



PROChoice

Newsletter of

Choice Matters, Inc.,
WCLA PAC • ProChoice Voter

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A National Abortion Ban – No one will be safe

On Friday, June 24th, the US Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade*. The claim of “settled law” and “precedent” meant nothing. Republicans – led by former Vice President Pence – immediately started calling for a national abortion ban. US Senate Minority Leader, Republican Mitch McConnell, agreed. Less than three months later, Senator Lindsey Graham has introduced one. 166 House Republicans have already signed onto a bill banning abortion nationwide.

If Republicans gain the majority in the House of Representatives and the US Senate, and in 2024 take the White House, they have promised that one of their very first votes will be to pass a law making abortion illegal throughout the United States. **We must stop them.**

It will not matter what individual states permit. **ALL states will be required to comply, outlawing abortion.** Never before has abortion been outlawed nationwide in the United States. The ramifications would be devastating. At least 26 Republican-led states are expected to ban or heavily restrict abortions, with 17 already having done so. More than 21 million women are being impacted today. Already playing out

on college campuses, state bans designed to prevent people from obtaining abortion care, are stopping students from accessing contraception.

If Republicans take control, 100% of all women in the United States will not be able to access abortion care.

In total disregard for the polling numbers showing that women of all parties – including Republicans and Conservatives – feel strongly that *Roe v. Wade* should not have been overturned, Republican candidates and officials have united around a MAGA anti-abortion message. Throughout Westchester and the rest of the Hudson Valley, Republican candidates for all offices are drilling down to ignore the issue or to rewrite it. If there are others who feel differently, they remain silent. Disturbingly, they are ignoring the majority of their female voters, throwing their party's voters' pro-choice concerns under the bus.

It is clear. We must elect Democratic majorities in both Houses of Congress, and in every state – up and down the ballot. **President Biden promises to codify *Roe* if two more Democrats are elected to the Senate.** So let's get busy. We can do this! #VoteAbortionRights

Endorsements:

Critical Targeted Races

Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney (CD 17) is 100% pro-choice, a strong ally, and has consistently voted to ensure access to reproductive healthcare, including funding for Planned Parenthood, and the passage of the Women's Health Protection Act. His opponent is vehemently anti-choice, voting against all NYS abortion protection bills and only supporting abortion in cases of rape, incest or the life of the woman. **Maloney is a “must-win”. Re-Elect Sean Patrick Maloney!**

Pat Ryan (CD 18) is a strong 100% pro-choice ally, and introduced the Protecting Reproductive Freedom Act in Congress. His extremist opponent was endorsed by the Orange County Right to Life and voted against all pro-choice legislation in NYS. This opponent supports abortion ban with no exceptions. **Vote for Pat Ryan!**

NYS Races

Governor

Kathy Hochul is leading the charge nationwide to provide women with a safe haven for comprehensive reproductive care, including abortion. Her anti-choice extremist opponent voted to prohibit pregnant women from traveling to other states for abortion care; has repeatedly voted to defund Planned Parenthood; voted against providing contraception and family planning services to the armed forces; and introduced a national abortion ban while in Congress. **Vote Kathy Hochul for Governor!**

State Senate

Elijah Reichlin-Melnick (SD 38) was first elected to the Senate in 2020. He is 100% pro-choice and a proven reproductive rights ally, supporting the rights and protections of women and providers. His opponent is an anti-choice conservative who refused to respond to our questionnaire. **WCLA PAC endorses Elijah Reichlin-Melnick!**

State Assembly

Chris Burdick (AD 93), former Bedford Supervisor and elected to the Assembly in 2020, is an outspoken advocate of reproductive rights, sponsoring and voting for key abortion rights legislation. His opponent is anti-choice, refusing to answer questions on his views on women's healthcare. **Re-elect Chris Burdick!**

ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

EARLY VOTING Sat. 10/29 - Sun. 11/6

You can vote **ONE** of the following ways:

1. **Early Voting:** At ANY of the Early Voting Centers in the County
2. **Absentee Ballot - Vote by Mail – Request a ballot by mail or online by 10/24: Last day to apply in person: 11/7.**
3. **Election Day.** Vote at the Polls.

For more information, go to the Westchester County Board of Elections website for locations and times, or call 914-995-5700.

Join the Fight!

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett,
CEO & President



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

This is the moment to rise up and apply all that Choice Matters knows, going farther than ever before.

For 50 years, Choice Matters has fought for full unimpeded access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare for ALL. **We've never wavered.** We knew that one day June 24, 2022, could come.

