mat. The goal was correct and no other governor has been so determined.

Could the programs have been better managed? Plainly. Were they worth pursuing anyway? Absolutely. They have changed both the mindset and the economic trajectory of this part of New York.

Is Cuomo a centrist, as Nixon says? Or is he an enthusiastic liberal, as he wants today's left-leaning Democratic voters to believe? It vexes people that Cuomo can't be pigeonholed.

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He imposed a tax on millionaires. He pushed for same-sex marriage. He implemented a free-tuition program for the state university (though critics from the left, including Nixon, say it didn't go far enough).

He also had the nerve to stand up to the teachers unions. He pushed for – and got – a property tax cap. He lowered state income taxes during his two terms. His economic development efforts have helped not only Western New York, but areas all around upstate.

Nixon is both passionate and, on the subjects she cares about, well informed. She is especially focused on improving education in New York – always a worthy goal – but her approach would hurt the state. Her plan to raise taxes to bolster the state's already sky-high levels of education spending risk driving high-earning New Yorkers out of the state, sending an unhelpful message to employers and leaving fewer taxpayers to shoulder the increased burden.

Nixon's inexperience is also a problem. America's experiment with celebrity politicians hasn't worked out well. The idea that a passionate outsider with name recognition can solve the very real problems of government policy stems from genuine frustrations, but whatever the answer is, it isn't in electing unqualified, novice candidates to top positions. It's an open invitation to chaos.

Certainly, there is plenty of room in public life for people as engaged in important issues as Nixon is. But not every interested person performs best in elected office and, even for those who do, it doesn't begin at the top.

Like anything else, running a government is a skill that comes with practice. Without the demonstrated ability to handle the levers of government – including dealing effectively with the leaders of the coequal State Legislature – voters are taking an unwise gamble. It makes no more sense than turning to an airline pilot to perform your heart surgery – or vice versa. It doesn't compute.

Leading a large state with complex issues isn't work for someone who needs on-the-job training. Cuomo has done a great job for Western New York and deserves once again to represent Democrats in the general election.

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Governor - Albany Times Union

timesunion.com

Editorial: Governor: Andrew Cuomo

Updated 11:01 pm EDT, Wednesday, September 5, 2018

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Photo illustration by Jeff Boyer / Times Union

In next Thursday's gubernatorial primary, Democrats will choose between two candidates with clear differences. Will they pick a rather fiscally conservative, socially liberal, seasoned incumbent, or a more progressive but inexperienced newcomer?

It's ultimately that vast difference in experience that earns Gov. Andrew Cuomo our endorsement over actress and activist Cynthia Nixon.

Like many New Yorkers, we have plenty of complaints about Mr. Cuomo. But there is no denying his record of accomplishment over two terms: lower income taxes, a more progressive tax code, a cap on the growth of school property tax levies whose constant rise was

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unsustainable. He has worked, albeit slowly, to better balance school aid so that needier districts get a fairer share.

Under Mr. Cuomo, New York passed major laws on gun control and marriage equality that were no small lifts in the Republican-controlled Senate. The state is raising the minimum wage, and a law is now in place to provide paid family leave through a small payroll deduction.

Mr. Cuomo is arguably the first governor in decades to truly pay attention to upstate New York, with investments that he so far pegs at \$36 billion, from the Hudson Valley to Buffalo, a focus he promises to maintain.

Where Mr. Cuomo has most disappointed citizens is on his pledge to clean up state government. The Joint Commission on Public Ethics is not the strong, independent watchdog the state needs. Mr. Cuomo says it's a start on which the state can build. We'll hold him to that.

Mr. Cuomo's watch has brought corruption cases reaching his inner circle, and an investigation is pending into campaign violations involving a company that received \$25 million in state grants. Mr. Cuomo says he was unaware of the misconduct and, partisan guilt-by-association charges aside, there's no evidence to the contrary.

It's beyond frustrating that the governor has spent no political capital to rein in the influence of big money, or even to abide by his own vow to not take contributions from companies involved in certain kinds of state bids and contracts. It didn't help that Mr. Cuomo stood by while a group of breakaway Democrats helped Senate Republicans hold power and block campaign finance reforms. The governor offers an alternative: Give lawmakers a raise and ban outside income. It's a proposal worth debating.

Ms. Nixon is a smart candidate. She touts a strong progressive agenda — including increased education funding, comprehensive campaign finance reform, and a public, single-payer health care system. We don't

doubt her sincerity, but we question whether her work as an activist has prepared her to oversee a \$168 billion government and deal with a Legislature full of its own agendas. And she seems to have thought little about upstate.

