

Republicans land Independence nod

Contributed by Ken Mastro
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UPDATED

The local Republican slate of nominees has been endorsed by the Independence Party of Westchester County. Last week, the same candidates were endorsed by the Conservative Party.

The Ledger has learned that the Independence 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 am very proud that our team was able to get the Independence nomination back from the Democrats this year," said Wayne Coluccini, RTC chairman. "I think it is a reflection on their excellent qualifications and their presentations to the nominating committee. In the end, it's not really about how many lines you have; it's a question of who is more qualified to lead our town."

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, Conservative, and Independence 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 earlier this week, a candidate may force a primary for the party's nomination if the candidate receives enough signatures from registered members of that party.

The Lewisboro Democratic Town Committee (DTC) 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.

In the last local election in 2007, the Independence Party backed the Democratic candidates for the three Town Board seats, including town supervisor. All three were elected.

Alan Cole, DTC chairman, said all local Democratic candidates that year were elected, even those that did not receive the Independence Party backing, Judge Susan Simon and Westchester County Legislator Peter Harckham, 2nd District. He said this year the Independence Party is apparently not endorsing any Democratic candidates because of its anger with the county Democratic Party over an endorsement in Westchester's district attorney race.

"Whether this decision has a significant impact on this year's races in Lewisboro remains to be seen, but I am confident that the energy and experience the Democratic candidates bring to the table will be persuasive," Mr. Cole said.

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