

Conservatives back GOP slate

Contributed by Ken Mastro
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The local Republican slate of nominees has been endorsed by the Conservative Party of Westchester County.

The Ledger has learned that the Conservative Party has endorsed Charles Duffy for town supervisor, Peter DeLucia and Frank Kelly for the Town Board, Joann Vasi for receiver of taxes, and Marc Seedorf for town justice. All candidates are registered Republicans except for Mr. Duffy, who is a registered Conservative. Mr. DeLucia, Ms. Vasi, and Mr. Seedorf are seeking re-election. The Lewisboro Republican Town Committee (RTC) endorsed the slate in April.

"I was very pleased that our candidates received the endorsement," said Wayne Coluccini, RTC chairman. "This is the first time in a long time that the Conservative endorsement in Lewisboro was awarded on merit rather than back-room politics. Our candidates share fiscal conservatism and respect for homeowners' rights with Conservative voters. That's why we were so successful in past years running in Conservative primaries as write-in candidates. This is a tribute to the progress Charlie Duffy has already accomplished with the local party."

In New York, candidates may appear on the line of multiple parties on the election ballot. If these nominations are not challenged, the candidates will appear on the Republican and Conservative lines in the fall. Ms. Vasi and Mr. Seedorf have also been endorsed by the Democrats and will likely appear on that party's line, as well. Beginning on Tuesday, a candidate can force a primary for the party's nomination if the candidate receives enough signatures on a petition.

It has been some time since the Conservative Party leadership has nominated Republican candidates for the Town Board in Lewisboro, as the party largely endorsed Democratic candidates or candidates of the Coalition, an unofficial entity that included the local Democratic, Conservative, and Lewisboro Leadership parties, when Les Simon served as the Conservative Party chairman. He recently stepped down from the position and joined the Democratic Party. The Conservative Party in Lewisboro is currently being run by the party's leadership on the county level.

In the last local election in 2007, local party leaders nominated Democrats Bruce Pavalow and Dan Welsh but Republican nominees Tom Herzog and Peter Clark forced a primary that ended in a three-way tie after six write-in votes, which favored the Republican candidates, were ripped and therefore not verified by the Westchester County Board of Elections. In light of this controversy, the Conservative Party on the county level stepped in and decided not to endorse anyone for office in Lewisboro.

The Lewisboro Democratic Town Committee has nominated Edward Brancati for town supervisor and Maureen Maguire and P.J. Rossi for the Town Board, as well as Ms. Vasi and Mr. Seedorf. Mr. Brancati and Ms. Maguire are registered Democrats and Mr. Rossi is a registered Republican and a former GOP district leader.

Alan Cole, DTC co-chairman, said the Democratic candidates won in 2007 despite not having the Conservative endorsements and expects the same to happen this year.

"I do not see that the situation has changed significantly over the past two years. I do not expect the Conservative line to impact the results one way or the other," Mr. Cole said.

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