

# **2011 Voters' Guide**

## **Erie County**



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF BUFFALO NIAGARA**

**Election day: November 8, 2011**  
**Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**The League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara 716-884-3550 [www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org)**

## New York State Supreme Court

### Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, 8th District

Description: 14 year term - \$136,700 - The Erie County Supreme Court is the highest level trial court in the County. It handles cases dealing with matters of the termination of marriage and civil cases dealing with over \$25,000. It can hear matters concerning felonies, although outside of New York City these are usually handled by county court.

**Patrick NeMoyer**

Party Endorsement: DEM, REP, CON, WOR, IND

No response received.

## New York State Assembly

### New York Assembly District 148 – Special Election

Description: 2 year term - \$79,500 - The Senate and Assembly are concerned with issues at the state level. Members enact laws, pass a state budget, and discuss public policy issues.

**Craig Bucki**



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

**Education:** I graduated from Canisius High School in 2000. I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, magna cum laude, with induction into Phi Beta Kappa, from Yale University in 2003. I was awarded a Juris Doctor Degree from Columbia University Law School in 2006.

**Qualifications and Experience:** Since graduating from law school, I have worked as an attorney at the Buffalo law firm of Phillips Lytle LLP, where I have focused on litigation involving State and municipal government. I have advocated for clients in successful lawsuits to invalidate unconstitutional laws and government actions.

**Campaign Email:** craigbucki@aol.com

**Campaign Address:** 49 Manor Oak Drive, Amherst, NY 14228

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 691-6005

**Q:** *What is your position on the establishment and the composition of a non-partisan redistricting commission?*

**A:** I support the creation of a non-partisan redistricting commission to draw boundaries for all Congressional and State Legislative districts after each decennial census. It should include attorneys with knowledge of legal requirements of redistricting, and academics with expertise in statistics.

## Raymond W. Walter



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

**Education:** After graduating from SUNY Geneseo, I worked in sales before making the decision to go back to school and pursue a law degree at UB. During my time in law school, I clerked for the US Attorney's Office, the Erie County District Attorney's Office and served as a research assistant for the Erie County

**Qualifications and Experience:** As Erie County Legislator, I have fought hard against the status-quo to implement common sense reforms to County Government. Upon election, I closed all legislative district offices and successfully fought the party bosses to downsize the legislature from 15 to 11 members. These reforms will save

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.ElectRayWalter.com](http://www.ElectRayWalter.com)

**Campaign Email:** [ElectRayWalter@gmail.com](mailto:ElectRayWalter@gmail.com)

**Campaign Address:** 81 PO Box East Amherst, NY 14051

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 235-1920

**Q:** *What is your position on the establishment and the composition of a non-partisan redistricting commission?*

**A:** I support the establishment of a true non-partisan redistricting commission. A non-partisan committee will ensure a greater level of integrity to the redistricting process. New York state voters deserve proper representation that they don't have under the current majority party system.

## Erie County

### Erie County Executive

Description: 4 year term - \$103,428 - Chief executive officer and administrative head of the county government. Among other duties, the County Executive appoints the head of every department and other administrative units of the county, is the chief budget officer of the county, and determines and fixes real property tax equalization rates.

## Christopher C. Collins



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

**Education:** BS from NC State University in 1972 MBA from the University of Alabama in 1975

**Qualifications and Experience:** Over the last four years, I have learned that being County Executive has its challenges. We have had to make tough decisions to move our community forward. We have stabilized county finances and continue to drive efficiencies to hold the line on taxes and reduce county debt for future generations.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.collinsforourfuture.com](http://www.collinsforourfuture.com)

**Campaign Email:** [info@collinsforourfuture.com](mailto:info@collinsforourfuture.com)

**Campaign Address:** 5759 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 842-1120

**Q:** *How would you promote transparency in Erie County Government?*

**A:** Under my administration, Erie County's \$1.1 billion budget presentation was simplified so average taxpayers could clearly see where and how their taxes are allocated and spent. This user friendly presentation can be found on [www.erie.gov](http://www.erie.gov). We also publish monthly taxpayer newsletters on our website.

**Q:** *There will soon be an exodus of ex-offenders from New York State prison facilities as a result of prison closures. How would you develop programs for the health, mental health, social services, housing, and educational needs of this population?*

**A:** Erie County is committed to efficiently delivering mandated social service, health and mental health programs and services to eligible clients throughout our community.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** My administration is working directly with the leadership of the Library System to implement a funding plan that will ensure no branch closures or reduction of service hours. County support for the Library System in 2012 will be \$22.2 million in cash and services, as it has been historically.

**Q:** *What can the County do to educate public and substantially increase the Countywide recycling rate?*

**A:** Through programs run by the Erie County Department of Environment & Planning, Erie County promotes recycling throughout the County and partners to co-host recycling events for items not accepted as part of curb side pick-up.

