



*"The truth is found when men are free to pursue it." - Franklin D. Roosevelt*

# DEMOCRATS ARE FIRED UP FOR VICTORY!



## County Corruption Scandal Grows

As this edition was preparing to go to press, we awoke to the news that Republican Steve Brescia of Montgomery, the longest serving member of the Orange County Legislature, stepped down from his position of Chairman of that body. On September 26 the Times Herald-Record reported that Brescia submitted a two-sentence resignation letter that gave no explanation. A day later the paper reported Brescia's assertion that a controversy involving the Orange County's Sheriff's department was the cause.

Whatever the real reason, the resignation was not entirely unexpected. In March, Brescia and six other members of the county's Industrial Development Agency (IDA) board were forced from those positions as investigations revealed a culture of corruption at the agency. After a scathing report from the State Senate's Investigations Committee, led by Cornwall's James Skoufis, and another from State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli in conjunction with the Orange County District Attorney citing "gross negligence" in oversight, calls for Brescia to resign have grown while his support has waned.

Brescia, who was first elected to the legislature in 1993 and is concurrently the elected Mayor of the Village of Montgomery, ran into problems when he faced charges of campaign finance violations during his unsuccessful run to unseat Senator Skoufis. He is now running to keep his seat in the legislature against Democrat Frances Fox-Pizzonia.

Since the Orange County government first elected a county executive and legislature in 1970, Republicans have occupied the county executive's office with the sole exception of Mary McPhillips' term from 1990 - 1994. They have equally dominated the legislature, currently holding fifteen of the twenty-one seats. Any government dominated by any single group for a half century, or even a generation, can become careless about ethics in how it conducts its business. Matt Rettig is running to represent Orange County's 12th Legislative District which includes all of Cornwall, and parts of New Windsor and Blooming Grove. Matt vows to open county government to the light of day. What has our current legislator said about any of this? What did he know? With your support Matt can be a part of the change that will sweep away the one-party rule that has fed off of Orange County's taxpayers for too long.

## Are You Fired Up for Change?

In celebration of the Cornwall Democratic Committee's annual Fired Up! Fundraiser we asked our candidates what they are Fired Up about. Here are their answers:

Anthony Grice, for County Clerk - I'm Fired Up because we have an opportunity to make the Clerk and DMV services more accessible, efficient, and friendly to all of the residents of Orange County. For too many years, the previous administration has done the minimum, offering status quo services, that have not made anything better for most people in Orange County.

Matt Rettig, for County Legislature, District 12 - I'm Fired Up to expose and fight corruption in the Orange County government. I'm Fired Up to shed daylight on the operations of the Orange County government. I'm Fired Up to champion renewable energy development; to prevent poorly sited, high-density housing from changing the character of Orange County forever.

Joshua Wojehowski, for Cornwall Town Supervisor - After a decisive victory in the Democratic Primary, I am Fired Up to take my winning message into the general election and bring new energy, and new leadership to create a solid vision for Cornwall's future starting on January 1, 2022. Together we can keep Cornwall affordable, modernize government, revitalize Main Street and bring much needed transparency, accountability and oversight to local government.

Virginia Scott, for Town Board - As a Councilwoman and long-term volunteer on Main Street and Chadeayne Circle I am Fired Up about how the pieces are coming together for the beautification of our town and improvement of our Main Street! This project is a collaboration between the Town, County, and Senator Skoufis.

Rokhsa Michael-Razi, for Town Board - I'm Fired Up to bring back a vibrant Main Street. I'm Fired Up to see more activities for Cornwall's youths, to give them a Cornwall they will be able to afford to live in, and a Cornwall that they will want to raise their children in.

Laura Delacruz, for Town Clerk - I am Fired Up about serving the people of Cornwall! I am fired up to give the people of Cornwall all of my attention and energy and to provide the service they want and deserve!

Dina Ronsini, for Receiver of Taxes - It is not easy to get Fired Up about paying your taxes. If elected, I will bring my 30 years of customer service experience in the foodservice industry and as a small business owner to the duties of Receiver of Taxes. I will treat the residents of Cornwall with the respect and consideration you deserve.

