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Town of Wawarsing & Ulster County Legislature District 1 2003 Election Voter Info Section

Wawarsing.Net is publishing the results of a uniform questionnaire distributed to all Town and Legislature candidates listed on the Nov. 4 ballot. All candidates in contested races were offered up to one full column, 1/3-page wide, to answer the specific questions, and to have a uniform-sized photo.

Every effort was made to ensure the fairness and propriety of the procedure. First, the questions were submitted to a review panel for vetting: Mayor Jeff Kaplan (D), Village Manager Elliott Auerbach (D), Republican Town Chair Bob Kuhlmann, and *Chamber Board* Member Mary Sheeley (Republican).

Final copies were then forwarded with a cover letter to each candidate – by email, fax, or hand delivery, as best available – with about 10 days to respond. Each was told the length limit, and that *only* the answers to *these* specific questions could be considered. Except for over-long replies, minimal editing (for spelling, grammar, and consistency of order and style) would be the rule. Answers were to be “brief, direct, and to the point.”

Replies were collected and given a first edit and formatting for vetting by: Democratic Town Chair Sylvia Kalipolites, Republican George Halbig (authorized by Chairs Kuhlmann and Frank Sahler), and *Chamber* President Mark Craft (Republican).

Minor improvements were suggested for consistency; some candidates were called to confirm or detail specific replies, flesh out some answers, or shorten others. (In addition, several candidates who had asked to see their own final drafts were accorded that privilege, time permitting.) When all panelists were satisfied that the editing was as fair as could be achieved, and that the final copy faithfully reflected the intent and content of the original, they were ready for print, as you now see them, *in alphabetical order within each office sought, Town then County.*

Part I

- 1) Name.
- 2) Office sought.
- 3) Political party affiliation *and/or* lines running on.
- 4) Political/municipal/community offices held (and years from-to if not presently serving).
- 5) Occupation(s)/business(es).
- 6) Family.
- 7) How long have you lived in the area? Local schooling, if relevant.
- 8) Which community/social organizations are you an ACTIVE member/officer of?

Part II

- 1) Primary reason for running now.
- 2) What is the greatest strength/expertise/ability you would bring to the job?
- 3) What would you like to accomplish most while in office?

Part III

- 1) What is the most important short-term issue facing the Town/County?
- 2) What is the most important long-term issue facing the Town/County?
- 3) How can we attract and keep businesses in the Wawarsing area?
- 4) What are some ways we can cut costs/taxes in the Town/County budget?