Most importantly, this is a risky time to ask a political neophyte to lead a state that has been, and must continue to be, at the forefront of challenging the many harmful and inhumane policies coming out of the Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress. By his aggressive temperament and his experience as a former federal Cabinet member and state attorney general, Mr. Cuomo may be uniquely up to the task of taking on Donald Trump.

We admire Ms. Nixon's run and the effect she has had on reminding Mr. Cuomo of his inner progressive. But tempting as a new face may be in an era of shake-up-the-status-quo politics, it's Mr. Cuomo who represents the Democrats' best choice.

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nytimes.com

New York Times Related Editorial

Dirty Politics in New York

A last-minute mailer from Democrats wrongly describing Cynthia Nixon as anti-Semitic is a disgrace.

By [The Editorial Board](#)

The editorial board represents the opinions of the board, its editor and the publisher. It is separate from the newsroom and the Op-Ed section.

- Sept. 9, 2018

A last-minute mailer from Democrats wrongly describing Cynthia Nixon as anti-Semitic is a disgrace.

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By [The Editorial Board](#)



Andrew Cuomo marching in the Celebrate Israel Parade in June. A mailer sent by the New York State Democratic Committee accuses his primary challenger, Cynthia Nixon, of anti-Semitism. Credit Kena Betancur/Getty Images

This is dirty politics, nearly as sleazy as it gets.

Days before Mr. Cuomo's primary race for re-election on Thursday, the New York State Democratic Committee has sent voters a campaign mailer falsely accusing his challenger, Cynthia Nixon, of being "silent on the rise of anti-Semitism."

It says she supports the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement against Israel over its treatment of Palestinians. She does not. It accuses Ms. Nixon of opposing funding yeshivas, private religious schools attended by many of the city's Orthodox Jews. She has never said that.

"With anti-Semitism and bigotry on the rise, we can't take a chance," the mailer reads. "Re-Elect Governor Andrew Cuomo."

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This is the lowest form of politics, and the most dangerous, exploiting the festering wounds and fears along ethnic and religious lines.

“I didn’t know about the mailer,” Mr. Cuomo [said](#) at a news conference Sunday in Manhattan. “I haven’t seen the mailer.”

Sorry, Mr. Cuomo, but that strains credulity.

Mr. Cuomo dominates the state Democratic Party. It acts ethically or abominably at his direction, or at the very least, with his campaign’s blessing.

The committee no doubt sent this garbage in the cynical hope that it would prove effective with Orthodox Jews, who generally vote as a bloc, making them a sought-after constituency for New York politicians.

Geoff Berman, executive director of the state Democrats, said Saturday on Twitter that the mailer was “a mistake and is inappropriate and is not the tone the Democratic Party should set,” saying it wouldn’t happen again. Sunday, he went further, saying the party would “work with the Nixon campaign to send out a mailing of their choosing to the same universe of people.”

Even if that were possible so late in the campaign, it’s not enough.

Mr. Cuomo has an obligation to personally apologize and condemn these outrageous attacks. Voters deserve to hear Mr. Cuomo describe Ms. Nixon as a worthy opponent who abhors anti-Semitism. He should make sure that message gets to Orthodox voters ahead of Thursday’s elections. And he should fire the party official who came up with the idea for the flier.

While Mr. Cuomo is at it, he might also mention that Ms. Nixon attends a Manhattan synagogue. Saturday night, her rabbi, Sharon Kleinbaum, issued a [joint statement](#) with her wife, the teachers’ union leader Randi Weingarten, on Facebook, calling the charges in the mailer a “baseless lie.” Other Democrats have also condemned Mr. Cuomo and the Democratic Party for the flier.

State Sen. Liz Krueger, a Democrat who hasn’t endorsed a candidate in the primary, said in a statement released by the Nixon campaign on Sunday: “I am doubly offended and aghast that my party organization would produce and mail such a false, damaging attack on Ms. Nixon and then watch the Governor and key staff act surprised they had done this. Shameful.”

Given all the ethical lapses in Mr. Cuomo's administration, of which he has also pleaded ignorance, this smear is appalling. It is the kind of cynical behavior that detracts from Mr. Cuomo's often-impressive ability to govern. If he is not careful, it could make voters feel they have no choice but to vote for someone else.

Mr. Cuomo deserves a third term because of his potential to lead. He should stop squandering that potential now. To be sure of it, New York Democrats need to turn out in large numbers on Thursday to support every reform-driven candidate possible — for the Legislature, for attorney general, even for party committees. They can teach Albany a lesson it won't soon forget.

Lieutenant-Governor – NY Times

[nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com)

[Opinion](#)

Jumaane Williams Is Democrats' Best Bet for Lieutenant Governor

The City Council member from Brooklyn can bring welcome change to Albany.