**Q:** *What will you do to keep pollutants from our groundwater and improve the quality of our drinking water?*

**A:** Erie County is leading a new partnership with Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties to form a Water Quality Coalition to lobby for federal resources to better protect and manage our invaluable watershed.

## Mark C. Poloncarz



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

**Education:** After graduating from Lackawanna Senior High School in 1985, Mark went on to gain his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo and then later attended University of Toledo's College of Law, graduating in 1997

**Qualifications and Experience:** Mark was elected as Erie County Comptroller in 2005 to clean up the mess that was Erie County's fiscal state and restore credibility and trust in the Comptroller's Office. Since his election, he has rooted out waste and fraud in government.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.markpoloncarz.com](http://www.markpoloncarz.com)

**Campaign Email:** [information@markpoloncarz.com](mailto:information@markpoloncarz.com)

**Campaign Address:** 2861 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 896-2680

**Q:** *How would you promote transparency in Erie County Government?*

**A:** Transparency is the key to ensuring an ethical government. As County Executive, I would implement the recommendations that I made as Comptroller, which include ensuring the Board of Ethics is actually functioning as intended.

**Q:** *There will soon be an exodus of ex-offenders from New York State prison facilities as a result of prison closures. How would you develop programs for the health, mental health, social services, housing, and educational needs of this population?*

**A:** Health and mental health coverage is now automatically provided through NYS Medicaid, at release. Individuals who return to Erie County will be provided with services available to citizens of the county. Increased NYS support to county government to respond to the newly released would be expected.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I will fund the library system at sustainable levels and will demand that annual economic reviews of each library branch and the system are provided to the legislature before any budget appropriations are approved. These reviews will examine cost savings measures.

**Q:** *What can the County do to educate public and substantially increase the Countywide recycling rate?*

**A:** Through education & cooperation with our municipalities, there could be stronger roles for the county that aren't pursued now. My administration would promote programs that reinforce community outreach to residents and businesses, and provide information on the benefits of recycling to all residents

**Q:** *What will you do to keep pollutants from our groundwater and improve the quality of our drinking water?*

**A:** I believe in strong advocacy for our environment including protecting our Great Lakes from pollution and water transfers. I would support growth of current efforts to renew our waterways. Where groundwater pollutants can be created, as in salting roads, exploring alternatives should be examined.

## Erie County Clerk

Description: To fill a vacancy - \$79,092 - Oversees the Auto Bureau and processing of all records for the purchase and sale of real property as well as the recording of numerous other public documents.

### Christopher I. Jacobs



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

**Education:** Bachelors of Arts, Boston College; Masters Business Administration, The American University (Wash DC); Juris Doctorate, University at Buffalo School of Law

**Qualifications and Experience:** Founder of real estate development company that focuses on redeveloping older buildings in Buffalo, placing vacant structures into productive use and creating jobs in the process. Founder, BISON Scholarship Fund; Founder of one of Bflo's 1st charter schools & local school brd member

**Campaign Email:** Chris4clerk@gmail.com

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 324, Buffalo NY 14205

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 852-0733

**Q:** *What are your priorities for improving services without increasing costs?*

**A:** Put Customers first! Make Motor Vehicles Bureau the most "customer focused" and professional in the state, 1) End Patronage Hiring, 2) Expand Saturday Hours, 4) Create an on-line reservation system, 4) dramatically expand effort to keep fee revenue local to be able to reduce fees/taxes.

### Maria R. Whyte



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

**Education:** I graduated Summa Cum Laude with honors from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Anthropology.

**Qualifications and Experience:** I have been the 6th district Legislator and Democratic Majority Leader of the Erie County Legislature for six years. If elected as Erie County Clerk, I will strive to efficiently provide quality customer service to all residents while keeping taxes low and keeping our dollars here in WNY.

**Campaign Web Site:** www.mariawhyte.com  
**Campaign Email:** campaign@mariawhyte.com  
**Campaign Address:** PO Box 269, Buffalo, NY 14205  
**Campaign Phone:** (716) 803-9554

**Q:** *What are your priorities for improving services without increasing costs?*

**A:** My top priority will be providing high-quality customer services to residents. I will make more government services available at our auto bureaus, making County government much more accessible. I also have a plan to accelerate implementation of computer technologies that would improve efficiency.

## Erie County Family Court Judge

Description: 10 year term - \$125,600 - Presides over cases involving the protection, treatment, correction, and commitment of those minors who are in need of the exercise of the authority of the court because of circumstances of neglect, delinquency or dependency.

