



Buffalo Teachers Federation, Inc.
271 Porter Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14201
(716) 881-5400
www.btfny.org

President, PHILIP RUMORE

November 1, 2017

Dear Colleague:

It is crucial that you and all your family and friends vote on November 7th.

Proposition 1 is located on the back of the ballot. It reads, "Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?"

We Must All VOTE NO!

By VOTING NO we are protecting our public schools, our pensions and the right to collective bargaining.

Below are the candidates that sought and received our endorsement. The PAC Committee interviewed each candidate, made a recommendation to the Executive Committee and finally the Council of Delegates. All of the candidates that were interviewed supported our position on Voting NO on the Constitutional Convention.

MAYOR OF BUFFALO

After careful consideration, the PAC Committee recommended to the Executive Committee and the Council of Delegates that the BTF not endorse any candidate for the primary in this race. The incumbent Mayor, Byron Brown, won the primary in a three-way race. The Mayor did not seek our endorsement for the primary race. He sent us a letter on October 27 seeking our endorsement for the general election, unlike other candidates who requested our endorsement for the primary or soon thereafter. Our endorsement process was completed by September 28th when the Council of Delegates voted. Therefore, we will not make an endorsement in this race.

ERIE COUNTY OFFICES

Erie County Comptroller

VANESSA GLUSHEFSKI, CPA. ESQ.

Vanessa Glushefski is seeking the office as Erie County Clerk. Her credentials include being a lawyer and a Certified Public Accountant with twenty years of experience. She was also a Legislative Director for Monica Wallace, NYS Assemblymember. She plans to use her skills to improve the comptroller's office by seeking a higher rate of return on the County's cash reserve and diversifying the County's money into various banking institutions. **Her opponent received donations totaling \$4500 from several entities tied to Carl Paladino's PAC Committee.**

Vanessa has not and will not accept donations from Carl Paladino!

Erie County Sheriff

BERNARD (Bernie) TOLBERT

Since receiving a Bachelor's of Science Degree and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Buffalo, **Bernard Tolbert** has used his education to pursue many different careers. He retired from the FBI with twenty years of service culminating his career in the Buffalo Office as the Special Agent in Charge. He also worked as the Director of Security for the NBA as well as doing private and public sector investigative work. During his interview, he stated that the jail has a higher prisoner death rate than the state average and that was unacceptable. He wants to put the money spent on lawsuits to better use by ensuring that the prisons are staffed and administered correctly.

His opponent, the incumbent, has faced criticism for his handling of prisoners in the jails and for speaking in uniform at The Spirit of America Rally with **Carl Paladino** on April 1, 2017.

Erie County Clerk

STEVEN CICHON

Steven Cichon is seeking the office of Erie County Clerk. He worked in radio for twenty years and was the news director for WBEN. He is currently an adjunct professor at Medaille College. His goals for the Clerk's office include using the staff more efficiently and to process deeds quicker. As a person who is involved in community service, he is adamant about the need for our children to have the necessary tools to be successful in school including smaller class sizes for all students. His opponent, Mr Kearns, received donations totaling \$2500 from several entities tied to Carl Paladino's PAC Committee. Mr. Kearns stated that, "Carl Paladino is a supporter of mine and I probably wouldn't be in office without him."

Steven has not and will not accept donations from Carl Paladino!

JUDICIAL RACES

As per our past policy, the BTF P.A.C. does not interview judicial candidates. They rely on the Bar Association ratings in determining endorsements.

Buffalo City Court

HONORABLE BETTY CALVO-TORRES and ANDREW LOTEMPIO

The **HONORABLE BETTY CALVO-TORRES AND ANDREW LOTEMPIO** sought our endorsement for two seats on the Buffalo City Court. The **Honorable Betty-Calvo-Torres** is an incumbent and is rated Highly Qualified by the Women's Bar Association. She has been a judge since 2007. **Andrew LoTempio** is running for a seat vacated by Judge Fiorella. Mr. LoTempio is rated Highly Qualified as well.

Erie County Surrogate Court

ACEA M. MOSEY

Acea M. Mosey is seeking a ten-year term as the Erie County Surrogate Judge. As an attorney, she has twenty years' experience specializing in estate law. The Erie County Bar Association rated her Outstanding and she is running unopposed.

Erie County Court

HONORABLE SUSAN M. EAGAN

The **Honorable Susan M. Eagan** is currently an Acting Erie County Judge. Since her appointment in 2013, she has been assigned to the Domestic Violence Court as well as hearing all city court matters. She has been rated Outstanding.