The lieutenant governor of New York, day to day, is in charge of ribbon-cutting and little else.

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But twice in 45 years, the occupant of that office rose to become the state's chief executive upon a governor's departure. So while races for lieutenant governor have often been forgettable, the result can be consequential.

Jumaane Williams, an independent-minded New York City Council member, has shown that he can be a real leader and is the right choice for lieutenant governor in the Democratic primary next Thursday.

The current lieutenant governor, Kathy Hochul, a lawyer and former county clerk and House member from Buffalo, is a dedicated public servant. But in her more than three years in office, Ms. Hochul has served as little more than an echo for Gov. Andrew Cuomo. During a debate with Mr. Williams, Ms. Hochul could not name a single instance in which she had changed the governor's mind on an issue, or opposed one of his policies.

We have endorsed Mr. Cuomo for governor in the Democratic primary, while arguing that he is likely to act aggressively against systemic corruption in Albany only if reformers continue to pressure him.

While the lieutenant governor holds an essentially ceremonial position, Mr. Williams has vowed, if elected, to do what he can to add to that pressure.

Mr. Williams, a three-term councilman from Brooklyn, has also said he would use the office as a bully pulpit to push for progress on affordable housing, the subways and criminal justice reform. And he has promised to call out the governor — whoever that may be — whenever necessary.

Mr. Williams, 42, comes with an impressive record on the City Council, which oversees the city's nearly \$90 billion budget, and the largest school system and police department in the country.

It was his 2013 legislation, known as the Community Safety Act, that brought much-needed changes to the New York Police Department, which had conducted unconstitutional pedestrian stops of millions of innocent New Yorkers for nearly a decade. The hard-fought legislation from Mr. Williams and Councilman Brad Lander, another Brooklyn Democrat, created an inspector general to provide independent oversight of the department.

It also made it easier for New Yorkers who felt the city police had discriminated against them based on sexual orientation, gender or other categories to bring a lawsuit.

Time and time again over his near-decade in public service, Mr. Williams has brought issues to the fore that affected millions of New Yorkers but had gone unaddressed by the city's leaders.

He was an early advocate of an anti-violence model known as Cure Violence, which uses mediators to stop shootings before they occur. The approach has become widely used in New York City, where police officers and others have credited it with driving down crime.

Mr. Williams also led a yearslong campaign to push the city to create thousands more summer jobs for young people.

He has a reputation for thoughtfully building consensus, earned by passing some 50 pieces of legislation. That total makes him among the most productive members of the City Council.

Ms. Hochul has made this campaign ugly at times, running digital ads that have unfairly characterized Mr. Williams and his record on important issues.

One ad questions Mr. Williams's support for gay rights. The councilman once said that he believed marriage was between a man and a woman; in 2014 he chose not to give an up-or-down vote on a Council bill to allow transgender New Yorkers to change the sex listed on their birth certificates. Mr. Williams has apologized for failing to vote on the 2014 legislation, and he has become a strong, reliable supporter of L.G.B.T.Q. rights.

Another spot from Ms. Hochul questions Mr. Williams's support of Roe v. Wade. Though Mr. Williams has [said he is personally opposed to abortion](#), he has voted consistently pro-choice.

We expect Mr. Williams, if elected, to continue to be a defender of a woman's right to choose and of L.G.B.T.Q. rights. On Primary Day next Thursday, Democrats should vote for Mr. Williams, a real reformer who would be a potent voice for all New Yorkers.

Newsday-Lieutenant Governor

newsday.com

[OpinionEditorial](#)

Newsday endorses Kathy Hochul in Democratic primary

The lieutenant governor has worked steadfastly for four years.



Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul and Kevin Law, president of Long Island Association, meet in February in Hempstead. Photo Credit: Howard Schnapp

By **The Editorial Board** Updated September 9, 2018 6:00 AM

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There's a strong argument to be made that the state of New York needs an independently elected rabble rouser — like the New York City public advocate — to stand up for the people. But that's not the job description of lieutenant governor. And that's the biggest reason Jumaane Williams, the Democratic candidate campaigning as gubernatorial hopeful Cynthia Nixon's running mate, is wrong for the job.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul deserves a second nomination to the Democratic ticket.

Williams, a New York City councilman from Brooklyn, calls himself an “activist/elected official.” He's quick to attack Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, the prohibitive favorite to top the Democratic ticket. Thanks to state laws that have voters ballot separately for the offices in primaries and jointly in general elections, Cuomo and Williams could both win. That would mean voters who chose Cuomo in November would also be picking as his emergency replacement a man who disagrees with Cuomo's policies and wants the job just to heckle the governor from proximity. In terms of good government and a succession plan, it makes no sense. Nor would it make political sense for Hochul to be on the Democratic line in November with Nixon.