### Sharon M. LoVallo



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR, IND

**Education:** State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Law Amherst, NY Juris Doctor, 1994 State University of New York at Buffalo Amherst, NY Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Cum Laude 1990

**Qualifications and Experience:** Acting Family Court Judge, January 2007-Present, Buffalo City Court Judge, January 2003-December 2004, Acting County Court Judge, January 2004-December 2006, Erie County District Attorney's Office: Assistant District Attorney, January 1996-December 2003, Final assignment sole arson prosecutor

**Campaign Web Site:** www.JudgeLoVallo2011.com

**Campaign Email:** LoVallo2011@gmail.com

**Campaign Address:** 15 Curley Drive Orchard Park, New York 14127

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 830-1396

**Q:** *Would you support measures to consolidate and simplify our court structure? Why or why not?*

**A:** Consolidate implies a financial motivation. Given matters before the courts effect lives, cost can't be the primary consideration. I support efforts to improve the economy and efficiency of the courts, if based on recommendations of individuals who understand the daily court operations.

**Q:** *How would you balance the need for judicial independence with the need to raise campaign funds? Would you, for example, accept contributions from attorneys who may appear before you?*

**A:** Judicial campaigns would be self-funded if candidates did not accept donations from lawyers who appeared before them. Those who do not practice in a specific court have no motivation to donate to a judicial campaign. Self funded campaigns would limit the field of candidates and be detrimental.

**Q:** *What is your position on being appointed rather than elected?*

**A:** A system that relies on elections or appointments only doesn't guarantee only qualified candidates serve as judges. Both are political systems subject to influence. I believe the blended approach in NY, with some judges appointed and others elected, best ensures a qualified and balanced judiciary.

**Q:** *What could be done to increase minority representation on juries?*

**A:** Expanding the number of data bases from which prospective jurors are pulled would help increase minority representation on juries. Additionally encouraging willing participation on juries or allowing volunteer jury service could also increase minority participation.

## Patricia A. Maxwell

Party Endorsement: REP, CON

**Education:** Graduate of Immaculata Academy, Hamburg, NY 1978 BA University of Buffalo, 1982 JD University of Buffalo Law School, 1987

**Qualifications and Experience:** Practicing Family Law Attorney for 23 years in Buffalo, representing children and families in Erie, Wyoming, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties Boston Town Justice from 1994 to 2002 Erie County Family Court Judge 2002 to present

**Campaign Email:** judgemaxwell@aol.com

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 521, Buffalo, NY 14201

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 348-2839

**Q:** *Would you support measures to consolidate and simplify our court structure? Why or why not?*

**A:** I would advocate for a process that makes navigating the Court System easier for litigants. Consolidation of certain Courts helps accomplish that. The creation of Integrated Domestic Violence Courts where one Judge can oversee issues of domestic violence, custody, divorce and support is one.

**Q:** *How would you balance the need for judicial independence with the need to raise campaign funds? Would you, for example, accept contributions from attorneys who may appear before you?*

**A:** I do understand concern about cases that may be pending in front of the Judge and the appearance of conflict. I am more concerned about Judges soliciting attorneys to work on their campaigns while cases are pending more so than financial help which is not to be disclosed to the Judge.

**Q:** *What is your position on being appointed rather than elected?*

**A:** I favor the right of the voters to choose their officials, but in many instances, the voters are unaware of the qualifications of a Judge or the requirements of the office. If the appointment came from an independent non-political committee, versed on the person, appointment may be appropriate

**Q:** *What could be done to increase minority representation on juries?*

**A:** I believe the Court System has been working to provide more outreach community based programs on education, civic participation. The selection of a jury is a very specific and sometimes misunderstood process by lay persons. Knowledge is always the first step.

## Erie County Legislator

Description: 2 year term - \$42,588 - Make appropriations and levy taxes; enact amend, repeal or rescind local laws; legalize acts, ordinances or resolutions; adopt amend or repeal administrative codes; create and alter administrative units; fix compensation of employees of the county and conduct studies and investigations it deems necessary.

## Erie County Legislator District 1

## Timothy Hogues



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the State University of New York At Buffalo, Dual concentration in Human Resource Management and Information Systems

**Qualifications and Experience:** Over 15 years of supervisory experience, Successfully completed Situational Leadership training, Ordained Deacon, Lead Facilitator for boys youth group, Board of Directors Elim Christian Fellowship

**Campaign Web Site:** TimHoguesTrueDemocrat.com

**Campaign Email:** Thogues86@gmail.com

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 363 Buffalo NY 14205

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 444-1278

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** I am not sure we will ever be able to total remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process but I would stress to the redistricting committee that their overriding priority is to ensure the citizens of Erie County get the proper and equal representation they deserve.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** I believe it is easier to get people to support and promote things they have a good understanding of I would hold informational sessions through out the region to educate the people about the benefits of regional land use planning, address any questions or concerns and ask for any ideas.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I would sponsor legislation to ensure the proper level of funding is allocated to our public library system to ensure the people that use the libraries have the services they need and deserve.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** I would look at upgrading or replacing inefficient equipment, installing high-efficient lighting, and installing variable speed drive chillers that operate up to 30 percent more efficient than the industry average. Installing motion sensing light controls would also be an option to conserve energy

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** I support the idea because it would allow people in the city to have access to a fast and efficient means of transportation to and from their jobs. I believe the rail system would also help promote growth of the downtown area by solving some of the parking issues that cause people to stay away.

