

IT'S MY VOTE



Here Comes the Judge ... and Comptroller

Candidates Forum:

Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 pm

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*

67 South Randolph Ave, Poughkeepsie

"When we went to school we were told that we were governed by laws, not men. As a result, many people think there is no need to pay attention to judicial candidates because judges merely apply the law by some mathematical formula, and a good judge and a bad judge all apply the same kind of law. The fact is that the most important part of a judge's work is the exercise of judgment and that the law in a court is never better than the common sense judgment of the judge that is presiding."

How many times have you looked on a ballot and voted a party line because you were unfamiliar with the judicial candidates? Statistics prove most of the electorate votes for judges are based on political party affiliations. In reality, judgeships are apolitical and candidates may not offer opinions on topics and issues that could appear in their courtroom. Although the public wants to know their positions, judicial candidates are strictly governed by a code of conduct that prevents them from discussing personal opinions on political and social issues. The candidates can share their party affiliations and endorsements, educational background, qualifications, job experience, courtroom management, expectations, demeanor and the personal qualities they feel render themselves effective in a court room.

Meet the candidates for State Supreme District 9 (Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Putnam and Westchester Counties): Christi Acker and Linda Murray. Take an opportunity to explore the personal nature of the candidates and decide whom will best interpret and execute NYS law.

Comptrollers, on the other hand, may answer questions about social issues although the qualifications for this non legislative position center on mathematical, administrative, clerical and business skills as well organizational and team approaches. This position is intellectually skill based yet the formulation of a county budget will reflect the social conscience and awareness of the comptroller. The comptroller is the chief financial officer of a public body specializing in internal audit functions.

Jim Coughlan and Robin Lois are this year's candidates for Dutchess County Comptroller. Ms. Lois will be in attendance while Mr. Coughlan will not be present nor will a representative from his office. His office was unable to schedule a date due to conflicts.

The Candidate's Forum, sponsored by the American Association of University Women and moderated by The League of Women Voters, is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m. at The Unitarian Fellowship, 67 South Randolph Ave, Poughkeepsie. Please join us for the opportunity to meet the judicial and comptroller candidates. Your vote counts.

*Directions:

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie at 67 South Randolph Ave. can be accessed from Hooker Ave. or take Route 9 to Sharon Dr (near Holiday Inn). At the end of Sharon turn left onto Beechwood then the first right onto Ferris Lane, next an immediate left to S. Randolph. The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is on the right.

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