Hochul has worked steadfastly for four years. Before that she was the Erie County clerk, and was elected to Congress for most of one term before redistricting took place. She is better qualified to be governor in a pinch.

Candidates for governor and lieutenant governor ought to run on one ticket in the primaries. And Democrats should pick Hochul on Thursday.

— The editorial board

Lieutenant Governor – Buffalo News

buffalonews.com



Lieutenant Kathy Hochul campaigns at a senior center in Brooklyn last week. Hochul deserves renomination to the post. (Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News)

Editorial: Hochul for lieutenant governor

By [News Editorial Board](#) | Published September 4, 2018 | Updated September 4, 2018

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul has served her constituents as Erie County clerk, congresswoman and now as the right-hand to a governor who is equally committed to a place that had long suffered from hardship and inattention.

Hochul, New York's lieutenant governor, has earned the right to return to Albany. She works for all New Yorkers, but when it comes to serving the best interests of Western New York, Hochul is the obvious choice. The region needs her influence in statewide office.

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New York City Councilman Jumaane Williams is mounting a strong campaign against Hochul. He has a downstate, New York City-Brooklyn base. Williams is a bright, energetic community organizer-turned politician.

However, he envisions the lieutenant governor's job description, in part, as a thorn in the side of the governor, as he deems necessary. No one is suggesting that the lieutenant governor should be merely a mouthpiece, spend all day cutting ribbons and otherwise imitate a piece of furniture. But promoting an adversarial relationship with the current governor, should he be re-elected, would be radically unproductive.

Hochul sees the governor-lieutenant governor relationship as akin to that of Barack Obama and Joe Biden — someone in sync with the chief's priorities, in this case keeping the economy strong while focusing on high-needs areas such as Buffalo or Central Brooklyn. She is the face of the initiatives, making appearances, leading task forces and rallying support in the community and with legislators.

Hochul has had a long career in public service, from Hamburg Town Board to Erie County Clerk to Congress, serving the needs of her constituents, including the designation of Superfund sites in Lockport. Redistricting placed her in the state's reddest congressional district, though, and she lost a close election to Chris Collins.

Hochul says she sees important work yet to do: creating a firewall against Trump administration policies that could harm the state; pushing for affordable, accessible health care; protecting the environment and more.

She touted accomplishments during the Cuomo-Hochul era including a higher minimum wage, free college tuition and paid family leave.

"Of all the levels of government I've worked in, I'm really finding that this one has a very direct impact on the most of our people," Hochul told the News editorial board. "That's why I want to do it, again. We're not finished with our work, yet."

There is another important reason for area voters to support Hochul. She is not simply the only Western New York in statewide office, she is the only upstater. It is important for this region to have a voice in Albany. Hochul provides that.

As she said, it doesn't hurt to have a lieutenant governor who wakes up here and one, we would add, who makes it her mission to bring more women into politics. Hochul deserves renomination to the job.

Attorney General – NYTimes

nytimes.com

[Opinion](#)

Zephyr Teachout Is the Right Choice as Attorney General for Democrats



The office is a potential firewall against an out-of-control president and a historically corrupt New York State government.

Zephyr Teachout Credit Credit Jesse Dittmar for The New York Times

By [The Editorial Board](#)

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The editorial board represents the opinions of the board, its editor and the publisher. It is separate from the newsroom and the Op-Ed section.

- Aug. 19, 2018

The most important choice facing New York voters this fall is whom they will pick as their next state attorney general. The office could be the last line of defense against an antidemocratic president, a federal government indifferent to environmental and consumer protection and a state government in which ethics can seem a mere inconvenience.

Even in the best of times the office plays a critical role, policing fraud on Wall Street and ensuring enforcement of state and federal laws, from regulating the financial system to preventing employment discrimination. Its influence is felt across the nation.

These are not the best of times. With the right leadership, the office could serve as a firewall if President Trump pardons senior aides, dismisses the special counsel, Robert Mueller, or attacks the foundations of state power. Only a handful of American institutions are equipped to resist such assaults on constitutional authority, and the New York attorney general's office, with 650 lawyers and a history of muscular law enforcement, is one of them.

The next attorney general will have a full docket in New York as well. Albany has long been a chamber of ethical horrors. In March, Gov. Andrew Cuomo's former senior aide [Joseph Percoco](#) was convicted on corruption charges. In May, former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Democrat, was [also convicted](#) of corruption. In July, the former Republican Senate majority leader, Dean Skelos, was [convicted of bribery, extortion and conspiracy](#). Prosecutors said he used his office to pressure businesses to pay his son \$300,000 for no-show jobs. The same month, [Alain Kaloyeros](#), a key figure behind Mr. Cuomo's "[Buffalo Billion](#)" economic initiative, was convicted in a bid-rigging scheme.

