

2014

VOTERS GUIDE

Part II ~ Candidate Information



League of Women Voters® of New York State
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Election Day 2014

General Election –Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Polls are open 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

FOR WHOM/WHAT WILL I BE VOTING IN THE 2014 ELECTION?

In the General Election (November 4th), voters in New York State (NYS) will elect federal officials (your representative in the US Congress), statewide officials (the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and comptroller), your state senator and assemblyperson, and other officials depending on your location in the state. In the General Election, you will also be voting on statewide and/or local ballot proposals.

HOW DO I MAKE SURE I AM REGISTERED TO VOTE?

You can access the information online by using the Voter Registration Search facility on the NYS Board of Elections website (<https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>). Protect your right to vote by watching your mail for a card from your board of elections with the location of your polling place. If you do not receive such a card well before the election date and do not find yourself listed when using the Voter Registration Search (as above), call your local board of elections to inquire about your status.

DON'T KNOW WHERE TO VOTE?

The board of elections should send you a card telling you the location of your polling place. If you do not receive it, use the online Voter Registration Search facility on the NYS Board of Elections website or call your county board of elections to verify your registration and ask about your polling place.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHEN I GO TO THE POLLS?

A sample ballot should be posted. If you do not know how to use the voting machine, ask one of the

election inspectors for assistance. If you are not on the rolls at your polling place, but believe you are registered to vote, and have verified with the poll worker that you are at the correct polling place for your address, you are legally entitled to vote on an affidavit (paper) ballot. You should also ask the poll worker for advice about following up on your status. After validation by your county board of elections, your affidavit ballot will be counted. If you determine that you are in the wrong polling place, go to the correct one to vote. Be sure to bring some identification, especially if you are voting for the first time.

WHAT IS AN AFFIDAVIT BALLOT?

An affidavit ballot, sometimes called a "provisional ballot" or "paper ballot," is used when a voter's name has been omitted from the computer-generated roll book. If you need to use one, you must swear that you are a registered voter and provide your current and previous addresses.

WHAT IDENTIFICATION DO I NEED TO VOTE?

Federal law requires persons who register by mail and are voting for the first time to provide identification, either on the Voter Registration Form or in person at the polling place. Identification usually means a current NYS driver's license or the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have a current NYS driver's license, you need to provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have either of these, you may provide a copy of a valid photo ID, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or some other government documentation that shows your name and address. It's a good idea to bring your ID to the polls, especially if you registered by mail and are voting for the first time.

NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ERIC SCHNEIDERMAN ~ *Democratic, Working Families, Women's Equality, Independence*

EDUCATION: BA, Amherst College; JD, Harvard Law School **PAST EXPERIENCE:** NYS Senator, public interest lawyer. **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** <http://ericsschneiderman.com/> **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/SchneidermanNY> **CAMPAIGN TWITTER:** <https://twitter.com/SchneidermanNY>
CURRENT POSITION: New York State Attorney General

JOHN CAHILL ~ *Republican, Conservative, StopCommonCore*

EDUCATION: Fordham University; JD and MA in Environmental Law, Pace University School of Law
PAST EXPERIENCE: Sr. Policy Advisor and Chief of Staff, NYS Governor Office (2001-2006); General Counsel and Commissioner, NYS DEC **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** <http://CahillForAG.com/> **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/CahillForAG> **CAMPAIGN TWITTER:** @CahillForAG **CURRENT POSITION:** Co-Founder and CEO of the Pataki-Cahill Group, LLC

RAMON JIMENEZ ~ *Green*

EDUCATION: No undergraduate degree shown; JD, Harvard Law School **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** http://www.howiehawkins.org/ramon_jimenez

CARL PERSON ~ *Libertarian*

EDUCATION: BA, Long Island University; LLB, Harvard Law School **PAST EXPERIENCE:** Private Attorney
CAMPAIGN WEB SITE: <http://www.carl4ag.com/> **CURRENT POSITION:** Private Attorney

NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER

THOMAS DINAPOLI ~ *Democratic, Working Families, Women's Equality, Independence*

EDUCATION: BA, Hofstra University; MA, The New School, Management and Urban Studies **PAST EXPERIENCE:** NYS Assemblymember **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/Thomas.P.DiNapoli?ref=hl>
CAMPAIGN TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/tomdinapoli> **CURRENT POSITION:** New York State Comptroller