Now, aren't you Fired Up to elect the Democratic Team? Vote "Row A" all the Way October 23 - October 31 or on Election Day, November 2.



## Local Elections – Your Chance to Matter

*Voting in New York is easier this year than ever*

**Make A Plan to Vote!** There are THREE WAYS TO VOTE this year:

- 1 On Election Day, November 2, at your usual polling place (you should receive a yellow postcard from the Board of Elections soon confirming your registration and polling location);
- 2 During Early Voting, which this year will begin October 23 and end October 31, at any early voting location, including "COVAC" in Cornwall at 1 Clinton Street (with staggered hours for greater convenience);
- 3 By Absentee Ballot, which again this year accepts "risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19" as grounds for absentee voting (<https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html>). And again this year, we may apply for an absentee ballot online via the "Absentee Ballot Portal": <https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/>. But be sure the Board of Elections receives your Absentee Ballot Application by the October 18 deadline.

**Check Your Registration**, and register, if necessary, on or before Friday, October 8:

- 1 First, check your registration status in the central NYS voter database here: <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>
- 2 If you can't find your registration, or your address is out-of-date, go here for information on how to update your voter registration: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>

Registration forms can be found in U.S. Post Offices. You can register in-person at the Board of Elections in Goshen. Or there's a fillable registration form online, which you can complete, print, sign and mail to BOE: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/voteregform-eng-fillable.pdf>

## Cornwall Candidate Forum To be Held October 21

As Election Day approaches, the Greater Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and the Cornwall Public Library are collaborating on a Town Candidate Forum to be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 P.M. so that voters will have an opportunity to “meet” the two candidates for Town Supervisor, and the four candidates vying for two seats on the Town Council. It is worth noting that one of the Council candidates, a former Town Councilman and former Town Supervisor, whose petitions were thrown out by the bipartisan Orange County Board of Elections because they were altered by hand after having been signed by voters, a violation of New York State Election Law, is not on the ballot. Consequently, he has chosen to be a write-in candidate in this year’s election.

Not featured in this forum are the candidates running on the ballot for County Legislature, nor are the candidates for Town Clerk and for Receiver of Taxes. According to Scott Teresi, Recording Secretary for the Chamber, the forum was limited to six candidates in order to fit into a previously created forum template and in the interests of time; it was not limited with the specific intention of excluding any candidates.

It's notable that a write in candidate who will not appear on the ballot is included in the forum. *The Cornwall Democrat* will explore that question in the next edition.

The forum will take place virtually by Zoom. To register for the Town Candidate Forum, use the following address: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_oaqbiupgQwG\\_OI7Gm2W9UA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oaqbiupgQwG_OI7Gm2W9UA). Questions can be submitted through a link on the same page. The forum will also be recorded for viewing after October 21.

## Cornwall Fall Festival & The Orange County Democratic Committee’s Blue Gala

On September 19 Cornwall held its 48th Annual Cornwall Fall Festival. Thank you to everyone that stopped by, old friends and new!



Left: At the CDC booth Councilwoman Virginia Scott, Matt Rettig, Senator James Skoufis, Newburgh City Councilman Anthony Grice, Councilman Josh Wojehowski, and Rokhsa Michael-Razi. Councilwoman Scott is running for reelection. Mr. Rettig is the candidate for Orange County Legislature District 12. Councilman Grice is running for County Clerk. Councilman Wojehowski is running for Town Supervisor and Ms. Michael-Razi is running for Town Board  
Top right: Town Clerk candidate Laura Delacruz  
Below right: Candidate Matt Rettig with New York’s new Lieutenant Governor Brian Benjamin at the Blue Gala



### Important Electoral Dates in 2021

General Election Day Nov. 2

Early Voting for the General Election October 23 - October 31

Oct. 8 Last day to register for general election

*The Cornwall Democrat* is published by the Cornwall Democratic Committee

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The Cornwall Democratic Committee meets the third Thursday of the month at Munger Cottage, 183 Main St, Cornwall, NY

For information or an invitation contact us at <https://www.cornwalldems.org/contact>