New York didn't simply "become" a safe haven for abortion rights. **Choice Matters' unique database did that!** It's filled with female voters, like you, who believe supporting abortion rights is the litmus test when it comes to voting—voters willing to cross party lines to vote for a candidate who is pro-choice. **We have changed the face of abortion politics.**

We've made tremendous progress: NYS' two US Senators, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Leader of the NYS Senate, Speaker of the Assembly, 70%+ of NYS Congressional Representatives; a large majority of the NYS Senate, Assembly, and Westchester's County legislature, and Westchester's County Executive — **They are all pro-choice!** *Compare that with just ten years ago!*

But all of this came with lots of work. Now we must change abortion politics state by state. First stop: Bucks County, PA.

Choice Matters' legislative accomplishments have gone hand-in-hand with our successful election of pro-choice officials; most recently:

- **For 13 years, Choice Matters worked to pass the Reproductive Health Act.** Finally, after electing the essential



pro-choice trifecta in Albany, in 2019, we succeeded, codifying Roe in NYS law.

- **On June 13th of this year,** NYS Governor Hochul signed six abortion-related bills into law. Choice Matters is proud to say that three key sponsors of the bills are legislators we fought to get elected.

- **On June 27th,** Westchester County signed into law Choice Matters' Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act. Now, women have increased protection.

- **On July 1st,** Choice Matters witnessed more success when NYS' Equal Rights Amendment was passed by both the Senate and Assembly.

- **Choice Matters is developing a digital database** to serve as a resource center, in response to the new-era vigilante attacks on clinics. Our research was key to the successful prosecution and sentencing of the extremists who invaded the White Plains facility; for the FIRST time these zealots have been sentenced to jail.

The new Clinic Access law is being challenged in federal court — And Choice Matters is fighting back. We're filing a brief in support of the new law, and assisting others wishing to join the action. This may go to the Second Circuit, or even the US Supreme Court.

We ask for your support. If you want to raise your children in a world where they can choose, where abortion is considered a normal part of healthcare and not a crime, support us TODAY. We need you. Your generous gift helps Choice Matters move mountains. A gift envelope is enclosed. You can also make an online gift at: <https://choicematters.org/donate-now/>

Thank you for being part of our team!

Explanation/Opinion/Policy

WCLA – Choice Matters requires ALL candidates to submit a completed questionnaire in each election cycle in which a candidate is running. As explained in the Endorsement Policy at wclapac.org and prochoicevoter.org, WCLA PAC and ProChoice Voter use WCLA – Choice Matters' ratings of the questionnaires and/or interviews to make endorsement decisions. Other than candidates running for U.S. president or vice president, WCLA – Choice Matters has maintained this policy without exception for over 30 years. All candidates are informed that if they do not submit a completed questionnaire and/or participate in an interview if requested, he/she/they will be rated "anti-choice". This requirement is essential for two very important reasons: 1.) It exposes anti-choice candidates who opt not to return the questionnaire or participate in an interview rather than tell voters where they stand; and 2.) Candidates' positions change, as exemplified in the cases of Jeanine Pirro (2001) and Virginia Perez (2018.) Only because WCLA – Choice Matters required a completed questionnaire in each election cycle was the Organization able to expose the changes in these two candidates' positions. NYS Supreme Court candidate John Sarcone, who was rated anti-choice by the Organization in 2000 and 1998 when he ran for

NYS Assembly, categorically refused to participate this year in an interview and threatened WCLA – Choice Matters with a lawsuit if it shared its opinion, rating him anti-choice in 2022. WCLA – Choice Matters declines to alter its rating process because that would constitute special treatment. WCLA – Choice Matters is non-partisan and is not allied with any political party. The Organization's sole mission is to fight for comprehensive reproductive healthcare for all women and to eliminate all inequities in accessing that care. The Organization holds all candidates to the same standards, and does not give any individual special treatment. Endorsements are made but not necessarily accepted. WCLA – Choice Matters has never and will never let its judgement and political opinions be compromised on any basis.

Every time you consider not voting, remember these words:

"I am outraged that [the abortion issue] is viewed from the perspective of the woman—a femme-centric perspective that condones the self-indulgent conduct of the woman who was damn careless in the first place."

*These words were spoken by an elected official,
Dick Arme, former U.S. Majority Leader (R-Texas).*

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

2022 **ProChoice** Voting Guide

WCLA PAC • ProChoice Voter

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

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

KATHY C. HOCHUL* / ANTONIO DELGADO* (D,W)

Lee Zeldin / Alison Esposito (R,C) SBA/RTL

COMPTROLLER

THOMAS DINAPOLI* (D,W)

Paul Rodriguez (R,C)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

LETITIA A. JAMES* (D,W)

Michael Henry (R,C)

U.S. SENATOR

CHARLES E. SCHUMER*(D,W)

Joe Pinion (R,C) SBA/RTL
Diane Sare (L)

NYS SUPREME COURT JUDGES

9th Judicial District: Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess & Orange (7 Vacancies)