ROBERT ANTONACCI ~ *Republican, Conservative, StopCommonCore*

EDUCATION: Bachelors, Le Moyne College; JD, Syracuse University College of Law **PAST EXPERIENCE:** Private Attorney and CPA **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** <http://www.bobantonacci.com> **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/bobantonacci1 **CAMPAIGN TWITTER:** @antonaccicpa **CURRENT POSITION:** Onondaga County Comptroller

THERESA PORTELLI ~ *Green*

EDUCATION: BA, Brooklyn College; MS Education & Counseling, Long Island University **PAST EXPERIENCE:** Past Member, Albany City School Board and Green Party candidate for Albany Mayor. **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** http://www.howiehawkins.org/about_theresa_portelli **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:** Theresa Reilly Portelli for NYS Comptroller **CAMPAIGN TWITTER:** @theresa4comp

JOHN CLIFTON ~ *Libertarian*

EDUCATION: Parsons/the New School for Social Research **PAST EXPERIENCE:** Navy Veteran and Social Worker **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** <http://electclifton.wordpress.com/> **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/john.clifton.7165?fref=ts> **CURRENT POSITION:** CEO, East New York Holdings LTD and Exe VP, Applied Anthropologics, Inc

GOVERNOR CANDIDATES

Questions posed to candidates.

Responses (500 character limit) are printed as received with no correction of spelling, punctuation or grammar.

1. What further changes, if any, to campaign finance regulation and enforcement in New York State do you propose?
2. What election reforms would you support, such as: early voting; voting by mail; better ballot design; and voter registration modernization?
3. What steps would you propose to secure the state's energy needs while protecting the local and global environment?
4. What steps would you propose at the state level regarding income inequality, while maintaining an economy that encourages growth?

ANDREW CUOMO ~ *Democratic, Independence, Working Families, Women's Equality*

EDUCATION: BA, Fordham University; JD, Albany Law School **LT GOV:** Kathy Hochul **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:**

<http://www.andrewcuomo.com> **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/andrewcuomo

CAMPAIGN TWITTER: @TeamCuomo **CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICE:** Governor of the State of New York

1. I proposed an aggressive statewide public financing system in the 2013 and 2014 budget cycles. A legislative proposal was advanced this year, as a first step, to address campaign finance issues. I will continue to pursue campaign finance reform measures including statewide public financing.
2. I expanded access to voter registration services by allowing New Yorkers, for the first time ever, to apply to register to vote, or update their address or party enrollment, through a secure online site. I support structural and design reforms to modernize the voting process. I will review specific proposals and the accompanying budgetary implications within the context of the legislative and budget cycle.
3. NY is leading the nation in developing sustainable solutions for meeting energy needs. I created the Energy Highway to bring renewable energy downstate & reduced emissions by lowering the gas emission cap. I unveiled "Reforming the Energy Vision," to transform the electricity market through a shift in utility regulation. It provides a public process to examine changes to increase customer choice, system efficiency, and promote increased use of energy efficiency & clean generation technologies.
4. I have taken many steps to address this such as creating REDCs, START UP NY, reducing the middle-class tax rate, increasing economic opportunities for disadvantaged communities, increasing education aid, increasing the minimum wage, increasing opportunities for MWBE's in state contracting, supporting pay equity legislation, supporting legislation to protect family status, creating an employment & training program for at-risk youth, launching a program to help the formerly incarcerated find jobs.