Not to be forgotten are the allegations against former Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who [resigned in disgrace](#) earlier this year after women who dated him accused him of choking them and beating them up.

New Yorkers who feel they deserve better — presumably just about all of them — have the chance this fall to elect a strong and unencumbered attorney general capable of delivering it.

From a refreshingly strong field competing in the Democratic primary, to be held on Sept. 13, the best candidate is Zephyr Teachout, an independent-minded lawyer unusually well prepared to curb abuses of power and restore integrity and pride to this office. Ms. Teachout waged a strong primary challenge against Mr. Cuomo four years ago, lending her additional credibility and distance from a governor who remains all too cozy with the donors, contractors, union leaders and influence peddlers who dominate Albany and beyond.

The office of attorney general has been held by a long line of formidable lawyers and strong, if at times deeply flawed, men. No woman has ever been elected to the position. Barbara Underwood, the current occupant, assumed office after Mr. Schneiderman's resignation. Ms. Teachout lacks direct experience as a prosecutor but is equipped with legal firepower comparable to previous attorneys general.

A Fordham Law School professor and activist, she's widely respected among lawyers and academics. She's known as a thoughtful and innovative scholar who has been a pioneering thinker in the legal case against Trump's entanglements with foreign favor-seekers who are lining his pockets through his hotels, golf courses and other private holdings. We are persuaded she will not let a focus on the Trump administration detract her from other efforts on behalf of New York, including securing tenants' rights and voting rights and pursuing criminal justice reform.

Ms. Teachout has written the book on political corruption — [literally](#) — and is recognized as a national expert on this scourge.

We believe Ms. Teachout would also be able to recruit some of the best lawyers in the country to the state attorney general's office, which competes for talent with the Southern District of New York, the Department of Justice in Washington, top private law firms and prestigious public-interest groups.

Among the other contenders in the Democratic primary, Public Advocate [Letitia James](#), an attorney who once led the New York attorney general's Brooklyn office, has garnered substantial establishment support, including an endorsement from Mr. Cuomo. Ms. James has for decades been a standout fighter for tenants, children and other vulnerable New Yorkers. But she has embraced political contributions from donors to Mr. Cuomo, who held a fund-raiser for her earlier this summer.

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Ms. James has [countered](#) that she is “unbossed and unbought,” and described suggestions she is too close to Mr. Cuomo as “disrespectful,” insinuating that they are asked only because she is poised to become the first black woman to win statewide office. But given the political landscape in New York and elsewhere, the state attorney must be absolutely independent. Such political contributions could become a conflict of interest for any candidate.

[Leecia Eve](#), a graduate of Harvard Law School with years of experience in government and in the courtroom, is also impressive. Ms. Eve served as counsel to Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton when they were in the Senate, and as deputy secretary for economic development for Mr. Cuomo. If Ms. Teachout were not in the race, Ms. Eve would be the strongest candidate; we hope we haven’t seen the last of her on a campaign trail.

Representative Sean Patrick Maloney of upstate New York is also in the hunt. Mr. Maloney, whose congressional seat is up this year, is straddling two races. He is fighting to hold on to his seat in the 18th Congressional District — a race that could prove critical to Democrats’ hopes of winning the House — while also running for the Albany job. His acceptance of tens of thousands of dollars from real estate interests casts a shadow over his appealing résumé and solid government experience. Mr. Maloney has been effective in Congress; he and the state would be better served if he stayed there and moved into the leadership ranks.

The winner of the Democratic primary will face the Republican Keith Wofford, co-managing partner of Ropes & Gray, an international law firm, in the general election on Nov. 6.

New York needs a great lawyer. We believe that Democrats who are seeking a means of standing up to the Trump presidency and graft in Albany can find in Ms. Teachout their most effective champion for democracy and civil rights, good government and the environment, workers’ rights, fair housing and gender equality.

Newsday

Attorney General - Newsday

newsday.com

Newsday endorses Letitia James for attorney general

By The Editorial Board Updated September 7, 2018 5:00 AM

6-8 minutes

Summary: So who is the best candidate to run the 600-attorney public law firm to best represent the state and specifically Long Island?

*That candidate is **Letitia James**, the public advocate for New York City, a former City Council member and former head of the attorney general's regional office in Brooklyn. She will be a passionate advocate for consumers, such as protecting older residents from housing fraud and other scams, and she would be diligent in ferreting out taxpayer fraud.*

Only the most engaged Democrats will vote in the state party primary for attorney general next week, and they're likely to be itching for a candidate who makes the most noise about using the office as a platform to thwart President Donald Trump's administration.