ANNE E. MINIHAN (D,C)
DAVID J. SQUIRRELL (D,C)
AMY S. PUERTO (D)
KERI A. FIORE (D)
ELENA M. GOLDBERG-VELAZQUEZ (D,C)
SHERRI EISENPRESS (D,C)
DAVID S. ZUCKERMAN (D,C)

Linda M. Murray (R)
Richard J. Guertin (R) SBA/RTL
John A. Sarcone, III (R,C)
JOHN CIAMPOLI (R,C)
Robert S. Cypher, Jr. (R)

JOSEPH I. FARCA (R)

Michael J. Grace (R) SBA/RTL

COUNTY COURT JUDGE

MAURICE WILLIAMS* (D)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

• District 3

Part of Nassau & Part of Queens

ROBERT P. ZIMMERMAN (D,W)

George A.D. Santos (R,C) SBA/RTL

• District 16

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

JAMAAL BOWMAN* (D,W)

Miriam L. Flisser (R)

• District 17

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

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY* (D,W)

Michael V. Lawler (R,C)

• District 18

Orange County, parts of Dutchess & Ulster

PAT RYAN* (D,W)

Colin J. Schmitt (R,C) SBA/RTL

• District 19

Broome, Chenango, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Parts of Otsego & Ulster

JOSH RILEY (D,W)

Marcus Molinaro (R,C) SBA/RTL

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

• District 34

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

NATHALIA FERNANDEZ (D)

Samantha Zherka (R,C)

• District 35

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

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS* (D,W)

Khristen M. Kerr (R)

• District 36

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

JAMAAL BAILEY* (D)

• District 37

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

SHELLEY B. MAYER* (D,W)

Frank F. Murtha (R)

• District 38

Most of Rockland County

ELIJAH REICHLIN-MELNICK* (D,W)

Bill Weber (R,C)

• District 40

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

PETER HARCKHAM *(D,W)

Gina Arena (R) SBA/RTL

• District 42

Part of Orange County

JAMES G. SKOUFIS* (D,W)

Dorey Houle (R,C)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

• District 88

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

AMY R. PAULIN* (D,W)

Thomas H. Fix, Jr. (R,C)

• District 89

Westchester County: Mt. Vernon, parts of Yonkers

J. GARY PRETLOW* (D)

Andrae L. Mitchell (W)

• District 90

Westchester County: Parts of Yonkers

Nader Sayegh* (D,F)

Michael B. Breen (R,C)

• District 91

Westchester County: parts of New Rochelle, Rye & Mamaroneck

STEVE OTIS* (D,W)

• District 92

Westchester County: Mt Pleasant; parts of Greenburgh & Yonkers

MARYJANE SHIMSKY (D,W)

Carlo Valente (R,C)

• District 93

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

CHRIS BURDICK* (D,W)

Gary N. Lipson (R,C)

• District 94

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

KATHLEEN M. VALLETTA (D)

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

• District 95

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

DANA LEVENBERG (D,W)

Stacy Halper (R,C)

Key to ratings:

PRO-CHOICE ENDORSED

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED

Anti-choice, not endorsed * Incumbent SBA/RTL: Susan B. Anthony/Right to Life Endorsed/Preferred

Parties: D: Democrat R: Republican
C: Conservative W: Working Families
L: LaRouche FD: Fair Deal

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

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#VOTEABORTIONRIGHTS
THE COUNTRY IS
DEPENDING ON YOU - VOTE!

Get OFF the Couch! Don't take your elected officials for granted. **THEY NEED YOU!**

If our pro-choice leaders are to deliver for the people of New York and the United States, you must do your part. It is not complicated, but it requires getting involved.

1. To elect a pro-choice president in 2024, we must elect a pro-choice governor; (governors are shown to "deliver" states.)
2. To pass legislation protecting abortion rights nationally, we need to elect a Democratic majority in the US Senate and House of Representatives.
3. To have a state budget that protects reproductive services, and to pass key legislation, we must elect a pro-choice NYS Senate and Assembly.

Our "First" Pro-Choice Leaders Deliver, but they can't do it without you. We must re-elect them AND make sure they have the tools and other elected officials they need to succeed.

- In his first term serving as Majority Leader of the US Senate, and the first New Yorker to serve in that role (also the first Jewish American), **Senator Chuck Schumer** introduced the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) TWICE. As a Congressman, Schumer wrote and introduced the first and only federal clinic access protection legislation, F.A.C.E.
- In her first year serving as NYS Chief of State, and the first woman to hold the office, **Governor Kathy Hochul** signed into law abortion-protection legislation and established a protection fund for providers.
- In her first 30 days servings as Majority Leader, and the first woman, (also the first African American woman) to hold that position, **Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins** passed the Reproductive Health Act (RHA).
- Since being elected to Congress, and the first openly gay member to be elected from New York, **Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney** co-sponsored the E.A.C.H. Act to repeal the Hyde Amendment, and voted for the WHPA and the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act.