## Joseph A. Mascia

Party Endorsement: CON

No response received.

## Barbara Miller-Williams



Party Endorsement: IND, CF

**Qualifications and Experience:** Elected Official for over 20 years Current Chair of the Erie County Legislature

**Campaign Email:** barbamillerwilliams@gmail.co

**Campaign Address:** 236 Clinton Street Buffalo, NY 14204

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** I believe we (the Legislature) should revisit the charter to look at depoliticizing the Advisory Board as far as is possible and to empower those working through the process 10 years from now to use technology as much as possible to guide the process and inform the Advisory Board.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** As an urban Legislator I understand that the City is the center that holds together the diverse and complimentary aspects of the County. I will continue, to take that into account when issues of planning come before the Legislature in order to look at every decision as it impacts the entire region.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** As we move forward we are working closely with the library staff to discover if there are ways to fund the libraries in such as way as to not have them subject to political influence or decisions. Further exploring the issue of a special taxing district and its impact is essential in the discussion

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Understanding that in order to achieve efficiencies there are up-front costs associated with replacing or repairing buildings and our vehicle fleet. I support these efforts and particularly the work of the Dept of Environment and Planning and Public Works to find federal/state grants to fund ideas

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** I advocate for a well thought-out process of extending the Metro-rail, both in prioritizing where the extension would first occur as well as the impact construction will have on the communities involved. By using a data driven model to create a solid plan I believe extension will benefit the region

## Erie County Legislator District 2

### Betty Jean Grant

Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

**Education:** MS/Education (exceptional) BS elementary education

**Qualifications and Experience:** Certified teacher NYS Business owner of Deli since 1980 elected to Erie County Legislature in 2007 and re elected in 2009

**Campaign Email:** bJgrant70@gmail.com

**Campaign Address:** 100 Parkridge Ave. Buffalo, NY 14215

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 536-7323

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** I would have people run for the position in a general election one year prior to the redistricting process. The individuals with the highest number of votes would sit on the redistricting panel or board.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** We vote on a regional planning board in 2009. It failed by two vote. I will support Legislation to establish a regional planning board.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I would vote to increase the library budget to the level it was prior to the red/green budget of 2003/2004. I would also support a special assessment and/or separate revenue stream to support our libraries.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** - no response -

### Suzanne Montalalou

Party Endorsement: GRE

Unable to contact

## Erie County Legislator District 3

### Lynn Marinelli

Party Endorsement: DEM, CON, WOR

**Education:** I earned a BA Degree in English from Daemen College.

**Qualifications and Experience:** My re-election to the Erie County Legislature, district office constituent responsiveness and my many roles as a legislator provide the unique experiences necessary. I serve on boards such as Workforce Investment Board, Visit Buffalo Niagara and the Buffalo Niagara Sports Commission.

**Campaign Web Site:** na

**Campaign Email:** voteforlynn@verizon.net

**Campaign Address:** 333 W. Hazeltine Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 573-7249

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** A reduction in partisan influences during redistricting can best be affected by the imposition of specific, defined and concise factors to drive decisions. The Erie County Charter dictates an advisory committee, which will be invoked upon the 2020 federal census.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** I am a proponent of the creation of a county wide planning entity to promote sound land usage and limit urban sprawl. I was a co-sponsor of a local law, which was vetoed by the county executive.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I'm a strong proponent of library funding. I will work with the Buffalo and Erie County Library board and municipal Library entities in exploring a special library district, which will allow voters to determine budget matters. I had co-sponsored the Library Protection Act.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Over the years there have been several initiatives, which can be enhanced or maintained. Re-establishing the Green Actions Committee, which brought advocates and administrators together for energy savings, helps bring concepts to reality. As an elected representative, I welcome constituent input.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** The Legislature appoints a member to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority and the Governor appoints the remaining members. The county provides a share of sales tax to the NFTA, which will be \$18,322,596 in 2012. Federal dollars would need to be allocated to build out the metro rail system.