That would be a waste of your vote. Current state Attorney General Barbara Underwood, chosen by the State Legislature to replace Eric T. Schneiderman after he resigned, is on the case. And no one running has the professional chops to do it better. Underwood, who has extensive federal and local prosecutorial experience, is suing Trump, three of his children and The Trump Foundation for self-dealing transactions that violated state charities law. Oversight of nonprofit organizations is one of the prime functions of the state attorney general, evidenced again Thursday when Underwood announced the office is examining whether the state's eight Roman Catholic dioceses used donations in covering up sexual abuse of minors.

Underwood, a former acting solicitor general of the United States, is also investigating whether Trump's businesses in New York are violating the federal constitutional ban on presidents receiving payment from foreign governments and is in the lead with other states in suing the federal government over its immigration policies and regulatory rollbacks.

Underwood said she would continue working in the office, and all four attorney general candidates have pledged to keep her on. No matter which Democrat wins the primary, if he or she wins in the general election in November the office's fight against Trump's policies will continue.

Best for Long Island

Despite every candidate donning the crusader cloak against corrupt public officials, the actual powers of the attorney general to investigate those cases are limited. The state constitution invests criminal prosecution powers in local district attorneys and experience has shown that U.S. attorneys have the more expansive laws to bring wrongdoers to justice. The state attorney general and the state comptroller investigate the misuse of state funds. However, changing Albany's pay-to-play culture requires changes to campaign finance laws and a ban on outside income.

So who is the best candidate to run the 600-attorney public law firm to best represent the state and specifically Long Island?

That candidate is **Letitia James**, the public advocate for New York City, a former City Council member and former head of the attorney general's regional office in Brooklyn. She will be a passionate advocate for consumers, such as protecting older residents from housing fraud and other scams, and she would be diligent in ferreting out taxpayer fraud.

James, who goes by Tish and has been doggedly campaigning here, is the only candidate who can knowledgeably take on the serious environmental issues facing our region, including the illegal dumping of toxic construction debris that threatens our soil and water. She will work to get more money from mortgage crisis settlement funds directed to local landbanks to rehabilitate zombie homes. And she has clear plans to seize hazardous lots and decrepit housing from banks, or from slumlords who aren't keeping them up, and give them to municipalities to develop.

Leecia Eve, a former aide to Hillary Clinton when she was in the Senate, is a lobbyist for Verizon and a commissioner with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. She is intently focused on criminal justice reform, but she was late to seek party support and her campaign barely registers downstate.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney has a deep understanding of state government, having worked for Govs. Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson, and its interaction with Washington. But he showed little passion for the job he is seeking as evidenced by his decision to run simultaneously for re-election to Congress.

Zephyr Teachout, a law professor, is seeking a national platform for her government reform ideas but doesn't seem to have a strong grasp of the job she seeks. She doesn't demonstrate a granular understanding of how the attorney general's office works, telling us that she has the vision and would set a "legal strategy." In the past four years, Teachout ran unsuccessfully for governor and Congress, in an upstate race in which she showed little enthusiasm for recently enacted state gun-control laws.

Teachout became a registered member of the New York bar only a few weeks ago. She dismisses her failure to take the steps to practice law in the state as insignificant but it gives credence to the concern that Teachout talks a big game but isn't much interested in specifics.

Reason to believe

In 2010 and in 2014 we did not endorse Schneiderman because we were troubled by his showboating, inability to attract and keep talent in the office, and lack of interest about Long Island issues, particularly on aggressively protecting the environment. Those concerns remain.

Tish James came up through the ranks as a scrappy fighter and is now the party's designated candidate. She promises this won't diminish her independence as attorney general, and we believe her.

Newsday endorses James.

Buffalo News – Attorney General

buffalonews.com



Democratic attorney general candidate Zephyr Teachout campaigns in front of Trump Tower in New York City last month. Among four Democratic candidates for the office, she offers the best opportunity to root out corruption in state government. (Getty Images)

Editorial: Teachout for attorney general

By [News Editorial Board](#) | Published September 5, 2018 | Updated September 5, 2018

Corruption plagues New York government. In the past year, alone, the former speaker of the State Assembly and former majority leader of the State Senate were convicted on federal corruption charges. So were two of the governor's closest aides.

Four people have been convicted of corruption in state contracting, including Buffalo businessman Louis Ciminelli.

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It may be impossible to break the grip of New York's culture of corruption, which dates at least to the heyday of Tammany Hall. But the best chance — maybe the best chance in decades — is with one of the four Democratic candidates in this year's attorney general primary election: Fordham law professor Zephyr Teachout.

