

Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 6:12 PM
To: 'mlungariello@lohud.com'
Cc: 'tbauer@lohud.com'; 'mdolan@lohud.com'; 'fscandale@lohud.com'; 'metro@lohud.com'; 'jbandler@lohud.com'; 'jfitzgib@lohud.com'; 'dwilson3@lohud.com'; 'ceberhart@lohud.com'; 'ceberhart@lohud.com'; 'jfusco@lohud.com'; 'elgarcia@lohud.com'; 'rliebson@lohud.com'; 'mmckinney@lohud.com'; 'dreiner@lohud.com'; 'mspillane@lohud.com'; 'jspector@gannett.com'; 'jcampbell1@gannett.com'
Subject: FOLLOW-UP: "Latimer endorsed by the party Astorino started: Incumbent Rob Astorino will seek to steal the line back in a write-in primary in September" (8/7/17-Mark Lungariello/Gannett/lohud.com)
Attachments: 8-10-17-open-ltr.pdf

TO: Mark Lungariello/Gannett-lohud.com

Your August 7, 2017 article "*Latimer endorsed by the party Astorino started*", with the provocative subtitle "*Incumbent Rob Astorino will seek to steal the line back in a write-in primary in September*", updated on August 8, 2017: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/elections/2017/08/07/reform/537871001/>, makes it appear that Senator Latimer rightfully enjoys the endorsement of the Reform Party. You quote Reform Party Chair Curtis Sliwa as saying: "It was clear to us that Rob Astorino had veered away from the concept of the Reform Party while Latimer seemed to be more in league [with] what we stood for". No mention as to whether the 13 members of the state Reform Party's executive committee, who unanimously voted to endorse Latimer, had considered any other candidates for Westchester county executive, as for instance, county Legislator Jenkins – or the "process", if any, that preceded the vote. Were candidates required to complete questionnaires? Were they interviewed? Was there any outreach to Westchester County's 35 Reform Party members? You then **uncritically** quote Senator Latimer as saying that he is looking "to restore civic engagement and transparency" in Westchester. No mention of his senate record, in Albany, on "civic engagement and transparency", though you do report that a spokesman for Astorino stated that he would be running on his record as county executive.

It is essential that you follow up with an investigative story – especially in light of your subtitle accusation of Astorino "seek[ing] to steal the line back" – which your article particularizes as follows:

"Astorino will try to take the line back in a Sept. 12 primary. Latimer will appear on the ballot, but Astorino's name will have to be written in.

There are only 35 registered Reform members in the entire county, according to most recent Board of Elections active voter logs.

There is still time for voters not registered to a party to become Reform members, though."

What is the source for your inference that Astorino will flood the Reform Party with new registrants who will write in his name? Is it Latimer's written statement, from which you quote – or is his written statement merely his response:

"Latimer, a state senator from Rye, said in a statement he was looking 'to restore civic engagement and transparency' in Westchester.

'These are values that Rob Astorino has taken for granted...,' Latimer said. 'No amount of political tricks o[r] party raiding attempts by Astorino

will change this,
and that is why the Reform Party has turned its back on him.”

Surely, if Astorino is flooding the ranks of the Westchester Reform Party with new registrants to achieve a write-in victory on the Reform Party line, Latimer is doing likewise to secure his own write-in victory. And, how about Jenkins, from whom, apparently, you have gotten no comment. Would it be “theft” if he tried to get in on the action by recruiting new Reform Party members who will write in his name on its line? And why have you not mentioned Jenkins as having a stake in any primary other than the Democratic primary as a challenger to Latimer. Indeed, is nothing happening on the “write-in” front with respect to the Working Families, Independence, and Women’s Equality lines, which, as you report, Latimer has, in addition to the Reform Party line.

To assist in your investigative follow-up of the candidates and the parties – and germane to all the foregoing – attached is my OPEN LETTER, as director of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), entitled “**The NYS Reform Party of Curtis Sliwa MUST Rescind its Endorsement of, & Party Line to, Senator George Latimer for Westchester County Executive & the Other Parties Must Follow Suit – Unless they Deem Corruption in Office a Qualification**”. It was sent yesterday, by the below e-mail, to candidates Latimer, Astorino, and Jenkins – and all eight recognized political parties.

In furtherance of our common goal of furnishing the electorate in Westchester county and throughout the state with the information essential to its casting intelligent votes in the September 12th primary and November 7th general elections, I am available to answer your questions and to be interviewed, directly, not through a spokesperson or by written statement.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) [<mailto:elena@judgewatch.org>]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 12:27 PM
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Subject: OPEN LETTER: The NYS Reform Part of Curtis Sliwa MUST Rescind its Endorsement of, & Party Line to, Senator Geo. Latimer for Westchester Co. Executive & the Other Parties Must Follow Suit -- Unless They Deem Corruption in Office a Qualification

Attached is the Center for Judicial Accountability’s OPEN LETTER of today’s date entitled “**The NYS Reform Party of Curtis Sliwa MUST Rescind its Endorsement of, & Party Line to, Senator George Latimer for Westchester County Executive & the Other Parties Must Follow Suit – Unless they Deem**

Corruption in Office a Qualification", herewith sent to ALL eight recognized political parties and to the three candidates seeking election/re-election to the office of Westchester County Executive: Messrs. Latimer, Astorino, and Jenkins.

The OPEN LETTER is already posted on CJA's website, www.judgewatch.org, accessible *via* the prominent link "**OUTING CORRUPT & COLLUSIVE INCUMBENTS & Ending their Road to Re-Election & Higher Office in 2017, 2018, & Beyond – WITH EVIDENCE**". The direct link to the webpage for the letter, which also furnishes THE EVIDENCE on which it is based, is here:
<http://www.judgewatch.org/web-pages/elections/ending-the-road-latimer.htm>.

I am available to answer questions, under oath, and to assist you to the max, toward what should be our common goal of open, honest, fiscally-responsible, responsive, and accountable government, such as we do NOT remotely have on the state level... You can change that!

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
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