## Erie County Legislator District 4

**Kevin Hardwick**

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

**Education:** Ph.D in Political Science from SUNY-Binghamton, 1988

**Qualifications and Experience:** Current 10th District Erie County Legislator, Former City of Tonawanda Council-member, Former WBEN Host of "Hardline with Hardwick", Teaching American Government, Public Administration and Public Policy courses at Canisius College for the last 22 years.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.kevinhardwick.com](http://www.kevinhardwick.com)

**Campaign Email:** [kevin@kevinhardwick.com](mailto:kevin@kevinhardwick.com)

**Campaign Address:** 153 Frederick Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 693-0486

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** The process this year also involved downsizing from 15 to 11, a move I strongly supported. This challenge highlighted the need for reform. I favor a plan similar to that proposed by the executive to have certain groups, rather than legislators, appoint redistricting commission members.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** As a member of the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition representing Erie County and the Director of Urban Studies at Canisius College, I understand the need for regional planning. That is why we need to adhere to the Framework for Regional Growth and be willing to revisit and update it periodically.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I would not be where I am today without libraries. Libraries should be properly funded. I am open to discussion of a countywide library district, rather than 22 separate boards. But I also have serious reservations. In the meantime, I support sufficient funding to provide quality library services.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Just as we pay towns to plow snow, we could pay them to sweep our streets, cut grass and perform other routine maintenance. We waste a lot of energy just moving our machines around from town to town when the towns already have machines in the vicinity. I have already been talking about this to DPW.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** New York City has its subway. Chicago has the L and Boston its T. We have the subway to nowhere. I would favor extending the subway to nowhere somewhere if the federal government ever got serious about urban mass transit again. Given the current climate in DC, however, I do not see that happening.

## Jeremy Zellner



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

**Education:** BS, Political Science (June 2005); State University College at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

**Qualifications and Experience:** I am involved in our community, working with organizations like the American Serbian Club where I was president. I organized fund-raising activities, overseeing revenue. I am now Executive Director of the Erie County Democratic Party, in charge of finances and daily operations.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.jeremyzellner.com](http://www.jeremyzellner.com)

**Campaign Email:** [cate@jeremyzellner.com](mailto:cate@jeremyzellner.com)

**Campaign Address:** 19 Elmwood Park South, Tonawanda, NY 14150

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** I would push for the creation of an independent panel to re-draw district lines in the wake of each decade's census results, and I would insist that the plan recommended by the panel go directly to the voters for approval.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** I support the creation of a regional planning board. We must consolidate and have better cooperation among our countless economic development agencies and councils. Erie County must compete nationally and globally for new businesses. The current system is not sustainable.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** Creating a new special taxing district is not the answer to funding Erie County's libraries. The current crisis has been manufactured. I support funding our libraries through the budget process and support the implementation of a periodic review to assess the direct and indirect economic impact.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** The county should take the leadership role in this area and provide a model for other large organizations. Every effort should be made to achieve sustainability in day to operation. Furthermore the county should work with NYSERDA to compete for funding to make our county buildings sustainable.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** Each existing transportation line, rail or bus, should be examined to determine the needs of each community in order to ascertain what type of extension, if any is required for that community. Any affected communities should be involved in the decision making process.

## Erie County Legislator District 5

### Thomas A. Loughran

Party Endorsement: DEM, CON, WOR

No response received.

## Shelly Schratz



Party Endorsement: REP, IND

**Education:** Bishop Neumann High School Bryant and Stratton School of Business

**Qualifications and Experience:** Small Business owner for 23 years Amherst Council-member for 8 years Deputy Supervisor Town of Amherst

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.shellyschratz.com](http://www.shellyschratz.com)

**Campaign Email:** [shellyschratzforeriecounty@gma](mailto:shellyschratzforeriecounty@gma)

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 27 Buffalo, NY 14201

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 817-0058

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** The County Charter needs to be updated, remove the responsibility of appointing the redistricting commission from the political leaders. The process should be controlled by a non-partisan, yet interested groups.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** Erie County needs to fully embrace the Framework for Regional Growth, and work more closely with Niagara County. Together they had an effective planning board from the 1950's to 1990. A one size fits all solution will be difficult, but we must have greater communication with our neighbors.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** As a Town Board Member in Amherst, I have a record of stepping in to fight for my library when funding was cut. Libraries are important to me, and they deserve a Legislature that will ensure they get the proper funding to keep them open, and their services available.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Erie County should embrace energy saving policies today, setting an example for future generations. Erie County should be working for grants with NYSERDA. Consider going to compressed natural gas as Amherst is doing for trash pickup.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** Expansion of the rail system should probably not become a priority until the economy demands it. Right now, the demand for rail systems in the suburbs does not justify the cost. Light rail construction may create jobs, but legacy maintenance costs will stifle our future growth.

## Erie County Legislator District 6

### Edward A. Rath III



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

**Education:** Syracuse University-1990: Political Science/History Canisius College-2005: Executive MBA Program, Magna Cum Laude

**Qualifications and Experience:** Since 1991, worked in the energy industry in sales, business development and management. Volunteered for numerous organizations: Salvation Army Advisory Board, Advisory Council of the Buffalo/Niagara Sports Commission, Niagara & Erie County Regional Coalition:Co-Chair and Williamsville Rotary Club.