Corruption in state and local government costs New Yorkers real money. It is part of what makes our taxes so high. It is part of what makes New York less appealing for businesses.

Teachout brings real expertise on how to fight corruption. Her deep understanding of its origins and how it has become entrenched in modern politics is detailed in her book, "Corruption in America: From Benjamin Franklin's Snuff Box to Citizens United."

She may not succeed. One part of her plan — reviving the Moreland Commission that Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo empaneled, then abolished — may be wishful thinking. And she does not have experience running a large organization. She will need strong, experienced deputies.

Generally speaking, there is reason to worry about electing people who have never held office to high positions. It's among the concerns we had regarding gubernatorial candidate Cynthia Nixon. But Teachout's background, and that fact that the attorney general's office is less political than it is legal and administrative, makes her inexperience less troubling.

Among the other Democratic contenders — all of whom have a solid background — is a Buffalo native, Leecia Eve. The daughter of former Deputy Assembly Speaker Arthur O. Eve is a Harvard Law School graduate, a former aide to Hillary Clinton, and works as a lobbyist for Verizon. If Eve falls short in this race, she no doubt will hold public office in the future at a high level.

Letitia "Tish" James, the New York City Public Advocate and a former City Council member from Brooklyn, is the candidate endorsed by the state Democratic Party. James, like the other candidates, talks tough about taking on President Trump and vows to clean up Albany, but there are questions about her ability to remain independent from the governor, who held a fundraiser for her this summer.

It was also troubling that, in an endorsement interview with The News, she said that as attorney general, she would like to investigate the State Senate on the possibility that, for nefarious reasons, it was blocking legislation that Democrats tend to favor. She denied the obvious inference, but the idea smacked of criminalizing political differences.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney is a Hudson Valley congressman who served as staff secretary in the Clinton White House. Maloney is running both for the attorney general nod and to hang on to his congressional seat.

These are all accomplished people, and all have the background to do the job. But Teachout brings something the others don't: independence and a record of opposing corruption.

"The next attorney general needs to be somebody who's willing to both use the full existing powers of the AG's office and be willing to call out leadership, Republican and Democratic, Assembly, Senate, and the governor's office," Teachout told The News' editorial board. "And call it out publicly because we know Albany can't fix itself."

We hope that Teachout, who ran for governor against Cuomo in the 2014 Democratic primary, won't use the attorney general's office to continue her four-year-old fight against him. Like siblings who don't get along, the left wing of the Democratic Party seems more interested in fighting Cuomo than fighting New York Republicans. Teachout is solidly part of the party's left wing.

Teachout says she wants to be attorney general for the next eight or 12 years and that she would not use the position as a steppingstone to another gubernatorial race. That's part of the attraction: Her fight against corruption won't be measured against her political aspirations.

We take her at her word. In turn, we expect her to devote her energy to what will be a long and arduous fight to break New York's culture of corruption — not to the left's bickering with Cuomo.

Attorney General - Albany Times Union

timesunion.com

Editorial: Leecia Eve, an AG for us all

Updated 11:39 am EDT, Sunday, September 2, 2018



Leecia Eve, one of four Democrats seeking the nomination for state attorney general, speaks to the Times Union editorial board on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018, at Times Union in Colonie N.Y. (Will Waldron/Times Union) less

Leecia Eve, one of four Democrats seeking the nomination for state attorney general, speaks to the Times Union editorial board on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018, at Times Union in Colonie N.Y. (Will Waldron/Times ... more

Photo: Will Waldron, Albany Times Union

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Photo: Will Waldron, Albany Times Union

In the Democratic primary for state attorney general, Leecia Eve may be the candidate most New York voters have heard the least about — and the one they should most fully consider.

Ms. Eve brings to the race energy, independence, an impressive breadth of legal and governmental experience, and a clear understanding of the job's potential. And, significantly, she brings a broader view of New York — upstate and downstate — than her rivals. That's an essential quality for leading an office which, after all, must protect the interests of all New Yorkers.

Ms. Eve stands out in a capable Democratic field that also includes Letitia James, the New York City public advocate; Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, who represents the 18th Congressional District and served as White House staff secretary under President Bill Clinton and first deputy secretary to former Govs. Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson; and Zephyr Teachout, a Fordham University law professor who brings a high profile to the race from her past unsuccessful runs for governor and Congress.

They're all fine candidates; each would bring unique qualities to the job. But Ms. Eve stands out for several reasons. Notably, though she has lived for two decades in Harlem, she was born and raised upstate. (Her father was a longtime Assembly member from Buffalo, and her mother a social justice crusader there.) She would offer balance and perspective to a Democratic ticket that is otherwise downstate-centric.