ROB ASTORINO ~ *Republican, Conservative, StopCommonCore*

EDUCATION: BA, Fordham University; Spanish Immersion Diploma, Enforex School of International Studies

LT GOV: Chris Moss **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** www.robastorino.com **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:**

[Facebook.com/RobAstorino](https://www.facebook.com/RobAstorino) **CAMPAIGN TWITTER:** @RobAstorino **CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICE:** Westchester County Executive

1. I would prohibit the personal use of campaign money and establish clear guidelines to limit the use of donations solely to election-related activities.
2. I believe voting to be a right and privilege and a sacred civic duty of every adult citizen. And to protect that right and the integrity of the democratic process I would support some form of photo ID before voting. Currently, all that is needed is a signature and I believe that is insufficient.
3. Natural gas exploration in Upstate New York means tens of thousands of jobs, billions in tax revenue to the state & local governments and schools, lower utility bills and cleaner air. 30 states are already extracting this cleaner fuel and New York should join them once proper environmental safeguards are put in place. Natural gas cuts carbon emissions by 50-60% and is cheap and plentiful. We should also continue to invest in nuclear power, as well as alternative and renewable energy sources.
4. A growing economy will create the good-paying jobs that lift families into the middle class. An excellent education needs to be ensured and strong families need to be encouraged as well to help lift individuals from struggling to thriving. At the same time, for any at the top who are using nefarious means to generate wealth – whether it is pay-to-play with politicians or white-collar crime – they need to be held accountable with the full weight of current law and any new laws we get adopted.

HOWIE HAWKINS ~ *Green*

EDUCATION: Dartmouth College **LT GOV:** Brian P. Jones **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** www.howiehawkins.org
CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/HawkinsforNYGovernor **CAMPAIGN TWITTER:** @HowieHawkins
CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICE: None

1. Enact the Clean Money Elections bill (A4116, S4501) for full public campaign financing like Arizona and Maine have. Candidates either opt in to run entirely with an equal grant of Clean Money or opt out to run on private Dirty Money. It levels the field among Clean Money candidates and exposes the Dirty Money candidates. The partial public finance bill for matching funds enacted by the Assembly and supported by the Governor leaves unlimited private fundraising and spending unchanged.

2. Proportional representation in the legislature. Instant runoff voting for executive offices. Same day registration. State government responsible for registering all qualified voters. Ballot reform: One page for each race and proposition. Random ordering of candidates. One ballot line for each candidate with all party endorsements on that line. A voter guide mailed to all registered voters, including sample ballots and statements from each political party and each candidate of up to 250 words.

3. 100% Clean Energy by 2030. Immediately create a task force to plan the conversion of New York State's all-purpose energy infrastructure to one using 100% clean wind, water, and sunlight within 15 years. Ban fracking. Phase out nukes. No new fossil fuel infrastructure. A state bank and public power to develop green industries, including a smart grid linking distributed renewable energy sources, hydrogen energy storage, mass transit, green buildings, clean manufacturing, and organic agriculture.

4. Replace failed trickle-down tax cuts for the rich with a bottom-up wage-led economic policy. \$15 minimum wage. Single-payer health care for all. Public Power to build clean energy and reduce energy costs. Worker and consumer cooperatives that distribute earnings equitably among members. Restore the more progressive taxes and revenue sharing of the 1970s. 95% would get tax cuts. State revenues would increase 20%. Increased revenue sharing to pay for state mandates and cut property taxes.

MICHAEL MCDERMOTT ~ *Libertarian*

EDUCATION: Suffolk County Community College **LT GOV:** Chris Edes **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** <http://votemcdermott.org> **CAMPAIGN FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/Mcdermottforgovernor?ref=bookmarks
CAMPAIGN TWITTER: @votemcdermott **CURRENT POLITICAL OFFICE:** None

1. We need to level the playing field. When Andrew Cuomo comes in to the election with over \$33,000,000 how can anybody but a republican candidate compete with that? Donations that come in from large corporation to "curry favor" should not be allowed. Does anybody really think they don't expect something in return like access? The power of the incumbency is huge to begin with and even the media recognizes that deciding what people can hear and not hear.

2. When voting takes place on a Tuesday between 6am and 11PM it makes it very difficult for many people to vote. Why not vote over a four day weekend with staggered hours to encourage people to vote? When only 25% of registered voters actually vote there has to be a reason besides only having the choice of the lesser of two evils. The petitioning requirements for a 3rd party is absolutely ridiculous! The Board of Elections is made up solely of republicans and democrats.

3. I am not specifically opposed to fracking in the event it can be proven to be safe. Having said that I do not trust any of the reports I have seen stating it is safe. There are too many unknowns. Expansion of research for solar and wind power is definitely high on my agenda.