**Campaign Web Site:** www.edwardrath.com

**Campaign Email:** edwardrath@gmail.com

**Campaign Address:** P.O. Box 1574 Williamsville, NY 14321

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 507-3475

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** The Erie County Charter requires a redistricting commission to make recommendations to the Legislature. This process would be less political if there is a modification of the groups represented and in those appointed.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** Regional land use planning is guided by the Framework for Regional Growth. This plan is currently working but can be refined. I propose meaningful reforms such as the ratification of guiding principles for land use and collaboration between city and rural interests.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** Improvement in the governance structure and management of library finances will lead to enhanced services. The management of finances is accomplished through practical investment to meet critical needs. The facilities, equipment, books and regional footprint need to be evaluated and optimized.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Erie County is utilizing industry experts to conserve energy and lower our overall energy demand. This has been accomplished through high efficiency light bulbs, hibernating computers at night; installation of modern efficient lighting ballasts and energy star requirements at county facilities.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** The Metro Rail extension would present many challenges. It would cost tens of millions to construct over several years, construction would be a hardship on residents and small businesses, and choosing the extension location (UB South or the Airport) is problematic. It is simply not practical.

## Toni Vazquez



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

**Education:** Cert. from Campaign School for Women @ Yale University BA from SUNY @ Buffalo MBA from Medaille College

**Qualifications and Experience:** I am an independent, strong professional, a proven leader with unique problem solving skills. I am a calm strong minded person not swayed by individual political agendas. On a regular basis, I deal with budgets, payroll, personnel, ingenuity, and accountability.

**Campaign Web Site:** www.VazquezforErieCounty.com

**Campaign Email:** Vote@VazquezforErieCounty.com

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 885 Williamsville, NY 14231

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** On a regular basis I deal with people and their day-to-day issues. This allows me to have a greater respect and appreciation for my fellow New Yorker. In the end, we are all a product of our choices. I will promote, by example, a non-partisan voice resonating what is best for all of our community

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** As I speak to neighbors in this district, there is a common aspiration. They all want to preserve uniqueness, green space, and SMART development, while maintaining "Good Neighbors" status. I promote a land use agenda that follows the guidelines of the Master Plans and/or amending it, if needed.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I pledge to fight for resources for the 6th district to educate our children effectively, while giving our artistic, cultural, and learning institutions the support they deserve. I own a "State of the Art," Medical Facility. We uphold technology and learning as being vital to success and retention.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** As a fiscal conservative, it is important to me for our County to incorporate sound fiscal management and SMART economic development as a way to keep taxes down, create jobs and retain families in Western New York. Facilities could be retro-fitted for efficiency. Power companies could reduce costs

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** I recently read about the most favorable retirement communities. A common thread was public transportation to the major city. We lack that benefit. A Rail extension would promote business, jobs, and industry. It could also help curve the exodus of Western New Yorkers and retain families.

## Erie County Legislator District 7

**Thomas J. Mazur**

Party Endorsement: DEM, CON, WOR

**Education:** U.S. Army School of Finance BA SUNYAB - Sociology MA SUNYAB - Humanities

**Qualifications and Experience:** I have been a public servant for most of my adult life. My motto is "Open to Serve You" that means my service must include an open mind and a open heart.

**Campaign Email:** MAZE8@aol.com

**Campaign Address:** 93 Ridge Park Ave.

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** This year the process failed and it went to court and the redistricting was decided by an impartial judge. I believe no matter what process is used there will be partisan political influence. We have to elect people who represent everyone impartially and are not afraid to make tough choices.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** Yes I have promoted Regional Planning and will continue to do so. I sat on the on the Erie/Niagara Regional Planning Board in the 90's until it was unfortunately disbanded.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I have always promoted a dedicated source of funding for our libraries and will continue to do so.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** We have to resurrect the Green Action committee. We no longer have a friendly environment in county government that allows for open dialogue in regards to green issues. People do not feel comfortable bringing their concerns to Erie County.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** I have always been supportive of extending metro rail to the suburbs. We need assistance from the federal Government to make this happen. I will lobby the WNY delegation to make this occur.

## Erie County Legislator District 8

**Michael W. Cole**

Party Endorsement: REP, IND

**Education:** Juris Doctor, University at Buffalo School of Law, 2000; Bachelor's of Science, State University College at Brockport, 1994.