She also brings an independence to the job that Ms. James, who has been endorsed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, can't quite claim. That's fundamental for one element of the AG's job: to be a watchdog on government corruption. Ms. Eve would fully use the office's authority toward that end, rather than rely on the governor for an official designation that is unlikely if Mr. Cuomo is reelected.

While Ms. Teachout is the most outspoken progressive in the race, Ms. Eve brings a more understated but no less firm sense of social justice to her candidacy, notably on such issues as reforming the criminal justice system, ensuring fairness in education, and going after environmental violations.

All the candidates vow to continue the attorney general's recent role of challenging the Trump administration's reprehensible approach to immigration, its destructive environmental policies and other matters. Yet Ms. Eve seems less likely to face the distraction of being the sort of political lightning rod Ms. Teachout has become. She strikes the right balance of shared progressive goals and political distance from both Mr. Cuomo and his challenger, Cynthia Nixon.

Mr. Maloney also brings ample experience in state and federal government. But he is more needed elsewhere: in his current House seat, from which we hope he can rise to congressional leadership.

Ms. Eve, 54, boasts a solid resume for the job. A graduate of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Law School, she worked as a law clerk in state Court of Appeals, as a counsel to then-U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden Jr., and as homeland security advisor to then-Sen. Hillary Clinton. She was Mr. Cuomo's deputy secretary for economic development, and has worked in private and corporate practice as well, currently serving as vice president for government affairs for Verizon for New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

In an unusually strong Democratic field, Ms. Eve is the candidate who can best carry a progressive yet universal message into the general election, and hit the ground running when she takes office. We enthusiastically urge her election.

Talking Points
August 25, 2018

Who are the Candidates?

A primary election will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018. The general election will be on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

The chart, on the next two pages, relates to the primary and election ballots for the area covered by Rockville Centre.

In the September primary there will be Democratic nomination contests for:

Governor
Lt. Governor
Attorney General

The winners of those primary contests will be on the November ballot as the Democratic Candidates, as will a number of persons running for other offices that are not the subjects of primary contests.

People who lose in the Democratic primary may still be on the ballot if they have the endorsement of one or more other political parties.

Wherever DEM is referenced in the "Primary" column, that means there is a primary contest.

The candidates are arranged in the order provided by the Nassau County Board of Elections.

Links to candidate websites are provided, to the extent we are aware of them.

HJB

Elected Office & Candidate	Party	Primary	Vote For...
Governor			Vote For One
Cynthia E. Nixon	DEM,WFP	DEM	
Andrew M. Cuomo	DEM,IND,WEP	DEM	
Marc Molinaro	REP,CON,REF		
Howie	GRE		

Elected Office & Candidate	Party	Primary	Vote For...
Lieutenant Governor			Vote For One
Kathy C. Hochul	DEM,IND,WEP	DEM	
Jumaane Williams	DEM,WFP	DEM	
Julie Killian	REP,CON,REF		
Jia Lee	GRE		
State Comptroller			Vote For One
Thomas P. DiNapoli	DEM,WFP,IND,WEP, R		
Jonathan Trichter	REP,CON		
Mark Dunlea	GRE		
Attorney General			Vote For One
Sean Patrick Maloney	DEM	DEM	
Letitia A. James	DEM	DEM	
Leecia R. Eve	DEM	DEM	
Zephyr Teachout	DEM	DEM	
Keith Wofford	REP,CON		
Michael Sussman	GRE		
Kenneth D. Schaeffer	WFP		

Vincent J. Messina, Jr.	IND		
Nancy B. Sliwa	REF	REF	
Mike Diederich	REF	REF	
Christopher B. Garvey	REF	REF	
United States Senator			Vote For One
Kirsten E. Gillibrand	DEM,WFP,IND,WEP		
Chele Chiavacci Farley	REP,CON,REF		
County Court Judge			Vote For One
Catherine Rizzo	DEM,REP		
Shaun K. Hogan	CON		

Family Court Judge			Vote For One
Robin M. Kent	DEM,REP		
Madeline Petrara-Perrin	CON		

The abbreviated names of the political parties can be confusing. They are:

DEM – Democratic”

WFP – Working Family

IND – Independence (that does not mean “independent” Independence is the name of a party.

WEP – Women’s Equality Party

GRE – Green

REP – Republican

CON Conservative

REF - Reform Party

There are other political parties, but they are not on any of these ballots.

“Opportunity to Ballot” is a procedure by which an individual or group can reserve a place on the ballot for a write-in candidate.

Please be sure to vote in the Primary and then help us to get out the vote in the general election. In modern times there has not been a more urgent and compelling reason to make every vote count for Democratic candidates.