4. Again, just let the FREE MARKET prevail. The free market will decide income equality and encourage income growth rather than income redistribution. Encourage small entrepreneurs and dramatically reduce burdensome regulations.

STEVEN COHN ~ *Sapient*

LT GOV: Bobby Kalotee **CAMPAIGN WEB SITE:** <http://sapientparty.com/>

No responses received to date on questions.

BALLOT PROPOSALS

This Voter Guide will help you evaluate the proposals that will be on the November 2014 ballot.

PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot): Revising State's Redistricting Procedure

The proposed amendment to sections 4 and 5 and addition of new section 5-b to Article 3 of the State Constitution revises the redistricting procedure for state legislative and congressional districts. The proposed amendment establishes a redistricting commission every 10 years beginning in 2020, with two members appointed by each of the four legislative leaders and two members selected by the eight legislative appointees; prohibits legislators and other elected officials from serving as commissioners; establishes principles to be used in creating districts; requires the commission to hold public hearings on proposed redistricting plans; subjects the commission's redistricting plan to legislative enactment; provides that the legislature may only amend the redistricting plan according to the established principles if the commission's plan is rejected twice by the legislature; provides for expedited court review of a challenged redistricting plan; and provides for funding and bipartisan staff to work for the commission. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT DO IF APPROVED?

Under the current redistricting process, the legislature is responsible for drawing the lines and legislators constitute the majority of the commission that drafts new district lines. Under the proposed amendment to the State Constitution, the commission will consist of ten non-legislative members: eight members who are appointed by the four legislative leaders and two members appointed by the original eight, who cannot have been enrolled in either of the two major parties in the preceding five years. The amendment would prohibit certain individuals from serving on the commission, including: any person who has served in the New York state legislature in the last three years, statewide elected officials, members of Congress, spouses of these groups, legislators' staff, lobbyists, state officers or employees and party chairs

The amendment also creates a timeline for the redistricting process and new criteria for drawing district lines. District lines cannot be drawn to discourage competition, nor can they be drawn for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents, particular candidates or political parties. The amendment establishes new rules for passage of a plan and requires that

twelve public hearings be held across the state. It also requires that maps and data be made available to the public in a form that allows the public to review, analyze and comment upon plans and develop alternative plans. The legislature will be allowed to amend the commission's plan(s) according to the criteria in the amendment after two "up or down" votes without amendment.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

This proposed constitutional amendment was passed twice by the legislature following the 2010 census and the 2012 redistricting process. It followed on many decades of attempts to reform the process.

Proponents of the amendment argue that this will create a fairer redistricting process that bans political gerrymandering, has a clear timeline, creates new opportunities for public participation and that the legislature does not have a 'free hand' in amending the commission's plans. Proponents further argue that composition of the proposed commission is a significant improvement because it prohibits those with conflicts of interest, including legislators, from serving on the commission. They also argue that since the proposed commission will include appointees by the majority and minority party leaders in each house, in addition to appointees who are neither Republicans nor Democrats, it will allow for meaningful participation in the process by minority parties and third parties.

Opponents of the amendment argue that it does not go far enough in adequately reforming the redistricting process. They object to the fact that eight of the ten commissioners are appointed by legislative leaders and are critical of the legislature's power to amend the plans if they fail to achieve legislative approval after two votes. They argue that this is the equivalent of the legislature drawing its own lines since the Commission's plans are ultimately approved by the legislature. In addition, opponents object to the proposal's requirement that future mapmakers must consider the core of existing districts when drafting new ones. Opponents also argue that the structure of the commission will result in partisan gridlock and that voting rules for both the commission and legislative approval are overly complex.

PROPOSAL NUMBER TWO

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot): Permitting Electronic Distribution of State Legislative Bills

The proposed amendment to section 14 of Article 3 of the State Constitution would allow electronic distribution of a state legislative bill to satisfy the constitutional requirement that a bill be printed and on the desks of state legislators at least three days before the Legislature votes on it. It would establish the following requirements for electronic distribution: first, legislators must be able to review the electronically-sent bill at their desks; second, legislators must be able to print the bill if they choose; and third, the bill cannot be changed electronically without leaving a record of the changes. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS AMENDMENT DO IF APPROVED?