**Qualifications and Experience:** For ten years, I served with Congressman Jack Quinn, focusing on issues affecting Seniors, Veterans and hardworking families. I served seven years as Alden Town Councilman, and was elected Supervisor in 2005. I then was twice elected to the State Assembly, where I served until 2008.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.mikecolegforwny.com](http://www.mikecolegforwny.com)

**Campaign Email:** [mikecolegforwny@gmail.com](mailto:mikecolegforwny@gmail.com)

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 182, Alden, New York 14004  
**Campaign Phone:** 937-9150

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** This year, legislators failed to enact legislation drawing new districts. Part of the problem is that drawing district lines has historically been about protecting politicians, and not the people they are supposed to represent. A non-partisan Commission, appointed by the Executive, Legislature, and

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** As a Councilman and Supervisor in Alden, I chaired the Zoning committee and took a very active role in reshaping the town's master plan on development and growth. The county's "Framework for Regional Growth" is a good start, but more must be done to ensure that our towns and cities are competing

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library system is a real feather in our collective cap and it needs to be supported and protected. The problem the system faces is its lack of control over state-mandated costs and because of limitations on the way it can governance itself. These limitations must

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Over the last several decades, our region has consistently lost population. But the size of our government has remained the same. The best way to conserve energy is by reducing our county footprint. Consolidating facilities and analyzing space must remain a priority, as those efforts have reaped

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** Infrastructure is vitally important to our economy. I would support expansion of the rail system when and if our local economy demands it. Investing the precious few dollars we have available on a project of that size and scope is very hard to justify, particularly when there is such a dire need

## Terry McCracken

Party Endorsement: DEM, CON, WOR

No response received.

## Erie County Legislator District 9

### Lynne Dixon



Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

**Education:** Williamsville North HS West Virginia University, majored in English

**Qualifications and Experience:** First elected to Office in November 2009. Before that spent 22 years as a journalist. For 12 years I was a general assignment reporter at WGRZ-TV, covering everything from breaking news, crime, and feature stories, to investigations and in-depth reports on local and state government.

**Campaign Web Site:** [www.electlynmedixon.com/](http://www.electlynmedixon.com/)

**Campaign Address:** PO Box 27, Buffalo, NY 14201

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** This was without question a challenging year when it came to the redistricting process and I don't think it was anyone's desire to see the process end up in court. However, in addition to the actual redistricting as a result of census figures, this year we were also downsizing the legislature by

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** A few years ago, before I came into office, there was an effort to institute a Regional Planning Board. The many towns within Erie County came out strongly against it and the plan was vetoed. In a home-rule state it is challenging to dictate to various communities how they are allowed to develop

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** As a mother of four children, I understand the importance of libraries in our communities. I also use the local branches for office hours and see how busy they are on a regular basis. However, with internal governance issues and state restrictions, the system is not always free to operate as the

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** As Erie County shrinks both as a community and as a county workforce, it is important the county reduce its real estate. By doing so we are reducing our energy costs and providing a savings for taxpayers. We did, as a body, pass a resolution requiring Erie County to hibernate computers at night

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** In larger communities we see that light rail is the preferred method of transportation for many commuters. While I believe the expansion of light rail could lead to further growth and is an important long-term goal for this community, we need to eliminate the many barriers that limit job growth

## Dennis Gaughan



Party Endorsement: Big Tent

**Education:** 1974 St. Francis High School - Hamburg, NY 1978 Syracuse University - BA 1983 New York Law School - JD 1984 Admitted to New York Bar Association

**Qualifications and Experience:** Established successful Hamburg law business. Practice areas: adoption, bankruptcy, contracts, criminal law, divorce, estates, family court, personal injury, real estate, social security disability, tax law, Veterans claims and wills. Army Veteran, former volunteer fireman, former town planning board.

**Campaign Email:** gaughan2011@gmail.com

**Campaign Address:** 6161 South Park Ave. Hamburg, NY 14075

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 648-8000

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** -offer several plans for public referendum on a general election ballot -establish district boundaries based on municipalities v. gerrymandering

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** -open communication between county and local governments emphasizing efficiency and elimination of redundant services -mixed-use zoning plans

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** -rotating schedules for branches -increase internships and volunteer programs -community-based fundraising for its own branch and regional fundraising events -increase integration of electronic media for community linking -reach-out to schools, senior and youth centers, recreation centers, etc.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** replace all incandescent bulbs contest for businesses/schools/government/community to use solar power in individual buildings automatic timers and motion sensors in all county buildings using federal grant monies work schedules: 4 day week - 1 day work from home where amenable car-pool program

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** MetroRail can only serve population dense areas connecting to dense public use areas. East/West/South areas are better served by setting up carpooling websites, upgraded Metro service schedules, and more park-n-ride and ride-share lots. Initiate a public campaign to promote.

## Jonathan Gorman

Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

No response received.

## Erie County Legislator District 10

### Christine Bove



Party Endorsement: DEM, WOR

**Education:** Nardin Academy, B.S. and M.S in Education

**Qualifications and Experience:** I have worked with multi million \$ corporate budgets and have saved Corporations millions of dollars.As a Councilwoman in the Town of West Seneca, I have cut the cost of government and brought revenue into the town.ie. a \$700,000 grant from NY State for 3 Solar Energy projects, saving \$ and envir.