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 2

APRIL BASKIN

This is an open seat due to the decision by the current legislator to run for mayor. In 2015, **April Baskin** founded the College Simulation Experience that helps underprivileged youth learn about life skills necessary to succeed in college. April wants to focus on affordable housing, lead poisoning prevention and expanded youth programming. Ms. Baskin received our endorsement in the Democratic Primary and won.

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 7

PATRICK BURKE

Patrick Burke is running as the incumbent in District 7. He is an adjunct professor at the State University College at Buffalo and therefore is a NYSUT member. He spoke against the disparity between how the school districts are funded and the need to rectify the problem. He also will introduce a means for the public to speak before the Erie County Legislative body. Currently, voters are not allowed to speak at the meetings unless it is a committee request. **Although he represents South Buffalo, he does not associate with Mr. Paladino and will not accept his donations.**

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 8

JOHN BRUSO

A newcomer to seeking political office, **John Brusio** received our endorsement after speaking passionately about the need for all workers to receive a decent wage. As a recent retiree after thirty years as an employee of UPS, Mr. Brusio now wants to use his skills to bring a more collaborative atmosphere between the Democrats and the Republicans in the County Legislature to better serve the residents of Erie County.

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 9

MICHAEL QUINN

Currently **Michael Quinn, Esq.** is a practicing attorney and a Councilman in the Town of Hamburg. As a former student of Frontier Central HS, Erie Community College and SUNY at Buffalo, he spoke passionately in support of public schools and against charter schools.

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 10

MICHELLE SCHOENEMAN

Michelle Schoeneman is a current NYSUT member working as a reading teacher. She was a BTF member working at School #80 from 2012 – 2015. As a current educator, Michelle has lobbied for better funding for public schools and libraries. She is also a co-founder of the group Citizens Against Congressman Chris Collins.

TOWN OFFICES

AMHERST COUNCIL MEMBER

JACQUALINE BERGER

Jacqueline Berger is a NYSUT member employed at SUNY Empire State College. As a union activist Jacqui has been involved in all types of projects and causes. She has been particularly helpful to the BTF by helping to organize the Believe Campaign and assisting Park Board of Education candidate Austin Harig. A familiar face at our rallies and events, Jacqui will advocate for both the residents of Amherst and all public school students.

NORTH COLLINS TOWN COUNCIL

JOHN MROZEK

John Mrozek has made public education his number one priority. As a school counselor and NYSUT member for twenty-five years, John has served as the Hamburg Teachers Association President and served as a member of the NYSUT Board of Directors. His wife, June Karbowski, is a retired Buffalo teacher. John has served his community by becoming a North Collins Village Trustee and Mayor of North Collins. John has pledged to always advocate for public education.

HAMBURG SUPERVISOR

JAMES SHAW, ESQ.

James Shaw has had a successful law firm in the Town of Hamburg for several decades. He worked as a school attorney for both Lackawanna and Frontier central School Districts. Mr. Shaw believes that education should be our number one goal domestically. He wants to offer high school students internships in all town departments to give them an opportunity to gain on-the-job experience. He spoke extensively about those that are addicted to opium and the need to offer programs to help those in crisis.

TOWN OF AMHERST SUPERVISOR

BRIAN KULPA

Brian Kulpa has served as the Deputy Mayor of Williamsville for 4 years and has been the Mayor of Williamsville for the past six years. Using his Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Architecture, he would like to improve the infrastructure in Amherst and limit the number of big box stores. He would also like to provide more venues for concerts and theatre in the town. When asked about his views on education, he stated that a community is only as good as their schools. His mother Betty Kulpa is a retired Buffalo Teacher.

As you know we are one of the founders of the Working Families Party and instrumental in its endorsements and positions. It is composed of Union and community organizations, and members who share our beliefs and who support education.

*In NYS, votes for a candidate on all lines count towards his/her total vote. Therefore, a vote for a candidate on the Working Families Party line will count toward their total. In the General Election you need not be a registered voter in a party to vote on that party's line. e.g. you can be a registered Democrat and vote on the Working Families Party line. **We therefore ask that you first go to the Working Families Party Line to vote for the above candidates. If the candidate is not there, then go to the line of your choice on which the candidate is listed. In this way, we ensure the continued strength of the Working Families Party. We and the Working Families Party have made the difference between our candidates winning or losing.***

Sincerely,

Philip Rumore,
President

Rebecca L. Pordum, Chairperson
Political Action Committee