Currently, the State Constitution requires that all bills be printed and delivered to the desks of members in paper form. This proposal would allow bills to be distributed to members in electronically written format. Legislators would have the option of continuing to receive paper bills if they so choose.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

The New York State legislature spends over \$325,000 per year on paper and ink. They print 19 million pages of materials during legislative session every two years, including the full text of all bills. More than half of state legislatures have taken steps to eliminate or reduce paper use.

Proponents of the amendment argue that allowing bills to be distributed to the desks of members in electronic form will save taxpayer dollars and reduce paper waste. Proponents suggest that this amendment offers an environmentally friendly alternative to paper bills and will help modernize the way state government operates.

The League of Women Voters of New York State could not identify any organizations or expressed opinions in opposition to this amendment.

PROPOSAL NUMBER THREE

FORM OF SUBMISSION (how the proposal will be presented to you on the ballot): The Smart Schools Bond Act Of 2014

The SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014, as set forth in section one of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2014, authorizes the sale of state bonds of up to two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) to provide access to classroom technology and high-speed internet

connectivity to equalize opportunities for children to learn, to add classroom space to expand high-quality pre-kindergarten programs, to replace classroom trailers with permanent instructional space, and to install high-tech smart security features in schools. Shall the SMART SCHOOLS BOND ACT OF 2014 be approved?

WHAT WILL THIS PROPOSAL DO IF APPROVED?

Revenue received from the sale of Smart Schools bonds would be used for capital projects related to educational technology, including but not limited to: purchasing educational technology equipment and facilities, such as interactive whiteboards, computer servers, desktop and laptop computers, tablets and high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools and communities; constructing and modernizing facilities to accommodate pre-kindergarten programs and replacing transportable classroom units with permanent instructional space; and installing high-tech security features in school buildings.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

On April 17, 2014, Governor Cuomo announced the Smart Schools Commission, charged with exploring how to invest the two billion dollar bond proceeds in school technology upgrades. Potential allocations from the bond act have already been determined for each school district. School districts will be required to submit a plan to the Smart Schools Review Board describing how the funds will be used. School districts will be required to provide technology to nonpublic schools within the district upon request.

Proponents of the amendment argue that disparities of classroom technologies exist across school districts and the Act will increase students' access to classrooms that are equipped with advanced technologies, enabling them to gain the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century.

Some opponents of the amendment have argued that the technologies will be obsolete by the time the state is finished paying for them. Others have expressed concern that equipping classrooms with advanced technologies without ensuring the availability of personnel that know how to use and train others on the technology could result in underutilization. Also, opponents feel that public dollars should only be allocated to public schools, rather than parochial or private schools.

PLEASE JOIN US Membership is open to women and men. There are over 50 local Leagues across NY state. Joining at any level automatically confers membership at every level: local, state and national. Membership enables you to support the League and receive publications from all three levels, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

LWV of New York State Membership Application

To join at the local League level, please look for the local League dues information at:
<http://lwny.org/localLeague/LLcontact.html>.

- Individual Membership – \$55/year
- Household Membership – \$80/year (2 people)
- Student Membership – \$25/year
- I would like to support the League with a tax-deductible contribution (make payable to the LWNYS Education Foundation)
____ \$500 ____ \$250 ____ Other

You can also donate on-line at www.lwny.org

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY 2014

- Register in person by Friday, October 10, 2014
- Register by mail: Postmarked by Friday, October 10, 2014; received by Wednesday, October 15.
- Apply for absentee ballot in person by Monday, November 3, 2014
- Apply for absentee ballot by mail: postmarked by Tuesday, October 28
- Deliver absentee ballot in person by Tuesday, November 4, 2014
- Deliver absentee ballot by mail: postmarked by Monday, November 3, 2014; received by Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

League of Women Voters of New York State

www.lwny.org
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New York State Board of Elections

www.elections.ny.gov
1-800-367-8683

Voter Registration Search/Polling Place

Lookup: <https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>

Voting Machine Information:

<http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingMachines.html>

Information on races and candidates, as well as ballot proposals, can be found at www.vote411.org.



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