

The League of Women Voters of Westchester regrettably cancels its candidates forum which was to be held on October 30th. The forum was to include four candidates in two races, the County Executive and the County Clerk.

As of September 22, 2017, all participating candidates had agreed to an October 30 forum at Mercy College. Candidate for County Executive Rob Astorino subsequently withdrew his agreement to participate. The League nonpartisan policy does not allow a forum for a race in which only one candidate appears; therefore, we are compelled to cancel the event.

The League appreciates the dean and the administration at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry for their offer to host the forum. They had in mind a program to engage first-time voters among their students. We regret the lost opportunity for these young people to participate in fair and open campaigns and to listen to and question candidates.

This cancellation has been a disappointing and unprecedented development. Our time-proven format has consistently delivered civil and fair discourse. These programs are an important part of our mission of preparing voters for active and informed participation in our democracy. We will continue to sponsor candidate meetings in the future . We sincerely hope that in the future candidates will be willing to appear at events that provide equal opportunity to speak for all candidates.

Marylou Green  
President. League of Women Voters of Westchester  
October 8, 2017