**Campaign Web Site:** [christinabove.com](http://christinabove.com)

**Campaign Email:** [christina\\_bove@yahoo.com](mailto:christina_bove@yahoo.com)

**Campaign Address:** 11 Willowdale Drive, West Seneca NY 14224

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 698-6900

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** The County Charter directs the process of redistricting. It is inherently political and revisited only once every 10 years.A charter change with an inclusive discussion by various community groups and respected leaders should be a strong consideration.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** By its very nature of Urban, Suburban and rural areas, the Erie Co. Legislature considers regional planning in its decision process.Understanding and questioning depts, especially Environment and Planning regarding future projects is important. Regional planning board and smart growth are important

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I strongly support funding to libraries. Residents of all ages cherish and need libraries. Technology has expanded the services provided by the libraries with efficiencies in information delivery. With a challenging economy, the need for information and career support continue to grow.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Conservation of energy is important for our future and our bottom line. Energy audits would analyze usage and recommend savings.Updating old systems and replacing old windows helps. Flat roofs could utilize solar panels with possible grants from NYSERDA.Investing in energy efficiencies is wise.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** The rising cost of gas could determine decisions on regional transportation. Federal and State money would be needed for this regional plan. Wouldn't it be nice to have transportation from Niagara Falls to ski county? These beautiful scenic assess would draw visitors to WNY and boost the economy!

### Joe Lorigo

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

**Education:** SUNY at Buffalo Law School: JD SUNY at Buffalo School of Management: MBA Canisius College: BA in Psychology

**Qualifications and Experience:** As an attorney with an MBA, I am uniquely qualified to sit as an Erie County Legislator. Knowledge of the law and business allows me to address the budgetary and legal issues in the Legislature. I have been a practicing attorney for 4 year handling criminal and civil matters.

**Campaign Web Site:** www.joelorigo.com

**Campaign Email:** lorigoj@gmail.com

**Campaign Address:** 101 Slade Avenue West Seneca, NY 14224

**Campaign Phone:** (716) 824-7200

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** With downsizing and redistricting happening together, there was a lot of partisan infighting. Once the new districts were redrawn by a federal judge, it helped removed the partisan bickering. I believe the newly redrawn districts were ultimately drawn fairly and I believe that method was best.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** Cooperation among the community is vital. Residents of the city and larger municipalities need to understand the needs of the more rural communities, and vice versa. My new district includes many rural areas, whose residents care deeply about the sustainability of their farms and way of life.

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** I think it is time to have a community discussion on what residents want from their local library. Libraries are important, but With ever-changing technology and increased innovation, libraries also need to adapt. Perhaps its time for a modern library with other revenue streams like coffee shops.

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Consolidating facilities and optimizing current office space is integral to energy conservation. It is also important to hibernate computers in the evening and utilize automatic off switches on all light fixtures and county buildings. In the future, building to energy star and "green" standards.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** If the economy demands expansion to suburbs, then it should be done. I live in a suburb and would love to see better public transportation to and from the City. However, I think most people would rather their tax dollars be spent elsewhere. I do think it will become necessary at some point.

## Erie County Legislator District 11

**John Mills**

Party Endorsement: REP, CON, IND

**Education:** Orchard Park High School University of Buffalo - BS - Business Administration

**Qualifications and Experience:** 22 yr. served on Orchard Town Board, 9 yrs as Deputy Supervisor, 6 yr served as Erie Cty. Leg #13, served 26 yr. sewer District #3 Board of MGR. current Chairman.

**Campaign Email:** jmills@johnmillsdistributing.c

**Campaign Address:** 80 Highland Ave. Orchard Park, NY

**Campaign Phone:** 662-3514

**Q:** *How would you remove partisan political influence from the county redistricting process?*

**A:** Ask members of Local groups @ League, Rotary, Lions clubs, chambers and others to submit names for appointments to a review Board.

**Q:** *What will you do to promote regional land use planning in Western New York?*

**A:** make sure all towns & Villages are part of process. Work from the bottom up not from County Gov't down!!

**Q:** *Libraries are an integral component of a community's civic, cultural, and educational well-being. How would you support restoration of public library services?*

**A:** Let the tax payer vote for the proposed plan!!

**Q:** *What innovative ideas do you have for conserving energy in county facilities?*

**A:** Any new contracts for construction must be reviewed for any energy savings.

**Q:** *Buffalo's light rail, MetroRail, provides excellent service and is very heavily used for its short length. What is your position on extending MetroRail to the suburbs?*

**A:** Should have been extended 30 years ago!! Our area again failed to act on timely bases when Federal Funds were available.