

*** ELECTION 2020 ***

Yes, we know it's weeks before the primary and months before the election. We also know being an elected leader is often a thankless job – and it takes a special kind of courage and determination to run for office. So, we want to pay special tribute to those throwing their hat in the ring this year. The following is a collection of announcements we've received to date.

Legislature chairwoman to seek another term



Wydysh

Rebecca Wydysh, the first female chair of the Niagara County Legislature, announced she will seek reelection to another two-year term representing the 2nd Legislative District, which includes the Village of Lewiston and part of the towns of Lewiston and Wheatfield.

"When I became chairman of the Legislature in January of 2020, I talked about the need to modernize our government and usher in a new era of collaboration between all levels of government," Wydysh said. "Little did I know that the ensuing COVID-19 pandemic would stretch our capabilities to the limit and drive county government to embrace both innovation and collaboration in order to meet the challenge."

Wydysh said now the county must be focused on rebuilding the economy post-pandemic, including getting the border reopened. "We are a border community, and cross-border trade and tourism are major parts of our economy," she said. "I will continue to be in contact with our federal officials, imploring them to put a plan in place with our Canadian counterparts that sets a course to safely reopening the border."

With federal stimulus money from

the American Rescue Plan on its way, Wydysh said she wants the legislature to adopt a plan on how best to use the county's share, which should include help for many of the small businesses that are barely hanging on through the pandemic.

"Every report I read emphasizes that the vast majority of people work for a small business, so helping these businesses recover also means helping get people back to work," Wydysh said. "Niagara County was leading all of Western New York in economic growth before the pandemic hit and I know we can regain our momentum."

Wydysh also wants to continue the fight against the opioid crisis that was made worse during the isolation of the pandemic. Serving as the chair

of OASIS (Niagara County's Opioid Task Force) for the past four years, she has brought together leaders of community organizations, law enforcement and first responder agencies, schools, volunteers and true experts in the area of substance use disorder, all in a combined effort to bring awareness, education and help to those who are struggling.

"The opioid crisis has decimated so many families, but the efforts of our Opioid Task Force had begun to take hold and we were seeing some real progress," Wydysh said. "Unfortunately, many of our gains were lost, as opioid overdoses and deaths both increased significantly during the pandemic. We need to redouble our efforts and get those numbers

headed in the right direction again." Wydysh concluded by thanking health care workers, first responders, essential workers and the public at-large for all of their efforts and patience over the past year.

"We truly embodied the definition of community during the pandemic as so many people stepped forward to help their neighbors, to make sacrifices for the greater good, and to do whatever they could in the COVID battle," Wydysh said. "It's this sense of community service that makes me proud to serve in the legislature and, hopefully with the backing of voters, I will continue to do so."

Wydysh is the endorsed candidate of the Republican and Conservative committees.

Symmonds announces bid for Niagara County Legislature District 2



Symmonds

Jamie Symmonds, a lifelong Lewiston resident and entrepreneur, is seeking election to the Niagara County Legislature in the 2nd District, comprised of parts of Lewiston and Wheatfield.

Symmonds, a registered Democrat, was recently endorsed by the Niagara County Democratic Committee and the WNY Working Families Party.

Her community involvement over the past 15 years includes that of being a small business owner for 10 years, volunteering for local events, fundraisers, festivals, and chairing local committees. She succeeded in creating and organizing the Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market, which has

proven to be a huge success for the region over the past three years. Symmonds also said her experience in local government, including serving on the Village of Lewiston Historic Preservation and Planning Board, as director of the Lewiston Advisory Board, and executive board member for the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, has prepared her to be successful as the next county legislator in the 2nd District.

Symmonds, a graduate of Lewiston-Porter High School, possesses a Bachelor's Degree in psychology from Niagara University, a Master's in criminal justice from Chapman University, and a second Master's in mental health counseling from Lindsey Wilson College. She currently works as a mental health counselor serving children ages 3-21.

Symmonds has direct insight into the mental health needs in the county, including those battling addiction. Based on her vast array of experience, which includes her work as an addictions counselor and as a caseworker for the Niagara County Department of Social Services, if elected, Symmonds said, "I will work to help community-

based providers meet the growing demands of those struggling with mental illness and addiction. I have seen firsthand those in need and the lack of resources available."

What prompted her to run for office? Symmonds said, "We are facing difficult times, especially coming out the other side of a pandemic, and we need leaders who place people above politics. Personally, I don't see red, I don't see blue – I see issues that matter. Issues such as running a government focused on transparency, providing families with the security of a safe neighborhood, ensuring the survival and growth of our locally owned small businesses, and properly budgeting our tax dollars. I believe I can

be a part of the solution." Symmonds has seen a growing divide and distrust in government, on all levels.

"Sadly, I continue to see dysfunction in local government, including recent hiring practices of county officials," she said. "If elected, I want to lead by example, by lending myself as a voice for the people, through ethical practices and an open and transparent government. I believe we can work better, together, by reaching across the aisle and staying focused on what is truly important: people. It is time we shift our direction towards an improved, united government and I am more than ready to accept that challenge."

Legislator Myers announces reelection effort



Myers

Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers announced she would seek reelection this November to the 1st Legislative District, which cover the Town of Porter and part of Lewiston. Myers was first elected in 2019 following the death of longtime Legislator Clyde Burmaster.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has dominated my first term in office, and I believe the focus going forward is how do we rebuild our economy from this," Myers said. "Through

solid management and prudent spending, Niagara County finances are in pretty good shape as we continue to stay under the property tax cap while providing services. Now we need to use federal stimulus dollars to help our local,

small businesses get back on their feet."

Myers said much of her focus continues to be on making sure the CWM site cannot expand and the company properly monitors the site.

"The health and safety of our residents is always my top priority, and the legacy of environmental contamination in our community must continue to be addressed," Myers said. "I'm always going to make sure Niagara County continues to partner with our

local government on these issues."

Myers said she has been able to collaborate with her colleagues in the legislature who represent similar districts to make progress on several issues, including addressing Lake Ontario flooding, battling the loss of agricultural land to industrial wind and solar projects, and investing in rural roads and bridges.

"There are many big issues that face us every day, and my goal is to work with my colleagues, our state

and federal leaders and our local governments to find solutions," Myers said. "Whether it's an international issue like shoreline flooding or a local issue like expanding the network of trails across northern Niagara County, we need to deliver results for our residents."

Myers is the endorsed candidate of the Republican and Conservative committees.

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Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The Power Authority of the State of New York (Authority) will hold a public hearing as detailed below on a proposed form of Contract for the sale of hydropower to Amcor Rigid Packaging USA, LLC, Pine Pharmaceuticals, LLC, Plug Power Inc., and seven neighboring states, namely, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Copies of the proposed Contract forms may be inspected at the Authority's office at the address below, or online at the Authority's Web site, www.nypa.gov.

Those wishing to make oral statements at the hearing are asked to provide to the Authority, in writing, in advance of the hearing, their name(s) and the name of the organization or group they represent. Oral statements should be limited to five minutes. Speakers should also bring two hard copies of their oral statements to the hearing.

Hearing Date: May 6, 2021
 Hearing Times: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Hearing Location: 535 Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room
 Buffalo, New York 14203

Written statements provided to the Authority by close of business on Friday, May 7, 2021 will also become part of the record of the hearing. For further information, including the address of other Authority offices at which copies of the proposed Contract forms may be inspected, contact:

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NY Power Authority



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